



Now Available in Poland: Copper Tubes, Fittings and installation materials quality-assured by the “Gütegemeinschaft” quality mark

The „Gütegemeinschaft Kupferrohr e.V.” federation founded in 1968 and based in Germany, safeguards the high quality of copper tube and accessories for copper tube installations (such as capillary fittings, solders, fluxes etc.). Products produced and tested according to national or international standards are, largely, only under the quality control of the producers themselves. Products defined by the „Gütegemeinschaft” quality mark must satisfy additional, stricter standards that are independently verified. Inspection tests are carried out on a yearly basis by neutral testing laboratories, which check for specific characteristics, thus assuring a high quality product for the end user. A copy of the Gütegemeinschaft testing criteria, “*Quality and Test Specification for the Copper Tube Quality Symbol*”, is available at <http://www.guete-kupferrohr.de/>

Today, 34 companies in Germany and all over Europe have the right to use the quality mark (shown on the right) for copper tube and accessories. In these cases each individual product and each package is labelled with the quality mark.



The „Gütegemeinschaft” co-operates closely with the umbrella organisation of German Water and Gas Works „DVGW Deutscher Verein des Gas- und Wasserfaches e.V.” (“DVGW”). As DVGW acknowledges and recognises the Gütegemeinschaft quality test as authoritative and independent, companies whose products are found by the Gütegemeinschaft’s independent testing procedures to meet the necessary technical specifications are equally entitled to apply for and use the separate “DVGW” quality mark.

Originally the Gütegemeinschaft quality mark was conceived for the German market. But over many years it has found broad acceptance in other markets, with the consequence that substantial quantities of copper plumbing tubes, soldering alloys, fluxes and capillary plumbing fittings, which are marked with the quality label, are sold in other countries.



Following the success of the quality mark internationally, the Gütegemeinschaft intends to supervise the quality of the marked products on all markets in which the mark has achieved widespread end-user recognition and acceptance.

The Gütegemeinschaft, as the organisation responsible for the quality mark, will:

- ensure that the quality label users observe the technical criteria entitling them to display the quality mark, as laid out in the “*Quality and Test Specification for the Copper Tube Quality Symbol*” issued by the Gütegemeinschaft, available at <http://www.guete-kupferrohr.de/>
- protect the quality mark’s reputation against mis-communication or impairment; and
- prevent misuse of the quality label.

The Gütegemeinschaft’s supervisory responsibilities extend to monitoring products’ compliance with the “*Quality and Test Specification for the Copper Tube Quality Symbol*”, wherever those products are sold.

In the framework of this obligation the Gütegemeinschaft will take sample products from all markets in annual inspection tests and will submit them for testing by accredited testing institutes.

The Gütegemeinschaft will additionally arrange special tests, including for products found in markets outside of Germany, if cases of quality-marked products not conforming to the mark’s quality standards become known.

Apart from these obligations, which are the result of the general policy of the Gütegemeinschaft to protect the reputation and standing of the quality mark, the Gütegemeinschaft regards as its mission the protection of the outstanding reputation of copper material for use in household installations, by taking measures to secure the technical quality of copper tubes, fittings, solders fluxes, and by promoting the usage of copper through marketing activities.

Manufacturers of such copper products wishing to apply for the right to display the quality mark are invited to contact: Mr. Norbert Zilkens, (zilkens@wvmetalle.de) Managing Director of the Gütegemeinschaft.