

Complaints and Appeals Management

In implementing Group Regulation K-RL 310 "Complaints and Appeals Management", TÜV NORD Group has introduced a documented procedure, CERT-120-VA-012 "Complaints and Appeals Management" as part of its QM system.

The most important rules which affect customers and third parties with regard to

- customer complaints (customer is not in agreement with the behaviour of the employee of TÜV NORD GmbH or the way in which performance of the order was organised) or
- complaints made by a third party regarding a customer certified by TÜV NORD CERT GmbH or the customer's products
- customer appeal (customer is not in agreement with the certification decision) are as

follows:

1. The customer is asked to send the complaint/appeal in written form to his usual contact address at TÜV NORD CERT GmbH or to the central contact address TÜV NORD CERT GmbH, Langemarckstrasse 20, 45141 Essen, info.tncert@tuev-nord.de
2. The employee at TÜV NORD CERT GmbH who is the first to receive a complaint / an appeal has the duty to enter the complaint/appeal into the electronic complaint handling tool. The tool will send an email confirming receipt of the complaint/appeal (providing the complainant/appealant has given information regarding an email address).
3. The responsible Manager has the duty to oversee processing of the complaint / appeal.
4. The complaint / appeal is to be handled as follows: the complaint / appeal must be completely understood and corrective action(s) which are acceptable from the technical point of view and with regard to the facts must be proposed and implemented.
5. If necessary, the complaint / appeal should be processed in cooperation with employees involved, the relevant specialist or laboratory manager, administrative staff and, if appropriate, company top management. If needed, the employee responsible for handling the complaint contacts and communicates with the party making the complaint /appeal.
6. The party complaining / appealing receives a written response regarding his case.
7. If the party making the complaint is not in agreement with the response, he can first contact the top management of TÜV NORD CERT GmbH, Am TÜV 1, 45141 Essen.
8. If this does not lead to a satisfactory solution, he has the right to apply to the Advisory Board of TÜV NORD CERT GmbH as arbitration body. However, due to accreditation requirements, this is only permitted in case of complaints. The complaint should be addressed in writing to the Advisory Board (beirat@tuev-nord.de or at the "Speaker of the Advisory Board, c/o to Head of Certification Body TÜV NORD CERT GmbH, Langemarckstraße 20, 45141 Essen")
The Advisory Board will consider the case at the latest during their next meeting. The party making the complaint receives a written statement regarding the result.
9. The complainant/appealant has the right to directly contact the accreditation body, standard owner and/or competent authority.

Essen, 20.12.2018, QMR