

General Terms and Conditions



AUSTRIA TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV

1. Applicability

Any agreement between TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV and its Principals (clients) shall be concluded under these Terms and Conditions. Terms and Conditions once concluded shall also be valid — until revoked by TÜV

AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV — for any future contractual agreements. The applicability of the Principal's purchase and other terms and conditions of business shall hereby be excluded for the entire professional association. As far as agreements are concluded with consumers in terms of Book VI. Belgian Code of Economic Law (WER), indispensable legal provisions shall take precedence over these Terms and Conditions.

Any clause in this contract is wanted by both parties and does not create an (apparent) imbalance between the rights and obligations of the parties.

2. Quotations

2.1. Quotations issued by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall, unless agreed otherwise in writing, be subject to change and non-binding. A mutually binding agreement shall come into force only with the receipt by the Principal of the written confirmation of the order by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV or the commencement of the provision of services through TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV. Changes and additions to the agreement shall have to be made in writing. This shall also apply to any agreement to waive the requirement to make such amendments in writing. Verbal information, ancillary arrangements and undertakings by agencies or employees of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall, at any stage of the contractual process, be binding only if confirmed in writing.

2.2. Upon notification of inspections and their performance TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall not assume the obligation incumbent upon the Principal to adhere to this or follow-up inspection appointments.

3. Geographical applicability

Fees quoted shall be, unless expressly stated otherwise, applicable only for services provided in Belgium.

4. Implementation of agreement

4.1. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be liable to provide services only as expressly set out in the agreement, which services shall be provided in compliance with generally acknowledged technical regulations. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall not assume any liability for the accuracy of laws, directives and standards on which the agreements are based.

4.2. On conclusion of agreement, the volume of orders shall be set down in writing. If in the course of the proper implementation of the contract changes or excesses to the agreed contract volume should become necessary, TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to carry these out on the basis of the Terms and Conditions in hand, even without written notification, provided that the charges last agreed upon shall not be exceeded by

more than 15%. If the modification exceeds 15%, then these shall need to be agreed upon in writing prior to the provision of the additional services. If the modified contractual volume raises the charges last agreed upon by more than 50%, the Principal shall be entitled to withdraw from the contract within three days from notification of the new fees. The Principal however shall pay for the services that have already been provided in accordance with the amount agreed on.

4.3. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall not assume any liability for the proper operation and functionality of objects inspected exclusively for technical safety, unless specifically stated in the agreement. In particular, design, choice of materials and construction of equipment and installations shall be subject to inspection only if the agreement specifically provides for such services. The same shall apply likewise to safety programs or safety regulations.

4.4. On conclusion of agreement the Principal shall provide TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV with all the required documents such as drawings, plans, calculations and certifications, obtain any authorizations and clearances that may be required, provide contract-related information at any time, and carry out, prior to the commencement of the order fulfilment, the required preparations, in particular to make the object of inspection accessible. The Principal shall undertake to make all reasonable efforts to provide the required documents or authorizations on time. If the Principal fails to fulfil these obligations, despite a deadline having been set by TÜV

AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV, the agreement shall be revoked on expiry of the dead- line. In this event TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to claim damages for non-fulfilment.

4.5. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall not be obliged to verify the accuracy of documents provided as a basis for inspection or the accuracy of verbal statements provided by the Principal or his employees, but it shall presume the accuracy of such information.

4.6. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to determine the method and type of inspection at its discretion on the basis of professional criteria.

4.7. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to produce copies of the provided documents and to keep them in its records and to save the Principal's data and data arising from the business dealings for its own purposes in an electronic data processing installation. In accordance with clause 10 of Terms and Conditions the Principal shall hereto expressly give his consent.

4.8. T TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV provides the service, unless agreed otherwise in individual cases, with one employee per area of expertise. Any assistance required or useful for the order fulfilment shall be provided to TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV by the Principal or a third party on behalf of the Principal, free of charge. The Principal shall undertake to make every reasonable effort to provide the required or useful assistance. In providing such assistance the Principal shall monitor and adhere to applicable legal or official provisions, in particular in the area of employee protection.

