

COSC
CONTRÔLE OFFICIEL SUISSE
DES CHRONOMÈTRES



Association of the Official Swiss Chronometer Control Authority

General terms and conditions

Effective date: 07.02.2025

These general terms and conditions apply to all organisations wishing to have their movements and watches certified as chronometers; furthermore, they must meet the official criteria for the designation "Swiss made" and be marketed under a trademark registered in Switzerland.



OFFICIAL SWISS CHRONOMETER CONTROL CENTRE
COSC

General Terms and Conditions

Written by: Management

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CHAPTER I Preamble

Article 1 Purpose, Art. 2 para. 1 of the COSC Statutes

The COSC aims to guarantee and promote the official Swiss rate control for Swiss chronometers in accordance with the Ordinance on the Use of the Swiss Name for Watches. This is carried out in the official chronometer test centres (hereinafter referred to as COSC).

Article 2 Basis of the present general conditions

The legal basis for the present general terms and conditions is article 12, lit. e and f of the statutes of the Association for the Official Swiss Chronometer Control Board (COSC).

Article 3 Organization of the COSC

The contact person for all questions concerning the application of these general terms and conditions is the management of the COSC.

In particular, it is the body of the association responsible for commercial matters.

Within its operational framework, it can assign the customer enquiry(s) once to one of the official testing laboratories or appoint a permanent contact person for a specific area.

CHAPTER II Services

Article 4 The Chronometer Certificate

As a body accredited by the SAS (Swiss Accreditation Service), the COSC is entitled to award the chronometer certificate to all chronometers that have successfully passed the relevant tests.

Article 5 Other services

Within the framework of its activities, the COSC can provide testing services in the sense of the knowledge of the products envisaged to be presented at the certification tests.

Article 6 Categories of timing devices

The chronometers submitted for certification as chronometers can be divided into the following categories:

- Category I : Wristwatches with balance-spring oscillator
- Category II : Pocket watches with balance-spring oscillator
- Category III : Timepieces in fixed position with balance-spring oscillator
- Category IV : Wristwatches with quartz oscillator

Category I watches are divided into two categories according to their movement diameter and movement area:

Category	Factory diameter [mm]	Factory area [mm ²]
1	> 20	> 314
2	≤ 20	≤ 314

Factory area and factory diameter refer only to the blank manufactured in one piece. The COSC decides on special cases and restrictions.



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CHAPTER III Conditions

Article 7 Legitimation of the submitted timing devices

The COSC certification is only open to Swiss timepieces as defined in the Ordinance on the Use of the Swiss Name for Watches (SR 232.119).

Accordingly, only Swiss timepieces that are to be placed on the market under a trademark registered in Switzerland in accordance with the Federal Law on the Protection of Trademarks and Indications of Source (SR 232.11) can be submitted to a testing laboratory for certification testing.

The COSC reserves the right to refuse acceptance if the conditions for the designation "Swiss made" or the requirements for submission are not met.

The COSC reserves the right to carry out checks in this regard. Any violation will be punished with a warning. A repetition of such a warning may result in a future refusal of acceptance by the COSC.

The trademark owner assumes full responsibility for compliance with the above provisions.

Each series submitted must be accompanied by a submission form on which the information listed in Annex III.3 of the specifications for submission is recorded.

This document must be produced by the submitter, stating his identity, the mark on the watch, the movement number, the reference of the corresponding calibre and the current date.

The category of the watch must also be indicated.

For calibres whose movements are submitted for the first time, a technical description using the Calibre Identification Form is required (Annex III.1 or III.2 for quartz movements of the specifications for submission).

The submitter is responsible for the correctness and completeness of the information provided.

Article 8 Identification of the timing devices

Please refer to our submission guidelines for the relevant information.

Article 9 Conditions of observation

The COSC, or the testing laboratory responsible for carrying out the tests, reserves the right to reject those timepieces which are difficult to observe or which have malfunctions in terms of winding, time setting, chronograph, etc.

Article 10 Conditions for obtaining the title of chronometer

In order to obtain the title of "chronometer", the chronometers in a given category must successfully pass the tests laid down by the relevant control requirements.

