

ASNI/FM Approvals 2510 Testing: Manufacturer Participation in the NFBTCP

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), in collaboration with FM Approvals and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has established the National Flood Barrier Testing and Certification Program (NFBTCP) to test and certify the following classes of flood abatement products:



- Opening flood barriers (also called closure devices): Devices capable of preventing flood waters from passing an opening in a structure
- Temporary perimeter flood barriers: A temporary emergency structure which, when deployed, is intended to protect an area surrounding an occupancy from flood conditions
- Backwater valves: A device installed in building drainage systems utilizing a check valve to prevent backflow
- Flood abatement pumps (also called mitigation pumps): A pump used for the removal of unwanted water



This program assures that manufacturers and consumers that a product which has been objectively tested, conforms to the ANSI/FM Approvals 2510 standards established for these types of products. NFBTCP Certified products earn the FM Diamond, a globally recognized quality mark from FM Approvals.

Outlined below is the five (5) step process for testing and certification.

STEP 1: APPLICATION. Application is made to the ASFPM, FM Approvals, or the USACE using the application form. After the application and application fee is received, a conference call among the manufacturer and the Program partners to discuss the testing level and clarify any application information. Manufacturers can choose from the following levels:

<i>Level 1:</i>	<i>Water related testing including a minimum of one foot hydrostatic test. A Test Report will be issued only, no certification conferred.</i>
<i>Level 2: Silver</i>	<i>Water testing including a minimum of one foot hydrostatic test, materials testing, and a plant/product inspection. A Test Report will be issued and FM Approval certification granted if successfully passed.</i>
<i>Level 2: Gold</i>	<i>Water testing including a minimum of two feet hydrostatic test, materials testing, and a plant/product inspection. A Test Report will be issued and FM Approval certification granted if successfully passed.</i>
<i>Level 2: Platinum</i>	<i>Water testing including a minimum of three feet hydrostatic test, materials testing, and a plant/product inspection. A Test Report will be issued and FM Approval certification granted if successfully passed.</i>

Water testing is performed by the US Army Corps of Engineers at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, Mississippi and materials testing/inspections are performed by FM Approvals.

STEP 2: PROPOSAL ISSUE AND MANUFACTURER AUTHORIZATION. Depending on the testing level desired by the manufacturer, a proposal would be prepared by the testing entity and appropriate contractual agreements would be put into place. ASFPM facilitates the water testing contract between the manufacturer and ERDC.

STEP 3: TESTING AND FIRST AUDIT. Once all necessary application information is received, testing is scheduled and conducted. An FM Approvals inspector visits the manufacturer's facility to review quality control procedures prior to product approval.

STEP 4: REPORT AND CERTIFICATION. Once testing has been completed successfully, a report is prepared by the testing entity and reviewed for technical accuracy and quality. The testing entity sends the final report to the manufacturer. Certification is effective as of the date of the report at which time the manufacturer may label the product as FM Approved.

STEP 5: FOLLOW-UP AUDITS. Follow-up audits of manufacturing facilities are required in order to maintain certification as an FM Approved product.

There are several benefits of participating in the National Flood Barrier Testing & Certification Program beyond listing in the National Flood Barrier Testing and Certification Program webpage and in the Approval Guide, at www.approvalguide.com:

- Inclusion in other outreach materials (fact sheets, etc.) for tested and certified products so property owners can better find tested and certified products.
- Affiliation with ASFPM means that product manufacturers are connected with over 18,000 floodplain management professionals in the country.
- Testing and certification by reputable flood risk management organizations adhering to the highest standards.
- Unique opportunities to promote tested and certified products with federal, state, and local organizations, product buyers, emergency managers and hazard mitigation professionals.

For additional information on the program, please contact ASFPM at 608-828-3000.