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- 4.9. The client allows the accreditation body to accompany and observe (audit) the conformity assessment activities, which are covered by contract, of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV.
- 5. Terms and deadlines/delays**
- 5.1. Terms and deadlines as stipulated in the agreement shall be based on estimates of the volume of work as per information provided by the Principal. These deadlines shall become binding only when expressly stipulated in writing as 'binding' by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV. Delays shall not entitle the Principal to claim damages, irrespective of legal title.
- 5.2. Terms stipulated as binding shall commence with the complete accord in all parts of the agreement and about all conditions of the services to be provided and end with the provision of services by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV. They shall cease to be binding when the Principal is in default with his obligations according to the provisions of the Terms and Conditions in hand, in particular with regard to clauses 4.4. and 4.8, for whatever reason.
- 5.3. If fulfilment of the agreement is delayed by circumstances which TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV is not accountable for (e.g. operational disruptions, strike, force majeure, transport impediments etc.) TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled, under exclusion of warranties, rescission for mistakes and/or claims for damages, either to withdraw from the agreement or to extend the deadline by an appropriate period of time. This shall also apply when the events occur at a point in time at which TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV is already in default. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall notify the Principal of this in good time. In the event of withdrawal from the agreement TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to charge the Principal for partial services rendered up to that point in time at the prices agreed upon.
- 6. Terms of payment**
- 6.1. Services shall be charged in accordance with the offers, price lists and so on valid on conclusion of the agreement. If the provision of services extends over a period of more than one year or if services are provided repeatedly, services shall be charged in accordance with prices as valid at the point in time when individual services are provided.
- 6.2. If TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV provides services for a period of time extending to more than 4 weeks, TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to issue monthly invoices for partial provision of services. Partial and total payment of invoices shall be effected promptly and without deduction upon receipt of the invoice, stating invoice and customer numbers.
- 6.3. Objections to invoices shall be made and substantiated in writing within a period of two weeks following receipt of the invoice, failing which the invoice shall be deemed to have been accepted.
- 6.4. The Principal shall not be entitled to offset claims, of whatever kind, unless these have been ascertained in a legally binding manner by a court of law or acknowledged by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV in writing.
- 6.5. In the event of default of payment, even if only one item is outstanding, all outstanding claims — even those from other agreements and regardless of any diverging payment terms — shall fall due immediately and TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV may demand immediate payment of the outstanding claims and suspend the fulfilment of the agreement while awaiting the receipt of such payment. Default of payment shall entitle TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV to charge interest on late payments of 9,2 percentage points p.a. above the base interest rate of the Belgian National Bank and also to charge dunning costs of EUR 4.00/per reminder.
- 6.6. The Principal shall furthermore undertake to reimburse TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV for costs and expenses incurred de facto through the default of payment and appropriately required for the purposes of asserting its legal rights. This shall include, without prejudice to any obligations to pay cost of proceedings, in particular extrajudicial costs, dunning costs, the costs for a debt collection agency as well as the costs for intervening lawyers insofar as they were expedient and necessary.
- 6.7. When in doubt prices shall be exclusive of the legal rate of value added tax, which shall be borne by the Principal at the applicable rate.
- 6.8. Several contractual partners shall be liable jointly and severally.
- 6.9. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to send the Principal invoices in electronic form as well. The Principal declares his explicit consent to having invoices sent to him in electronic form by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV.
- 7. Warranty**
- 7.1. If the Principal is not a consumer in terms of Book VI. Belgian Code of Economic Law (WER) he shall on completion of the agreement examine the works or services of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV without delay and assert in writing, without any delay, but at any rate not later than seven calendar days following the supply of the expert opinion or inspection report or such like, any defects detected or detectable, under exclusion of any liability of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV. Concealed defects shall upon identification be objected to in writing without any delay, at the latest within seven calendar days thereafter but at any rate within the warranty period. Notifications of defects shall not confer entitlement to withhold payment of invoiced amounts in whole or in part.
- 7.2. Warranty claims of the Principal shall, at the choice of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV, be limited to rectification or supply of a replacement. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to carry out two attempts at rectification or supply of replacements. If attempts at rectification or the supply of a replacement do not lead to success within an appropriate period of time or if the rectification or supply of replacement is economically unfeasible, the Principal shall be entitled to an alteration of agreement or price reduction. An alteration of agreement on the grounds of immaterial, irremediable defects shall be excluded. In that case an appropriate reduction of price shall be effected.

