



GCFTM

Global Certification Forum

Platform Certification

Simplifying GCF Certification through
pre-certified functionality and re-useable
test results

Test Once, Use Anywhere

GCF Platform Certification

GCF Platform Certification enables designers and manufacturers to develop innovative new connected products around pre-certified mobile communications functionality.

This use of previously certified functional blocks, or “platforms”, allows the testing phase of product development to be more focused and cuts the total cost of obtaining GCF Certification for new connected products.

What is a platform?

A platform is any hardware or software subsystem that provides defined functionality within the scope of the GCF certification scheme.

Examples of platforms include:

- **Chipsets**
- **Core radio components**
- **Protocol stacks**
- **Applications such as MMS or SUPL**
- **Downloadable clients**
- **White label devices that are not marketed directly to end-users but produced to be customised as an operator- or retailer-branded product**

How does GCF Platform Certification work?

Platform Certification follows the same key principles as all certifications undertaken through GCF.

The platform supplier specifies the functionality the platform is intended to deliver and certifies that functionality against all applicable GCF Certification Criteria. The supplier also identifies those test results that will not be impacted by the platform’s integration into an end-product. The platform’s certification can then be referenced and re-used in the certification of the finished product.

Any certification criteria that may be affected by integration will need to be re-assessed during the certification of the end-product but the end-product manufacturer does not need to re-test against certification criteria that are not affected.

Platform Certification gives developers of connected products that incorporate GCF-certified platforms a new certification option.

Multiple independent platforms may be integrated into a single end-product provided an Assessment Capable Entity (ACE) has assessed the integrations to ensure there are no co-existence issues. An ACE is a suitably qualified expert recognised by GCF who can determine the certification requirements and applicable criteria for new products.

Benefits of GCF Platform Certification

Manufacturers:

- Opens-up new sources of mobile functionality
- Cuts the cost of certifying products that incorporate certified platforms.
- Makes product certification accessible to more manufacturers and a for wider range of products
- Further streamlines the testing and certification phase of product development, reducing time-to-market

Technology Providers:

- Creates new opportunities to provide GCF-certified functional blocks to manufacturers developing any device incorporating mobile connectivity

Operators:

- Increases the penetration of GCF-certified products connecting to mobile networks
- Increases confidence in the quality of mobile-connected products
- Reduces the risk of disruption to operators' networks and other mobile users from poorly performing, non-certified, devices

Users

- Increases the overall quality, reliability and choice of mobile-connected products available to consumers and business users

Who can use GCF Platform Certification?

Any Manufacturer or Associate Manufacturer Member can use GCF-certified platforms to optimise the own certification testing.

Associate Manufacturer Members are required to select an Assessment Capable Entity to provide support and guidance.

Technology Providers wishing to supply GCF-certified platforms must join GCF as a Manufacturer Member.



More information

Visit the GCF website at www.globalcertificationforum.org for more information on:

- **Platform Certification (in the Certification section)**
- **Assessment Capable Entities (in the Certification section)**
- **Joining GCF (in the Membership section)**

To join GCF contact gcf@globalcertificationforum.org

About GCF

GCF Certification is an internationally-recognised process for assessing the conformance and interoperability of products that incorporate mobile connectivity.

Manufacturers that certify can expand their addressable market by demonstrating that their products will work correctly on up to 800 mobile networks that serve every country in the world.

Products that are not properly interoperable risk disrupting mobile networks and their other users.

Incorporating GCF Certification into its quality management system helps a manufacturer differentiate the quality of its products from those of its competitors.

Focused on testing the core functionality of a device, GCF certification is the most cost-effective way for a manufacturer to demonstrate its products conform to standards and are interoperable with multiple networks worldwide.

Certification protects a manufacturer's brand from being damaged by products that do not connect correctly. The scheme is recognised by operators with interests in markets worldwide.