Article 11 Control layers

For each type of timing device, the control positions are specified in the corresponding control requirements. Their symbol representation complies with ISO standard 3158:1976 (NIHS 95-10).

The position of use of the chronometers, if relevant for the tests, shall be taken from the manufacturer's instructions.



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Article 12 Auxiliary devices

By ancillary device, the COSC understands any mechanism that directly or indirectly intervenes in the kinematic chain of the movement to be certified, from the energy source to the oscillator.

This article applies to all watches and time instruments equipped with a mechanical or hybrid movement.

- a. An ancillary device is therefore defined as an assembly that consumes energy permanently or temporarily and may have a disruptive effect on the distribution of energy to the oscillator that synchronises the seconds display, as defined in the specifications for submission to the official Swiss chronometer control authority. All additional devices of the movements submitted for certification must be assembled, interlocking and functional. All additional devices must be expressly and completely described on the calibre identification sheet, with the brand owner assuming full responsibility for all details.
Self-elevators are not regarded as additional devices.
- b. If the measurements show non-compliance with these requirements, the certificate shall be refused. In this case all components of the series shall be declared defective. The owner of the trade mark concerned will be informed by letter post.
- c. The COSC as well as the testing laboratory that carried out the measurements reserve the right to order random checks on the return of specimens and, in case of doubt, on specimens available on the market. The brand owner must be able to prove that the movements that are switched on are in conformity with the Calibre Identification Form submitted to the COSC.
- d. The trademark owner bears full responsibility for compliance with the above provisions.
- e. During the measurements for chronometer certification, the auxiliary devices are not checked for their function; only their influence on the movement of the time base to be certified is checked.

Article 13 Multiple time bases

A time base is a device whose function is to provide constant time intervals.

Clocks or timepieces that are to be equipped with more than one time base during final assembly must be submitted in full to the COSC.

A prerequisite for the issue of the final chronometer certificate is that all time bases have successfully passed the ISO 3159:2009 tests.

All time bases must be in operation during the series of tests carried out with a view to certification.

At least one of the submitted time bases of the final product to be put on the market must be equipped with a second hand.

Article 14 Electromechanical and electronic time measuring devices

The energy source of electromechanical or electronic timepieces must be an integral part of the movement.

CHAPTER IV Procedure

Article 15 Choice of delivery point

In consultation with the customers and in accordance with the operational requirements of the testing laboratories, the management of COSC organises the appropriate logistics to optimally distribute the planned production to the test sites, taking into account the needs and wishes of the customers.



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Article 16

The timing devices must be submitted to a test laboratory.

Article 17 Accredited test centres

The COSC and the testing laboratories that act as its branches are accredited as calibration and testing laboratories for time interval measurements according to ISO 17025. In addition, the COSC is accredited as a product certification body for mechanical timepieces and quartz watches according to ISO 17065.

CHAPTER V Vouchers issued

Article 18 Tests and certificates issued

Two different types of tests are offered:

- a) Test for obtaining the official title of "Chronometer" in accordance with the regulations in force.
- b) Partial gear checks or special tests,
either within the framework of the applicable regulations or, in individual cases, according to criteria established by the management of the COSC and the review body concerned in consultation with the customer.
Even if the test is passed successfully, this test does not entitle you to the title "Chronometer" and may therefore not be used for advertising purposes. These reservations are expressly noted in the documents transmitted by the COSC.

Article 19 Official documents (according to annex)

The COSC issues the following documents, which bear the official seal, for timing devices that have successfully passed the tests

- a) a collective test certificate, dated and signed by the head of the inspection body, summarising the results obtained for chronometers of the same category, series and customer;
This collective certificate is considered a certificate according to point 3.1 – note 1 of ISO 3159:2009 and must be kept by the testing laboratories for 10 years.
- b) optional:
- an individual certificate dated and signed by the management of the COSC, listing all detailed test results

The Gangschein model is protected by copyright. Any imitation or falsification of these documents will be prosecuted under criminal law and may also be punished by a temporary refusal to accept them.

