Model Numbers, Product Descriptions, and Equipment Eligible for inclusion on an Authorization Certificate

This CCE Coordination Bulletin supersedes Bulletins Number 2017-2 (5/15/2017) and 2011-1 (1/3/2017).

The following guidance shall be used by the CCE when performing TPV evaluations. This guidance is effective immediately upon receipt and shall be used until revoked or included in an up-date of the TPV Manual.

It is not the intent of 3-A SSI to dictate to the fabricating industry how they use model numbers or product descriptions to conduct their business. This CCE Bulletin is to provide the CCEs with guidance for what is acceptable for the 3-A SSI Symbol Authorization Program when provided the model numbers or product descriptions from an industry participant.

One of the primary advantages of a 3-A Symbol Certificate is that a third party reader can easily determine exactly which piece of equipment has been authorized to bear the symbol. This determination must then be able to accurately relate to an actual piece of equipment when viewed in the field. Obviously, a unique model number fulfills this need easily. However, not all equipment that is eligible for a 3-A Symbol Authorization is marketed with a unique model number actually marked on the equipment, such as some sanitary fittings or built-to-order equipment.

Model Numbers:

Model numbers should be encouraged as the preferred method of equipment designation. Model numbers shall have the following characteristics to be acceptable for 3-A Authorizations.

1. Positively linked to the fabricator by the fabricator’s nameplate, company name, logo, or Authorization number that can be traced back to the 3-A certificate.
2. Be unique to the equipment.

3. Provide differentiation between members of a model family. (See example one.)

4. If the fabricator makes equipment that will be sold under other trade names by other companies, the equipment shall not display the fabricator’s symbol. In order to display a symbol, those other sellers/distributors must apply for a symbol authorization independently and have a TPV evaluation performed on their equipment.

Examples:

Note: Do not attempt to upload charts or matrices from a fabricator sales brochure or sample labels. Model numbers often contain alpha-numeric digits that are used by the fabricator to indicate the various options available in their sales catalogue. Sensors and some small devices may have very long model numbers that can be well in excess of 15 digits. 3-A is concerned only with those digits that are significant to hygienic design. All other digits are to be shown as lower-case place holders only, preferably with an “x” or defined digit.

CIP Models: SuperMixer Models xxxA, xxxB, xxxC, and xxxD; DesolverMax (Z) Models xxxZS; and HiVee (Z) Models 125ZMAX, 150ZMAX, and 175ZMAX.

CIP Models: temperature sensor Models RaTbbbL483-04-CIP-c-d-xx
(a=1,2,or 3)(bbb=185,192,285,or292)(c=1,2,or 3)(d=5 or 6)

Both CIP and COP Models: POP-1110S, POP-2220S, POP-3330SC.

CIP Models: Type 123, Type 345, Type 678, and Type 910, Sizes: 1", 1.5", 2 in., 2.5", 3", & 4"

Product Descriptions:

Product descriptions can be used for those types of equipment that are not routinely marketed with a unique model number. Product descriptions need to be as unique as possible to prevent confusion with other of the fabricator’s products or non-3A equipment manufactured by the same fabricator. Product descriptions shall have the following characteristics to be acceptable for 3-A authorizations.

1. Positively linked to the fabricator by the fabricator’s nameplate, company name, logo, or Authorization number that can be traced back to the 3-A certificate.

2. Show differentiation between items in a series. (See example one above.)

3. If the fabricator makes equipment that will be sold under other trade names by other companies, the equipment shall not display the fabricators symbol. In order to display a symbol, those other sellers/distributors must apply for a symbol.
authorization independently and have a TPV evaluation performed on their equipment.

Examples:

CIP Models: 3-A Balance Tank, 3-A Mix Tank, 3-A Blend Tank, 3-A Holding Tank, 3-A Surge Tank, 3-A Storage Tank, 3-A Vacuum Tank, 3-A Slurry Tank, and 3-A Single Shell Tank. Note: In all cases include the capacity or range of capacities covered by the authorization.


Equipment produced at multiple locations.

The TPV Manual states;

C3.5 The CCE shall perform an on-site evaluation at the 3-A Symbol applicant’s manufacturing/fabrication or assembly location where the complete, assembled item identified for 3-A Symbol Authorization is available, except that;

C3.5.1 A site visit may not be required for Symbol Authorization amendments or for the issuance of a 'conditional' TPV inspection report per Section B7.2.1.2. Administrative, simple or minor technical changes can be documented without a site visit by sending the CCE copies of the appropriate materials certifications, change drawings and samples of the modified unit or component for review. A site visit will be appropriate when the change(s) are greater and more complex.

This provision is intended to accommodate the fabrication or purchase of subassemblies from other locations into the final equipment presented for evaluation. This provision does not permit the inclusion of fully fabricated or assembled equipment on a symbol authorization for which the CCE has not had the opportunity to evaluate without a full site
visit to the alternative location(s).

Example:

Applicant A in Germany requests a TPV and Symbol authorization for pump model XYZ. Company B in Brazil, also owned by the parent of applicant A, also makes pump model XYZ and is completely independent of Applicant A. A satisfactory TPV report for Applicant A for pump model XYZ can only be issued if a site visit to Company B is conducted to confirm that all of the 3A requirements are satisfied. Note: It is not uncommon for there to be significant differences between the two locations, such as the fittings used, elastomers sourced locally, seal designs, etc. that would need to be verified by the CCE and may necessitate a site visit to confirm.

General:

The following items are applicable to both model numbers and product designations.

1. All units identified by the same model number will be considered as part of any adverse action taken on the equipment such as a RAN regardless of the site of manufacture or the intended market.

2. Identical models sold by other companies or distributors are not sanctioned by the OEM’s 3-A Symbol Authorization. All distributors must apply for a Symbol Authorization under their own name in order to claim authorization.

3. All CCEs are expected to pay close attention to the model numbers requested to be displayed on the certificates to the equipment and option(s) evaluated under the TPV. Sufficient records and/or questions concerning equipment manufactured at other locations must assure that there are no variations of design or materials that have not been fully evaluated and documented on the TPV report. See the appropriate TPV Manual section below;

   C3.2 The CCE shall use his/her knowledge and experience to conduct a detailed physical evaluation of the equipment, engineering drawings, and documentation associated with the equipment to be verified for conformance to the 3-A Sanitary Standard(s). This may include general assembly drawings and drawings of individual equipment components and sub-assemblies. The CCE shall conduct the verification at a pace to assure all components are carefully evaluated against the 3-A Sanitary Standard’s criteria. If the equipment offered for evaluation can be configured using multiple optional components or accessories, all of the optional features must be presented for evaluation. The CCE shall be diligent in asking sufficient questions to determine such items as the identification of all materials of construction, options, or add-on features offered with the equipment, methods of fabrication, etc. are in conformance to the 3-A Sanitary Standard. The CCE shall request and review all certifications for components fabricated from rubber or rubber-like materials, plastic.
materials, adhesives, or metal alloys not identified by the applicable 3-A Sanitary Standard(s). Throughout the evaluation, the CCE shall exercise critical observation/critical analysis (as in careful judgment and scholarly recommendations) at all times.