OVERVIEW GUIDE

EN 10204 Type 3.2 certification

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Introduction

With the introduction of EU directives, like the Pressure Equipment Directive (PED), manufacturers are required to prove that the materials they use meet defined chemical and mechanical properties. This requirement led to the authentication of material certification under EN 10204:2004, a European standard for material certification that includes four different certificate types.

Since the introduction of this standard, other geographies and industries are recognising the value of Type 3.2 certification and it is now widely used by oil and gas equipment end-users. Type 3.2 certification offers companies a greater level of confidence in the integrity of the materials they use as they navigate global supply chains that grow more expansive and complex each day.

Applicability

The scope of EN 10204 applies to all metallic products, including plates, sheets, bars, forgings, and castings.

The role of Type 3.2 certification and independent inspection

EN 10204:2004 describes a Type 3.2 certificate (inspection document) as a document prepared by both of the following parties:

1. The manufacturer's authorised inspection representative, independent of the manufacturing department
2. Either the purchaser's authorised representative or the inspector designated by the official regulations

True Type 3.2 certification is produced by the manufacturer with supplied test results. Tests are witnessed by a third-party inspector from an independent inspection body like LRQA, who verifies the material's identification and traceability through objective evidence.

Within the Type 3.2 certificate, both parties - manufacturer and purchaser - declare and confirm that the products supplied comply with the requirements of the order and that the required test results have been supplied. The purpose of Type 3.2 certification and inspection is to verify:

- **Material traceability from the original cast to the end customer**
- **Material properties, ensuring material is fit for its intended purpose**

Benefits of EN 10204 Type 3.2 certification

Supply chain traceability

Type 3.2 certification enhances transparency and traceability by requiring the involvement of an independent inspection body, such as LRQA, to independently verify and validate material properties, test results, and production processes. This helps companies to reliably monitor the quality and origin of materials and products at every stage.

Compliance with regulatory and customer requirements

By integrating Type 3.2 certification into their wider assurance programme, companies can begin to establish a comprehensive compliance framework, effectively mitigating the risk of legal consequences or financial penalties resulting from non-compliance.

Risk management

Type 3.2 certification helps companies identify and address potential issues within the supply chain before they escalate into significant problems. By mitigating these risks, businesses can prevent costly supply chain disruptions and protect their brand reputation.

Entrance to new markets

In many industries and geographies, Type 3.2 certification is a mandatory requirement. Certified material helps to ensure compliance, creating trust with customers and paving the way for market expansion.

LRQA’s three-stage inspection process

LRQA can provide both EN 10204 Type 3.2 and ‘intent of’ Type 3.2 certification, and in most cases, we can deliver our services onsite or remotely using safe and secure technology. Our inspectors follow a three-stage process including the following steps:

Stage 1

We check the material’s identity and determine the specific stamp piece or area that will be used for mechanical testing.

Stage 2

Our inspectors actively witness or review mechanical and metallurgical testing.

Stage 3

We review the client’s documentation against the product specification and then endorse the paperwork before inspecting and stamping the material for release.

You can find detailed information on these steps in the following sections of this guide.

Steps to Type 3.2 Certification

EN 10204 Type 3.2 is the most rigorous level of certification and involves independent third-party inspection and witnessing activities, which can be provided by LRQA.
The three key steps to certification involve the following:

Step 1

The qualified inspector visits the manufacturer's site to identify the material which needs to be verified. This includes a visual examination, sample dimensional checks, and confirmation that the material is traceable back to the ladle chemical analysis. The traceable reference may be the cast, heat or test number which can normally be deduced by the indelible markings on the material which include hard stamping, etching, or stencilling for example. Additionally, the material's traceability can be confirmed by an EN 10204 Type 3.1 certificate.

The inspector identifies adequate material for further testing, with the traceable identity transferred; this includes test stamp marking of the original piece. The surveyor also reviews the documentation to ensure it complies with specifications for compliance with chemical composition, heat treatment, and non-destructive examination.

