

# PUFF Open Funding Window: Quality Assurance & Testing Overview

*Updated January 29, 2026*

PUFF uses a tiered quality assurance framework to ensure that all subsidized productive use equipment (PUE) meets minimum standards for safety, performance, and durability, while recognizing that different technologies require different testing approaches.

Products are assigned to a testing pathway based on technology maturity and system complexity. In all cases, the objective is to verify that products sold under PUFF are fit for purpose, traceable, and supported by appropriate warranties and after-sales service.

Applicants should plan early for quality assurance and testing. **Delays in testing or incomplete documentation can affect contracting timelines, allocations, and sales windows.**

## Core Track (Mature Technologies)

VeraSol certification is required for the more mature PUE technologies: solar water pumps (SWP) and refrigerators/freezers.

These products must follow the standard VeraSol testing process, which assesses safety, performance, and durability in accredited laboratories. Only products that successfully complete this process and are listed in the VeraSol Product Database are eligible for PUFF support under the Core Track.

Detailed requirements and timelines for VeraSol testing are covered in the PUFF Appliance Testing Process documentation.

## Expanded Track (Emerging Technologies)

More nascent technologies (solar sprayers, solar mills, solar threshers, brooding and incubation technologies, and walk-in cold storage) require a more flexible quality assurance approach due to higher system complexity or limited availability of standardized test protocols.

Expanded Track products must qualify through one of several approved pathways, depending on their testing history and risk profile:

## **1. Approved Third-Party Testing**

Products that have already been tested by an ISO/IEC 17025–accredited or VeraSol–approved laboratory against relevant international standards may qualify directly, subject to documentation review and verification of product traceability.

## **2. Recognized Awards or Prior Programs**

Products that have been evaluated and approved through trusted third-party programs (such as Global LEAP Awards or comparable donor-funded initiatives) may qualify if the prior evaluation demonstrates rigor comparable to PUFF’s quality objectives.

## **3. Administrator-Directed Rapid or Targeted Assessment**

Where full laboratory testing is not available, the PUFF Administrator may approve products through a targeted technical assessment. This approach focuses on validating critical safety, performance, and reliability elements using documentation review, field evidence, and, where necessary, limited component or function testing.

Walk-in cold storage systems are subject to additional documentation and review requirements due to their higher operational and technical risk.

*More information for this PUE category is available in the Productive Use Financing Facility: Eligibility for Expanded Track Appliances document.*

## **Case-by-Case Track**

Technologies such as honey extractors, coffee pulpers, and other more nascent or emerging productive use technologies fall into the Case-by-Case Track. The quality assurance requirements and eligibility determinations for Case-by-Case products will be defined by the Administrator on an individual basis, taking into account product risk, maturity, and available technical evidence.

**Companies seeking to apply in this track must contact the Administrator prior to submitting an application.**

## Summary Table

<b>Category</b>	<b>Products</b>	<b>Primary QA Pathway</b>
<b>Core Track</b>	SWP and Fridges/Freezers	Full VeraSol Lab Testing/Global LEAP Awards
<b>Expanded Track</b>	Sprayers, Incubators, Threshers, WICR, Mills	3rd Party Reports, Prior Awards, or Targeted Assessment
<b>Case-by-Case</b>	Honey Extractors, Coffee Pulpers, Others	Direct Consultation with Administrator