

Readiness and corrective action

Karen Pendergrass · ORCID 0000-0002-2348-7259 · 2026-08-20

Karen Pendergrass. "Readiness and corrective action".

<https://heavymetalcertified.com/program/remediation>. Retrieved 2026-09-20.

Two pathways, decided by whether the product is certified yet

A brand that finds a problem should be better off addressing it than concealing it. How that works depends on where the product is in its certification.

Before a product is certified, the [Readiness Pathway](#) applies. It is nonpublic, it awards no mark, and it lets a brand read the target, learn where the product stands on exact quantitative results, and correct the cause before any official evaluation. There is no certificate to affect, because none has been issued.

After a product is certified, [Corrective Action](#) applies. Its effect on the certificate and the mark turns on two facts: whether the nonconforming lot was released into commerce, and whether the affected product is currently represented as certified. The mark is never held on a product represented as conforming while it is confirmed above the limit that applies to it.

Both pathways share the same boundary. Confidentiality is a commercial control, not attorney-client privilege and not a shield against a safety obligation. Neither pathway delays a recall, overrides a reporting duty, withholds evidence from a regulator, or permits use of the mark on a nonconforming product. Concealment of a known exceedance is grounds for revocation.