

OVER 40 YEARS OF PROVEN QUALITY, QUALITY STATEMENTS, ATTESTATIONS AND CERTIFICATES

Many materials and products are supplied with various quality statements, attestations, or certificates. One example is the KOMO product certificate.

Over recent decades, considerable confusion has arisen regarding the KOMO product certificate for bonded façade panels based on BRL 4101-7. This guideline is now highly outdated, has no connection with current Building Regulations, and the existing KOMO product certificates are no longer governed by public law but by private law. In other words, they have no legal recognition—effectively serving as little more than self-declared documentation.

History

In 2003, BRL 4101-7 *“Adhesives for fastening façade cladding”* was introduced. It defined procedures for testing, attestation, and certification required to obtain a KOMO® Attest-with-product certificate for bonded façade cladding systems. At that time, the objective was to demonstrate compliance with the 50-year durability requirement of the then-applicable Dutch Building Regulations.

On April 28, 2010, the Stichting Bouwkwiteit (SBK) withdrew BRL 4101-7. As a result, the basis for product certification ceased to exist, and compliance with the 50-year durability requirement could no longer be demonstrated. This decision followed serious doubts about the validity of the performance requirements in BRL 4101-7, supported by authorities including the government, SBK, the Building Decree Assessment Committee, TNO, certification bodies, engineers, and contractors.

The withdrawal was prompted by several incidents where the KOMO® Attest-with-product certificate failed to guarantee durability and safety. In some cases, façade panels partially or completely detached from the supporting structure, posing significant risks.

On June 28, 2011, a revised version of BRL 4101-7 with an amendment sheet was accepted by the Harmonization Commission for Construction. This allowed KOMO certification to be reintroduced at product level. However, all references to the Dutch Building Regulations were removed, as the prescribed testing methods—even when yielding positive results—could not demonstrate durability over the required reference period. Consequently, the guideline lost its technical relevance.

Subsequently, KOMO quality certificates based on BRL 4101-7 were found to conflict with the European Construction Products Regulation (CPR). After repeated concerns, the Dutch government intervened in December 2014. As of January 1, 2015, the legal link between these quality declarations and public regulations was officially invalidated.

Today, KOMO certificates for bonded façade cladding have no legal status, and the underlying BRL 4101-7—originating from the 1990s—is fundamentally outdated.

What Does This Mean?

This situation forced us to reconsider our position regarding KOMO certification. A certificate that was once publicly regulated and linked to Building Regulations has become a private document based on obsolete requirements and outdated testing methods.

Key concerns include:

1. Although such certificates may contain information about adhesive properties, they cannot be used as valid proof that durable bonding requirements for façade panels are met.
2. In practice, product certificates are found where the technical data on adhesion does not correspond to current requirements, is outdated, or is not supported by relevant test results.
3. A single product certificate cannot be applied universally across different materials. Each material requires specific durability testing aligned with current knowledge—something not reflected in BRL 4101-7.
4. A quality mark without legal recognition has little real value. It can be compared to a label on a garbage bag: it may display a logo, but lacks meaningful or verifiable quality assurance.

Our Position

In short, this certification system no longer aligns with our standards. We have therefore decided to discontinue the use of KOMO certification.

Additionally, most countries still maintain their own inspection and certification systems. Operating internationally often results in multiple certificates for essentially the same requirement. Given our global activities and the development of European standards, TWEHA® has chosen to move away from national quality marks.

Where existing test data is insufficient, we instead conduct project-specific testing in collaboration with our clients, tailored to the requirements of each country and application.

Looking Ahead

We recognize that an unclear situation has emerged in the market. Some parties continue to rely on the perceived value of KOMO certification, despite its lack of legal and technical relevance, potentially creating a misleading impression.

It is important to understand that:

- A standard quality test does not automatically guarantee safety.
- A product certified under outdated methodologies cannot ensure reliability under current conditions.

For this reason, we have worked closely with leading research institutes to study the long-term behavior of adhesive bonds. This includes developing calculation methods, safety margins, and validation approaches aligned with modern structural safety principles. Our adhesive systems are subject to an intensive internal testing program under conditions more severe than real-life applications. These tests assess durable bonding across all façade materials, with particular focus on natural stone through systematic sampling of each production batch.

Using accelerated aging tests, we evaluate long-term performance in accordance with structural reliability principles, enabling us to determine characteristic values. Based on the relationship between degradation mechanisms and test results, we verify whether performance requirements are met—specifically:

- No adhesive failure
- Cohesive strength exceeding 1 MPa

Quality Assurance

Through:

- Strict production control and inspections
- Periodic product testing
- Independent laboratory verification
- Internal quality procedures refined over nearly 40 years

we ensure the quality and reliability of our systems.

A KOMO certificate adds no value to this process.

Although this required explanation to the market initially, in recent years we have experienced no negative impact on sales without KOMO certification.

Conclusion

Ultimately, quality is about managing risks that affect critical performance characteristics. Every façade panel, brand, supporting structure, and application condition is different. These variations require a tailored approach to quality assessment.

In our view, BRL 4101-7 and the KOMO certification system fall short in addressing these realities.

TWEHA® has strengthened its quality and safety policy accordingly. The successful application of our adhesive systems in more than 40 countries over decades demonstrates their reliability and performance.

TWEHA®, 2026