

Elastomer Guideline – Transfer to KTW - BWGL

The elastomer guideline expired at the end of 2021. From January 1, 2022, the elastomer guideline (ELL) was supposed to be integrated into the KTW-BWGL (plastics in contact with drinking water – evaluation criteria) as Appendix D. However, the transfer was delayed, so that the KTW BWGL was not published until March 17, 2022. Usually there is a transition period of 2 years before it is mandatory to fulfill the requirements according to KTW BWGL. In this case, this would be until March 2024. **However, due to the delayed publication, the transition period was extended to 3 years, i.e. until March 1, 2025.** During these 3 years, test reports according to the previous elastomer guideline (and W270) may still be used to prove suitability.

In practice, this means that test certificates for materials that contain ingredients, which are listed on the positive list part 2 cannot be extended beyond December 31, 2021. For these gasket materials it is therefore no longer possible to obtain a test certificate, a confirmation of conformity or similar issued by an accredited test institute.

The KTW-BWGL comes into effect on March 1, 2025. From January 1, 2022 to February 28, 2025, it is still possible to prove the suitability of the sealing materials with the corresponding test reports, provided these are not older than 10 years.

This means that the novapress®/novatec® materials which are qualified and proven for the application in drinking water can continued to be used during this transitional period.

The relevant information required to prove the suitability during the transition period of the KTW-BWGL can already be found in the current test certificates.

It is clearly stated which test reports were used as a basis for evaluation and final issuance of the test certificate and in which year the test was carried out.

In the depicted example of novapress® UNIVERSAL, it can be seen, that the relevant test reports were created in 2017 and are therefore in accordance with the requirements described above.

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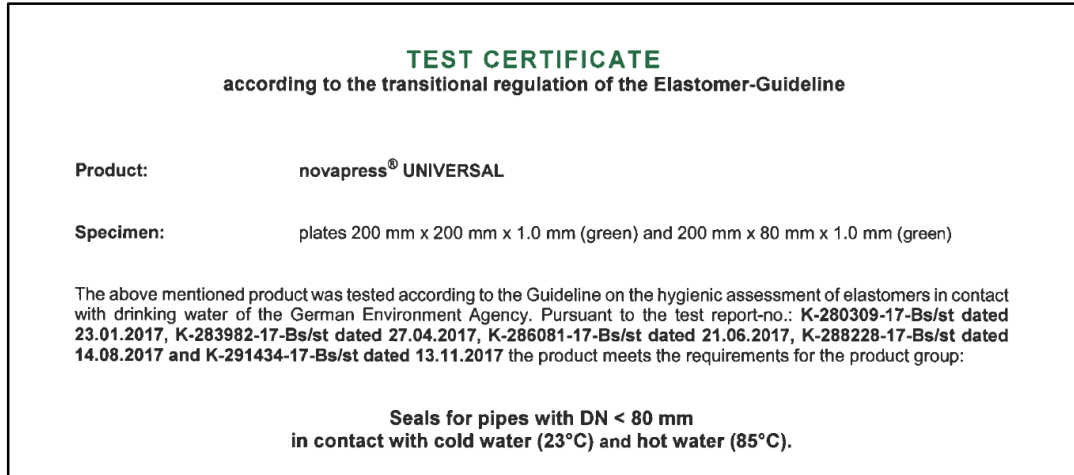


Image: Excerpt from the test certificate according to the transitional regulation of the elastomer guideline

FAQs briefly summarized:

Does the KTW-BWGL replace the elastomer guideline?

Yes, it does. The validity of the elastomer guideline expires at the end of 2021. The elastomer guideline (ELL) was integrated into the KTW-BWGL (plastics in contact with drinking water – evaluation criteria) as Annex D on March 17, 2022. A transition period applies between January 1, 2022 and February 28, 2025. Afterwards the KTW-BWGL for elastomer-based materials comes into effect on March 1, 2025.

Is it possible to extend test certificates according to the elastomer guideline?

For test certificates of materials that contain ingredients listed on the positive list part 2, there is no possibility to extend them beyond December 31, 2021 and the validity of these test certificates ends on this date. Due to the regulations, it is no longer possible to get a test certificate, a confirmation of conformity or similar issued by an accredited test institute to prove suitability for drinking water.

Can the suitability for drinking water of the previously approved products still be guaranteed during the transitional period (until March 2025)?

Yes, the manufacturer can still prove the suitability of the gasket materials via the test reports (which the previous test certificates are based on), provided these are not older than 10 years.

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Products containing aramid fibers may no longer be used after 2021?

That is not correct. According to the current regulations, materials that contain aramid fibers can continue to be used at least until March 1, 2025. The suitability of gasket materials can be proven using the test reports, as described above.

Do the future changes also affect seals that have already been installed?

No, seals that have already been installed will remain unaffected by the changes and do not have to be replaced, even after the end of the transition period in 2025.

What exactly is the situation with the previously approved Frenzelit products?

The novapress®/novatec® materials from Frenzelit, which have been qualified and proven for this area of application so far can continued to be used in drinking water applications.

Will tests according to KTW-BWGL therefore be more demanding than before?

Yes. The substance lists of permitted raw materials and rubber chemicals have been significantly restricted compared to the elastomer guideline. In addition, the necessary laboratory tests have been expanded and are now more demanding, including even stricter limit values.

How can raw materials be transferred from not or partially evaluated (list 2 of the ELL) to the list of fully evaluated substances of the KTW-BWGL?

Only the manufacturer of the raw material can apply for a test/evaluation at the relevant institutes. If this is successful, the substance is added to the list of fully evaluated substances.

We will be happy to assist you with any application-related questions:

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