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- 7.3. Warranty claims of the Principal — even for so-called incorporeal works, such as, for instance, expert opinions or software development — shall expire within a year of completion of the services performed by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV. The warranty period shall neither be extended nor interrupted by rectifications or attempts at rectification, in particular not if these fall outside the herewith stipulated warranty period.
- 7.4. Should the Principal fail to give timely complaint according to clause 7.1, then warranty claims for compensation for the claim itself as well as for erring about the defective delivery shall expressly be excluded, unless employees of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV by acts of intent or severe gross negligence are responsible for such claims.
- 8. Liability**
- 8.1. If the contractual partner lodges against TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV claims for compensation, he shall be obliged to furnish proof in respect of cause, illegality, fault and degree of fault. The relinquishment of warranty claims and claims for compensation to third parties shall be inadmissible.
- 8.2. If the Principal incurs damages due to a bindingly stipulated performance period having been exceeded through the fault of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV, the claim shall not exceed a maximum of 5% of that part of the contract affected by the delay.
- 8.3. The following disclaimers of warranty and limited warranties shall also apply to delictual claims insofar as these compete with contractual claims.
- 8.4. The liability of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM is excluded in case of slightly negligently caused property or financial damages (*culpa levissima/ lichtste fout/ la faute la plus légère*). The liability of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM shall in cases of simple gross negligence (*culpa lata / zware fout / la faute grave*) for property damages be limited to EUR 7,500,000.00 and for pure financial damages to EUR 3,000,000.00. This exclusion shall not apply to property or financial damages which TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM has brought about intentionally or with severe gross negligence (*dolus / opzet of bedrog / intention ou tromperie*). Higher amounts than those above may be agreed upon on request and at the expense of the Principal, provided corresponding coverage of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM is possible with its liability insurer.
- 8.5. The exclusion of liability and the liability limitation shall not apply to personal injuries.
- 8.6. In all cases liability of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall, moreover, with the exception of injury to life, limb and health, be limited to damages typical of this type of agreement and foreseeable for TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV on completion of the agreement or on breach of duty being committed.
- 8.7. Legal disclaimers and limitations of liability under clauses 8.1 to 8.6 shall also apply to the liability of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV for its agencies and employees as well as the personal liability of agencies and employees of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV and vicarious agents.
- 8.8. Claims for damages by the Principal, except for acts of intent on the part of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV or its agencies/executives, shall be excluded unless asserted in a court of law within a period of three months following rejection of the claims with a corresponding notice by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV or its insurers. Any possible claims for damages by the Principal vis-à-vis TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV (except for acts of intent on the part of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV or its agencies/executives) expire within a year of the Principal having obtained knowledge of these claims, unless provisions elsewhere or the law provide for shorter prescription. This shall not apply to delictual claims.
- 8.9. The preceding legal disclaimers and limitations of liability under clauses 8.1 to 8.8 shall not apply to claims pursuant to the Law of 25 February 1991 on liability for defective products, insofar as liability is mandatory under this Law.
- 8.10. Inasmuch as TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV is liable vis-à-vis the Principal for acts of intent or severe gross negligence or omissions of its agencies, employees and vicarious agents, it may demand the assignment of any possible claim for compensation of the Principal vis-à-vis the agency, employee and vicarious agent of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV.
- 8.11. If third parties, who neither have a contractual relationship with TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV nor with the Principal, on the basis of an agreement between TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV and the Principal, assert claims against TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV, its agencies, employees and vicarious agents, which are not attributable to acts of intent or severe gross negligence on the part of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV, its agencies, employees and subcontractors, the Principal shall indemnify and hold harmless TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV or its vicarious agents.
- 8.12. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall not be held liable for damages to devices under test that are caused through inspections, tests and suchlike and which were carried out in accordance with technical rules at the point in time of inspection.
- 8.13. Liability for consequential damages due to defects, in particular for missed profits, lack of savings, loss of earnings, other pecuniary damages, loss of interest etc. shall be expressly waived. Any liability that may nevertheless apply at law, shall be subject to the limitations set forth under the clause 'Liability'.
- 9. Copyright**
- Any copyrights on inspection and monitoring reports, certificates, expert opinions, calculations and suchlike prepared by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall remain with TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV. The distribution, utilization and/or publication of the services beyond the contractually stipulated purpose shall require prior written authorization by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV. In distribution, utilization, and/or publication the Principal shall be liable to comply with legal provisions. He shall in this respect indemnify and hold harmless TÜV AUSTRIA

