How do we begin the certification process?

To begin the booking process, please fill out and sign our standard test application and be sure to mark all supported Application types, Supported Features, and Supported Profiles on page 3.

How long will it take to certify our PROFINET Device?

Testing a PROFINET device can take anywhere from 3-5 days, depending on the complexity of the device. Note that this is lab time alone; the time necessary to address issues as they are found during the test is not included here. Once we've received your completed test application we can provide a more concrete time estimate.

It's important to know that our test lab does not issue PROFINET certificates directly. Instead, we only provide an accredited Test Report that you must pass on to the PI Certification Office. While we may conclude a test in as little as three days, we cannot provide an estimate on how long the PICO will require to complete your formal Certificate.

How much lead time should we plan for?

Lead times in the test lab vary depending on lab availability; we only schedule one full test in our facility at a time. The minimum lead time is one week, but it can stretch out to six weeks during our busiest months. You can obtain a current lead time by sending a request to pic.industry@siemens.com.

Will we be required to attend the certification test?

While it's not required, we do suggest that a representative from your group attends the test for the first one or two days. Having a customer rep on site with us helps resolve issues that arise during testing quickly, and if issue can't be resolved, the rep can learn to reproduce the issues outside our test lab. This is especially true for customers who are moving through their first PROFINET project or who are submitting a complex device for certification.

How much will it cost to certify our PROFINET Device?

Cost is heavily dependent on the scope of work required to test all of the features of your device, and we can't issue formal a quote until we've received your complete test application. Good ballpark figures for budgetary consideration are between $6,000 for simple, one-port, single interface Conformance Class A PROFINET Devices to $7,500 for complex Conformance Class B Devices with multiple interfaces. Discounts are available for very simple devices utilizing modular or ASIC PROFINET implementations, or for devices that have been previously certified or pre-tested.

What tools are used during the test? Can we procure them to use in-house?

PI makes a number of the test tools used for PROFINET Device certification available for free to its members as part of the PROFINET IO Test Bundle. This, along with the PROFINET specifications and other critical development information, can be accessed through PI's website at http://www.profinet.com/.

What physical interfaces does our Device have to support?

We supply the following power supplies in the test lab. If your PROFINET Device requires additional power supplies, please send them along with your sample device for testing.
-    24 V DC for current draw less than or equal to 10A
-    120 V / 60 Hz AC 1P for current draw less than or equal to 10A
-    240 V / 60 Hz AC 1P for current draw less than or equal to 3A
-    230 V / 50 Hz AC 1P for current draw less than or equal to 3A

We supply the following network cabling in the test lab. If your PROFINET Device requires additional cables, converters or interface types, please send them along with your sample device for testing.
-    RJ-45 / 4 conductor
-    RJ-45 / 8 conductor
-    M12 / D-Coded / 4 conductor

We have a lot of very similar devices. Can they all be certified at once?

Yes, it's possible to certify several "variants" of a device along with the representative device. Variants usually differ in terms of application features (number of IO modules, etc).

Our device is large / heavy / requires more power than the lab supplies. How do we certify it?

The easiest thing to do is to supply your PROFINET interface along with a system simulator that runs a full implementation of your application software without the large / heavy / power-hungry physical apparatus.

The second easiest way to certify your device is to inquire about on-site testing services. We are allowed to perform an on-site test if your device meets one or more of these criteria:

1. Device or any device part exceeds the maximum transport size of parcel 1800 x1500 x 700 mm
2. Total transport weight of the device is higher than 300kg
3. Device utilizes or is technically possible to adapt it to utilize input power higher than 32A, 400V AC, 50Hz, or corresponding values for countries outside Europe