The acronym of the COSC may only be reproduced on certain documents. This requires the prior approval of the management, which must be clearly indicated on the document in question.

Any other use or reproduction of the logo, whether or not signed by the COSC management, constitutes a counterfeit under the Swiss Penal Code (see in particular article 246) and will be prosecuted.

Article 20 Information on the documents

The **collective test certificate** - *Annex Ia* - shall contain the following information:

- a) the movement number of the chronometer,



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- b) the control number of the data acquisition system,
- c) the mark shown on the watch and the information necessary to identify the filing,
- d) the reference of the calibre, its type, category and special characteristics,
- e) Information on the status, the daily walk, the results obtained using various test criteria, errors,
- f) Place and date of issue of the certificate,
- g) the COSC seal of the testing laboratory with the signature of the head of the testing laboratory, as well as statistics on the test and a summary of the errors

For special tests according to Art. 18b) only the test results and statistics are transmitted.

The **individual movement document** (A4 format or folded in triplicate) - *Annex Ib* - shall contain the following information:

- a) the movement number of the chronometer,
- b) the control number of the data acquisition system,
- c) the mark shown on the watch or timepiece,
- d) the test centre (test laboratory),
- e) the progress report, the results obtained for the various criteria and the date of completion of the tests
- f) the date of dispatch of the test report as well as the COSC seal of the testing laboratory and the signature of the COSC management.

On request, any purchaser of a chronometer can obtain the results obtained by his chronometer. He must contact the brand as sole owner in this regard.

Article 21 Copy of the original document

A copy of the original document can only be issued after the damaged original document has been returned. In this case, the date on which the tests were completed will be the same date as on the original.

The date of issue shall be the date on which the copy was requested.

If it is not possible to return the original document, no copy of the original can be issued. For the replacement of an original document, the copy must be returned in accordance with our submission guidelines and with a new identification number.

Article 22 Duplicates

A duplicate may be requested up to 10 years after the official document was issued. In principle, only one replacement document may be issued with the mention "duplicate".

CHAPTER VI **Deadline**

Article 23 Deadline for the return of specimens

The submitted specimens will be received in the testing laboratories on working days. For the maintenance of their testing instruments the testing laboratories are closed at the turn of the year.

Copies will be returned under the conditions set out in our specifications for submission.

CHAPTER VII **Liability and insurance**

Article 24 Transport of the timing devices

The customer is solely responsible for the transport and insurance of the movements and bears the associated costs.



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Article 25 Insurance

For the duration of the deposit, the time measuring devices are insured against theft and fire at the expense of the testing laboratory. However, specimens whose cases or movements are made of precious metals are excluded from the theft insurance.

In the event of damages that result in a loss of business not only for the testing laboratory but also for the customer, it is the responsibility of the customer to take out appropriate insurance to cover this loss of production (loss of sales and personnel costs).

CHAPITRE VIII Complaints

Article 26 Complaints

- Liability of the customer:
Appeals against the test results as well as possible complaints in case of damage to specimens entrusted to the testing laboratory must be submitted directly upon receipt of the test results, but within one month at the latest. Complaints received after this deadline cannot be accepted.
- Liability of the testing laboratory:
The testing laboratory is liable for damage caused during the tests up to a maximum amount of CHF 25.00 per specimen. In this case, the head of the testing laboratory shall immediately report the damage incurred to the person concerned.

CHAPTER IX Invoicing

Article 27 Billing

The head of the testing laboratory shall issue a delivery note as an accompanying document for the specimens returned to the customers.

Invoicing is done monthly by the management of the COSC, which is responsible for debtor management.

CHAPTER X Final clauses

These terms and conditions may be amended at any time by the General Assembly of the COSC on the proposal of the Board of Directors.

Article 28 Effective date

The present conditions cancel the previous version of 09.06.2017 and become effective on **07.02.2025**.

The general conditions were adopted by the General Assembly of the COSC on 09.06.2017.

In case of discrepancy between this translated version of the General Conditions and the original French version, the original French version shall prevail.

Annex:

Examples of issued documents (A4 size tickets and triple folded), price list 2024

Terms of payment