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- BELGIUM NV from any possible claims by third parties.
- 10. Non-disclosure/confidentiality/data protection**
- 10.1. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall oblige its employees and other vicarious agents to secrecy in respect of any facts they may obtain knowledge of through the agreement.
- 10.2. The Principal shall consent to TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV making copies for the records of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV of written documents, drawings and plans etc. which are left with TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV for its perusal and which are necessary for the completion of the agreement.
- 10.3. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall when dealing with personal data comply with the provisions of the Law of 30 July 2018 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Law of 13 June 2005 on electronic communication and adopt the required technical and organizational arrangements for data protection within the scope of responsibility of TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV.
- 10.4. TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall in particular be under an obligation to have its employees comply with the provisions of § 6 DSG.
- 10.5. The data protection statement within the meaning of articles 13 and 14 GDPR can be seen on the website (www.tuv.at/datenschutzerklaerung).
- 10.6. Information or data of the Principal shall be forwarded to third parties exclusively in case of statutory, regulatory or court ordered disclosure.
- 11. Additional material**
Costs for additional material and test equipment not commonly used within TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV will be additionally charged to the client.
- 12. Provision of Infrastructure during inspection**
Clients are responsible for the provision of electrical energy, water, lighting, scaffolding, etc. suitable for the required testing activities in conformance with any statutory regulations, in time.
- 13. Delivery and safekeeping of test objects**
Test objects, type samples etc. to be inspected at test facilities owned by TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV have to be delivered *franco domicile* (free of any charge). The client agrees to accept the storage costs or disposal costs for test objects which are not returned.
- 14. Severance Clause**
Ineffective provisions of this agreement shall not affect the effectiveness of the other provisions. In the event of the ineffectiveness of one provision of this agreement, the parties to the agreement shall agree to replace it with an effective one that in spirit and purpose comes closest to the ineffective provision. These Terms and Conditions shall only be applicable vis-à-vis consumers (in terms of Book VI. Belgian Code of Economic Law (WER)), as far as mandatory provisions of Belgian consumer protection legislation do not run contrary to them.
- 15. Place of jurisdiction and applicable law**
For this agreement and the entire legal relationship between the parties Belgian Law shall apply with the exception of reference norms. Applicability of the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, CISG, shall consensually be excluded.
Any disputes arising from this agreement shall exclusively be referred to the Dutch-speaking Courts of Brussels, whereby TÜV AUSTRIA BELGIUM NV shall be entitled to institute legal proceedings with other courts for which the contractual partner has a legal venue.