Step 2

The inspector visits the test house, which is either a department independent of the production process within the manufacturer or an accredited test facility that is a nationally or internationally accredited independent subcontractor. The surveyor will:

- **Witness any appropriate tests (tensile, impacts, bend tests, hardness etc)**
- **Review any applicable metallurgical tests (corrosion, structure etc) in accordance with the standard or specifications**
- **Review the results obtained to ensure they meet requirements**

Step 3

Provided that all testing and examinations satisfy the specification requirements, the inspector carries out a final visit of the manufacturer to:

- **Verify that the material meets the product specification as defined in EN 10204**
- **Review and countersign the manufacturer's Type 3.2 certificate**
- **Inspect and hard stamp (indelibly mark) the material**

What is “intent of” Type 3.2 certification?

In many industries, the end-user often purchases materials through an intermediate material handler or stockist. The intermediate material handler may choose materials that have been certified by the manufacturer using a Type 3.1 certificate, which is not validated by an independent third party. However, it is widely acknowledged that material covered by Type 3.1 certification can be validated to what is known as “intent of” Type 3.2 through an independent third-party inspection.

Key steps

Step 1

Certification to “Intent of” Type 3.2 certification requires an inspection process conducted by an independent body like LRQA. This involves the visitation of the intermediate material handler to identify and verify the materials. This type of inspection includes:

- **A visual examination**
- **Sample dimensional checks**
- **Confirmation of the material’s traceability back to the ladle chemical analysis, which may be presented in the form of an EN 10204 Type 3.1 certificate**

As with true Type 3.2 certification, the traceable reference may be the cast, heat or test number which can normally be deduced by the indelible markings on the material which include hard stamping, etching, or stencilling for example. The surveyor will also identify adequate material for further testing, with the traceable identity transferred; this includes test stamp marking of the original piece.

Step 2

The inspector visits the test house, which is either a department independent of the production process within the manufacturer or an accredited test facility that is a nationally or internationally accredited independent subcontractor. During this visit, the inspector witnesses any additional material testing that is necessary to confirm compliance with the specification.

Step 3

Provided that all testing and examinations satisfy the specification requirements, the inspector carries out a final visit of the intermediate material handler to:

- **Review documentation (including the original manufacturer’s Type 3.1 certificate)**
- **Verify that the material meets the product specification and the customer’s purchase order requirements**
- **Inspect and hard stamp the materia**l

The inspector will then apply a certificate to the “intent of” EN 10204 Type 3.2, referencing the laboratory test report and the material manufacturer’s Type 3.1 certificate. Please note that any material inspected to the “intent of” Type 3.2 must not be presented to customers as being certified in accordance with true EN 10204 Type 3.2.

Acceptability of “intent of” Type 3.2 certificates

The acceptability of any certification to the “intent of” Type 3.2 should be confirmed with the purchaser, customer or end user before work starts. In some applications a true EN 10204:2004 Type 3.2 certificate is required and “intent of” Type 3.2 certification will not be acceptable.

The LRQA inspector can, at the client’s request, issue certificates that detail the inspection’s scope and include a statement that the manufacturer’s EN 10204 Type 3.2 certificate has been endorsed or that the “intent of” EN 10204 Type 3.2 has been met.

Key definitions

Manufacturer

- Any party that carries out operations affecting the material properties of the finished product.
- Manufacturers the product according to the requirements of the order and to the product specifications.

Examples of manufacturers

Steelmakers, foundries, smelters, forgers, pipe/plate, mills

Stockist

Intermediate material handler/supplier. A stockist, depending on their production route, can be classed as a manufacturer.

Product specification

Written detail of the technical requirements of the order, including references to relevant regulations, standards, or other specifications.

