



FIFA Quality Programme

How to become a FIFA- Accredited Test Institute for Football Turf



1. Introduction

Test institutes that are accredited to perform the field and laboratory tests on football turf are a vital element of the FIFA Quality Programme. The tests that they conduct confirm the guaranteed quality of a specific football turf field that FIFA certification promises.

Accredited test institutes therefore have a great responsibility in protecting the name of FIFA as we seek to provide assurances to football turf field owners and, ultimately, football players at all levels of the game.

FIFA are actively seeking to increase the global coverage of the accredited test institutes to increase the overall standard of football turf installations and reduce the cost of testing for the field owners. To become a FIFA-accredited test institute, please follow the process explained below.

2. Procedure

Requirements to become a FIFA-Accredited Test Institute



- Established test institute, incorporated under the law of your specific country
- Independence from any manufacturer of football turf or other elements of football turf systems
- ISO 17025 certification, the scope of the ISO accreditation needs to cover all FIFA test methods as described in the latest version of the FIFA handbook of test methods and FIFA handbook of requirements.

Apply to participate in the annual FIFA Field Test Round-Robin

ANNUAL FIELD TEST ROUND ROBIN TAKES PLACE IN February

As with all accreditation programmes, every test institute must be tested themselves to guarantee that they are capable of meeting the high standards FIFA expects.

The annual Field Test Round-Robin takes place at the same venue on the same dates to reduce the variability that occurs from different locations, climatic conditions or surface conditioning.

Following the methodology described in the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf: Handbook of Test Methods (www.fifa.com/footballturf) for Field, test institutes assess the field and prepare a set of test results. The test results cover all the criteria and positions specified in the manual. Normally two fields are assessed during the Field Test Institute Round-Robin.

The results from the current FIFA Test Institutes are used to calculate the statistical average and the statistical standard deviation. The results from a test institute applying to become a FIFA Test Institute are analysed using the Grubb's test, alternatively known as the maximum normed residual test. The Grubb's test is a method of establishing outliers in a univariate data set derived from a normally distributed population of data points. The Grubb's test is used to establish whether or not the values obtained by the applicant

test institute are within the statistical range or are outliers. Basically, any new test institute has to prove itself to be as good as the already proven.

Results are processed within one month of the final day of the round-robin and test institutes are informed of their results by FIFA. New applicants that are successful will immediately be sent an agreement which, once signed by both parties, will confirm the status as a FIFA-Accredited Test Institute.

To apply for the next FIFA field Test Round-Robin, send an e-mail to football.turf@fifa.org stating the name of your institute and the name, phone number and e-mail address of the main contact person for your institute. Please also state clearly that your institute currently meets all of the requirements set out in the above checklist.

Approval of technicians at the FIFA Field Test Round-Robin

Each test institute is required to enter at least one team of field test technicians. Each team must consist of two to four technicians. Each technician from a successful team will be accredited and can perform field tests. Successful technicians are approved for five years after the FIFA Round-Robin that they participate in.

3. Proactive role in the development of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf

FIFA-Accredited Test Institutes play an active role in making proposals for the technical elements of the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf. Meetings are held twice a year with FIFA and the test institutes, during which an open discussion takes place on possible ways of enhancing the scheme.

4. Reference of a qualified civil engineer who carries out work for the company

The applicant must provide FIFA with a curriculum vitae of an engineer who is either directly employed or commissioned to carry out engineering work for the company.

5. Expanding test activities

Once a test institute has accreditation, there are opportunities to expand in a manner that supports the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf:

a. Laboratory Testing Accreditation

To become accredited for laboratory testing, the test institute must:

1. be an accredited FIFA Field Test Institute
2. pass the annual FIFA Lab Test Round-Robin

ANNUAL TESTS START EVERY JANUARY

- Samples of two systems from a FIFA Preferred Producer's range of systems are distributed to the participating laboratories including the existing FIFA Laboratory Test Institutes. The FIFA Preferred Producer's systems are chosen to reduce the variability that occurs between samples.
- Following the methodology described in the FIFA Quality Programme for Football Turf: Handbook of Test Methods (www.fifa.com/footballturf), test institutes assess the samples and prepare a set of test results. The test results cover all the criteria specified in the handbook.
- The results from the current FIFA Test Institutes are used to calculate the statistical average and the statistical standard deviation. The results from a test institute applying to become a FIFA Test Institute are analysed using the Grubb's test,

alternatively known as the maximum normed residual test. The Grubb's test is a method of establishing outliers in a univariate data set derived from a normally distributed population of data points. The Grubb's test is used to establish whether or not the values obtained by the applicant test institute are within the statistical range or are outliers.

- Basically, any new test institute has to prove itself to be as good as the already proven FIFA laboratory test institutes.

b. Globalisation of activities

1. Regional partners of the FIFA-Accredited Test Institute must have
 - a. ISO 17025 certification and
 - b. at least one approved technician.
2. Technicians affiliated with FIFA-Accredited Test Institutes can apply for temporary approval upon participation in five full field tests with an approved technician.
3. Applicant technicians must participate in the next scheduled FIFA Field Test Round-Robin.
4. An accredited technician can only test on behalf of one institute at any one time.