fairsfair Initial Body of Work

Conformance and Certification

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Series	Legal
Source	fairsfair Conformance and Certification
Licence	FF-L02 — fairsfair Licence Agreement
Owner	FRCB B.V.
Custodian	fairsfair foundation

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1. Purpose and Scope

This publication establishes how Reference conformance with FF-R02 — Reference API and FF-R04 — Reference Conformance is demonstrated, verified and, where applicable, formally certified.

Reference conformance applies to an identified implementation, service or deployment against the applicable FF-R02 — Reference API and FF-R04 — Reference Conformance versions, within a stated scope.

Conformance can be demonstrated through:

- documented self-assessment, supported by evidence that others can examine and reproduce; or
- formal certification under an identified certification process.

Both routes assess the same applicable FF-R02 and FF-R04 requirements. Certification provides additional independent assurance; it does not add to, replace or qualify Reference conformance. Public recognition requires separate registration.

This publication does not restrict rights granted under the EUPL. Conformance does not by itself grant certification, trademark permission, legal compliance or authority within a Transaction.

2. Meaning and Boundaries of Conformance

Reference conformance means that the identified subject satisfies every applicable requirement of FF-R02 and FF-R04 within the stated scope.

A conformance claim shall identify:

- the implementation, service or deployment assessed;
- the applicable FF-R02 and FF-R04 versions;
- the scope and any stated limitations;
- the assessment route used; and
- the evidence supporting the result.

Conformance outside the identified scope cannot be inferred. A limitation or exception shall be stated clearly and shall not be presented as full conformance.

Conformance confirms satisfaction of the applicable FF-R02 and FF-R04 requirements. It does not establish general fitness for purpose, legal compliance or compatibility with every system or use case.

3. Routes to Conformance and Registration

Conformance is demonstrated through self-assessment or certification.

A self-assessment shall document the applicable requirements, method, evidence and results in sufficient detail for independent examination and reproduction. Responsibility for the claim remains with the organisation making it.

Certification follows an independent assessment under an identified certification process. It provides formal assurance for the organisation’s own purposes but does not by itself create a public record or permit a public fairsfair claim.

A self-assessment or certification can be entered voluntarily in the fairsfair foundation public register following administrative review. Registration is separate from assessment or certification and does not change the status recorded.

Certification, registration and related services are charged at cost, paid in advance and provided on fair and reasonable conditions.

Only active registration supports public recognition and the corresponding use of the fairsfair logo under FF-L04 — Trademark Policy.

4. Requirements, Evidence and Assessment

Every applicable requirement of FF-R02 and FF-R04 shall be assessed within the identified scope.

Evidence shall be sufficient, relevant, traceable and reproducible. It shall identify the method used and demonstrate the result obtained.

Conformance concerns the implementation, service or deployment as operated within the assessed scope. Source code alone is insufficient where satisfaction of a requirement also depends on configuration, deployment or runtime behaviour. In those cases, the evidence shall demonstrate the relevant operational behaviour.

Equivalent technical implementations satisfy a requirement where they preserve its intended meaning and required behaviour. Conformance does not depend on a particular implementation unless FF-R02 or FF-R04 expressly requires it.

Missing, inaccessible or unverifiable evidence does not establish conformance. Any resulting limitation or deficiency shall be recorded and addressed in accordance with Clause 7.

5. Self-Assessed Conformance

The responsible organisation shall assess every applicable requirement and document the method, evidence and result.

The self-assessment shall identify its subject, scope, FF-R02 and FF-R04 versions, date and responsible organisation. Its evidence shall be available in sufficient detail for independent examination and reproduction.

The organisation remains responsible for the accuracy and continued validity of its claim. The claim shall be identified as **self-assessed** and shall not be presented as certified.

6. Certification

Certification follows an independent assessment against every applicable requirement of FF-R02 and FF-R04 within the identified scope.

The certification shall identify the subject, scope, FF-R02 and FF-R04 versions, date, certifying body and any limitation or expiry.

Protected evidence can be reviewed under confidentiality. Missing or unverifiable evidence does not establish conformance.

Certification does not by itself create a public record, support a public fairsfair conformance claim or permit use of the corresponding fairsfair logo.

7. Continued Conformance, Change and Repair

A conformance claim remains valid only while its evidence represents the identified subject and scope.

Following a material change, the responsible organisation shall reassess the affected requirements and update, limit or withdraw its claim. A certified organisation shall notify the certifying body where the change can affect certification.

A deficiency shall be corrected and the affected requirements reassessed before full conformance is restored.

8. Registration and Public Claims

A self-assessment or certification can be entered voluntarily in the fairsfair foundation public register.

The register shall identify the organisation, subject, FF-R02 and FF-R04 versions, scope, assessment route and current status. Registered self-assessment and registered certification shall remain clearly distinguished.

Registration remains active for the identified period. An outdated or unsupported registration shall be corrected, limited, suspended or withdrawn.

Only active registration supports a public fairsfair conformance claim or corresponding use of the fairsfair logo under FF-L04 — Trademark Policy.

9. Final Provisions and Definitions

This publication shall be read with FF-L01 — Governance Charter, FF-L02 — fairsfair Licence Agreement and FF-L04 — Trademark Policy.

In this publication:

Certification means formal assurance issued following an independent conformance assessment.

Conformance claim means a statement that an identified subject satisfies the applicable FF-R02 and FF-R04 requirements within a stated scope.

Registration means voluntary entry of a self-assessment or certification in the fairsfair foundation public register.

Self-assessment means a documented conformance assessment for which the assessing organisation remains responsible.

Material change means a change that can affect the validity, scope or evidence of a conformance claim.

Terms defined elsewhere in the Initial Body of Work retain their established meaning.