Independent third-party inspection

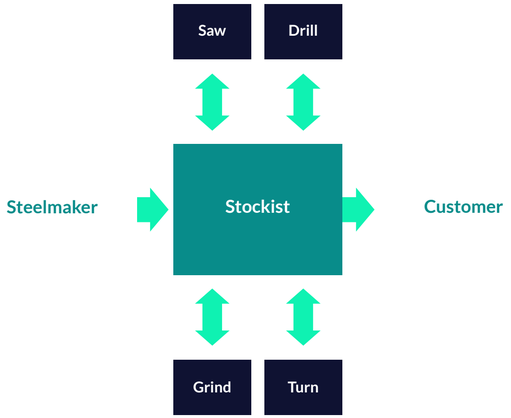
Fulfills the role of purchaser's authorised representative or the inspector designated by the official regulations.

Is this stockist a manufacturer?

- Did not conduct operations to change material properties
- Did not manufacture the material

No ✕

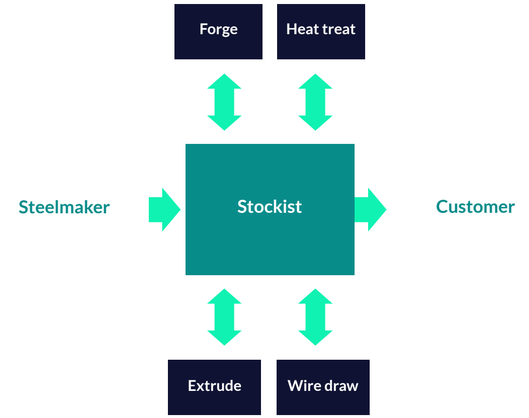
- Can only be certified to "intent of" 3.2



- Conducted operations to change material properties
- Is considered to have manufactured the material

Yes ✓

- Can be certified to true 3.2



How can LRQA help?

LRQA plays a critical role in helping organisations navigate the complex regulatory landscape. We offer not only EN 10204 Type 3.2 certification and "intent of" Type 3.2 certification but also collaborate closely with you to develop tailored compliance and assurance programmes that meet your organisation's specific needs. This approach drives risk management best practices throughout your organisation and wider supply chain, with an overarching aim of promoting continuous improvement.

EN 10204 Type 3.2 certification

Our experts follow a three-stage inspection process which can also be delivered remotely - providing a flexible and efficient solution.

‘Intent of’ Type 3.2 certification

Where materials have only been certified to Type 3.1, LRQA can provide 'Intent of' Type 3.2 certification depending on requirements.

Compliance & certification services

From EU Directives and National Regulations, to international codes and standards – LRQA offers a wide range of services that support your compliance journey.

Supply chain assurance

We can work closely with you to provide services across your supply chain, helping you maintain quality, compliance, and integrity at every stage.

Why partner with LRQA?

Global reach, local insight

LRQA offers specialist assurance services in over 120 countries, across all industries - providing support whenever and wherever you need it. Our team of over 1,000 inspection experts utilises deep sector knowledge to help thousands of clients mitigate risks.

Technical expertise

Our inspectors are industry experts registered to conduct reviews to global and industry standards, and we're accredited by international bodies to deliver a range of services that follow international best practices.

Extensive track record

LRQA supports some of the world's leading brands, helping them to seize opportunities and manage risks.

Flexible delivery

In most cases, our certification services can be delivered on-site or remotely using safe and secure technology. You'll receive the same high-quality service with several added benefits, including flexibility, fast delivery, and access to global expertise.

YOUR FUTURE. OUR FOCUS.

About LRQA:

By bringing together unrivalled expertise in certification, brand assurance, cybersecurity, inspection and training, we've become a leading global assurance provider.

We're proud of our heritage, but it's who we are today that really matters, because that's what shapes how we partner with our clients tomorrow. By combining strong values, decades of experience in risk management and mitigation, and a keen focus on the future, we're here to support our clients as they build safer, more secure, more sustainable businesses.

From independent auditing, certification and training; to technical advisory services; to real-time assurance technology; to data-driven supply chain transformation, our innovative end-to-end solutions help our clients negotiate a rapidly changing risk landscape – making sure they're shaping their own future, rather than letting it shape them.

Get in touch

Visit **www.lrqa.com/uk** for more information, email **enquiries.uk@lrqa.com** or call **+44 121 817 4300**

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