

Mr. Simon Johnson  
Sharp Manufacturing Co. of UK  
Sharp House  
Davy Way  
LLAY WREXHAM CLWYD WALES  
LL12 0PG  
UNITED KINGDOM

Offenbach, 2011-07-21

Your ref.  
5008178

Your letter  
21.07.2011

Our ref. - please indicate  
FG82/het

Contact  
Mr. Roth  
Tel (+49) (69) 83 06-602  
Fax (+49) (69) 83 06-850  
roland.herbert@vde.com

Dear [Mr. Johnson](#)

regarding your enquiry for a document which, since July 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, is requested in Italy by GSE (Gestore Servizi Energetici) under the name of "Factory Inspection Certificate", we can give you the following information:

In order to obtain a VDE-certificate it is mandatory to successfully pass a test in accordance with the relevant DIN VDE, EN, or IEC product standard.

The base is our PM 102-testing and certification procedure (a pdf file is available upon request).

Further more VDE requires a 100% routine test at the end of the line. The routine tests and requirements for PV-Modules are described in our PM 434 (a pdf file is available upon request).

Before a VDE-licence is issued, a successfully passed factory inspection at each factory listed in the certificate is needed (see PM 102, clause 5.4 and 5.5). To maintain the certificate an annual inspection in each listed factory is needed.

The base for the Inspections is the Document CIG 23, issued by the European Electrical Products Certification Association.

Concerning module identification, the following information given by [Sharp Manufacturing Co. of UK](#) are verified and kept on file at VDE:

**a) Product identification code:**

Each crystalline module label bears an individual 9 digit serial number, containing:

- a) Production year (digit 1 and 2)
- b) Production month (digit 3)
- c) Manufacturer identification code (digit 4)
- d) Consecutive Serial Number - 00001 to 99999 (digit 5 to 9)



Serial number:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
a	a	b	c	d	d	d	d	d

**b) Manufacturer codes and addresses for European factories:**

Manufacturer and address can be traced by the fourth digit of the product identification code as shown in the table below.

Manufacturer Identification Code	Manufacturer and address	Date of Last Factory Inspection
4	Sharp Manufacturing Co. of UK Sharp House Davy Way LLAY WREXHAM CLWYD WALES LL12 0PG UNITED KINGDOM	14.09.2010

As per VDE-licence [40021391](#) listed factory-locations

Each Module is completely assembled (Cell stringing, assembling, lamination and electrical tests) in the above-mentioned factory.

Best regards

VDE Prüf- und Zertifizierungsinstitut GmbH  
VDE Testing and Certification Institute  
Section FG82



Roland Herbert



A COMPANY OF THE **VDE ASSOCIATION FOR ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONIC & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

Managing Director  
Dipl.-Ing./Dipl.-Kfm. Wilfried Jäger  
Merianstrasse 28  
D-63069 Offenbach  
Phone: +49 (0) 69 83 06-0  
Fax: +49 (0) 69 83 06-555  
E-mail: [vde-institut@vde.com](mailto:vde-institut@vde.com)  
<http://www.vde.com>

Venue:  
Offenbach/Main  
HRB 43618  
VAT-IDNo.: DE261922990  
Tax No.: 04425092566

Make Payments to  
Commerzbank AG  
BLZ 500 800 00  
Account-No.: 198 027 000  
S.W.I.F.T.-Code:  
DRES DE FF XXX  
IBAN  
DE 9150080000198027000

Notified Body according to the Equipment and Product Safety Act (GPSG) for technical work equipment and consumer products. Notified body according to the EMC Directive 2004/108/EG for Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC). Accredited by DAR accreditation bodies according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020, 17021, 17025 and DIN EN 45011. Accredited by: IEC – International Electrotechnical Commission – IECCE/CB, IECQ and CENELEC – European committee for Electrotechnical Standardization – CCA, HAR, ENEC.