

Information - CPR

Information of Holzforschung Austria on the
European Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

European Construction Products Regulation¹

Fundamental information on CE marking

The CE marking serves the realisation of “free movement of goods”, one of the fundamental freedoms of the EU, and is the prerequisite for placing a product regulated at the European level on the market in the European economic area.

In principle, it signals conformity of a product with the essential requirements of legal regulations of the EU.

The CE marking is not awarded, but attached to the product under the own responsibility of the economic operator putting it into circulation (producer, importer, dealer) according to the respective regulations, and is primarily directed towards market surveillance.

CPR binding from 1 July 2013 on

One of these EU regulations regulating the CE marking of products is the European Construction Products Regulation¹, short CPR¹. It replaces the previous regulation, the European Construction Products Directive (CPD). From 1 July 2013 on, products subject to a harmonised specification must only be placed on the market according to the CPR. Table 1 gives an overview over common abbreviated designations as well as differences between CPD and CPR.

Direct validity

Contrary to the CPD, which demanded implementation by national laws, the legal form of a regulation was chosen, in order to achieve direct validity in all member states. Thus, the CE marking takes place according to uniform specifications throughout the EU.

7 basic requirements for construction works

Construction products in terms of the CPR are now such products, which are permanently installed into structures and the performance of which has an impact on the performance of the structure in respect of the basic requirements. The basic requirements substantially correspond to the known 6 essential requirements from the CPD and were supplemented by the sustainable use of natural resources. Thus, structures must be suitable for their intended use, wherein in particular health and safety of the persons involved must be taken into account during the entire lifecycle of the structures. Structures must fulfil these basic requirements with normal maintenance over an economically appropriate period of time.

CE marking

Unlike before, when the CE marking implied, that a product fulfils the requirements of the CPD and the technical specification it is based on, now the responsibility for conformity of the construction product with its declared performance as well as for compliance with any applicable requirements, which are determined for attachment, is accepted.

¹ Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 March 2011 for determination of harmonised conditions for marketing of construction products and for annulment of Directive 89/106/EEC of the Council - Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

Declaration of performance instead of declaration of conformity

While so far, in addition to the CE marking, a declaration of conformity in regards to compliance with the relevant European technical specification was demanded, now the distributor must present the properties of the product declared and thus assured by him/her in the form of a declaration of performance. This document plays a central role in the implementation of the CPR.

Responsibility

The distributor is responsible for the products he/she provided with the CE mark and for the declarations of performance issued.

Obligations of the economic operators

The CPR very exactly defines the different obligations of the economic operators. Thus, economic operators can be manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers, and dealers. A separate article also explains, when obligations of the manufacturer also apply to importers and dealers.

Harmonised specifications

Harmonised specifications remain the harmonised European standards und the new European Technical Assessment Documents (EAD). These replace the European Technical Approval Guidelines (ETAG), which, however, still can be used as EAD. On the basis of an EAD, technical assessment bodies can generate so-called European Technical Assessments (ETA). This does not apply to the former Common Understanding of Assessment Procedure (CUAP). These documents must be converted into an EAD in advance. Only then, a new ETA based on them can be generated. Details on that can be enquired from at the national technical assessment bodies. In Austria, this is the Austrian Institute of Construction Engineering (OIB).

Simplified methods

The CPR offers a few possibilities, which are summarised under the term of simplified methods. Due to the verifications to be alternatively provided and also due to other requirements for that, these, however, will probably not be applied very often.

Market surveillance

The market surveillance authority for the respective member state actively and reactively checks, whether construction products placed on the market render the declared performances as well as fulfil the requirements in regards to the CPR and the relevant harmonised specifications. In Austria, this authority was established at the Austrian Institute of construction Engineering (OIB).

Transitional provisions

Construction products placed on the market in compliance with the CPD before 1 July 2013 shall be deemed to comply with the CPR.

After 1 July 2013, manufacturers can generate a declaration of performance in terms of the CPR on the basis of a valid certificate in terms of the CPD, i.e., issued prior to 1 July 2013, i.e., as long as the conditions in the harmonised technical specifications it is based on, the product, the manufacturing conditions at the factory, or the factory production control itself are not substantially changed or changed.

Notified bodies (NB) – Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP)

The member states still inform the European Commission about the bodies authorised to perform tasks of an independent third party for assessment and verification of constancy of performance.

These tasks in the different systems as well as the task sharing between the manufacturer and the so-called notified body have not substantially changed in relation to the CPD. For that, see Table 2. The CPR defines the terms used there in more detail.

Holzforschung Austria as notified body

Holzforschung Austria - Österreichische Gesellschaft für Holzforschung (*Austrian Forest Products Research Society*) has been notified as test laboratory (NB 1087) and as certification body (NB 1359) for the relevant harmonised specifications in the product areas of

- construction timber, glued laminated timber products
- fasteners / connectors
- wood based panels
- timber floors
- construction kits for timber construction
- windows, doors

for the timber construction area.

The detailed current scope of the technical specifications can be retrieved from the specified webpage of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=notifiedbody.notifiedbody&refe_cd=EPOS%5F50335

The exact sequence of certification is stated in the document *Certification Programme - CPR*.

Table 1: Abbreviated designations and differences between CPD and CPR

Until 30/6/2013		From 1/7/2013	
CPD	Construction Products <i>Directive</i> Directive 89/106/EEC of the Council of 21 December 1988 for adaptation of the legal and administrative provisions of the member states about construction products	CPR	Construction Products <i>Regulation</i> Regulation 305/2011/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 March 2011 for determination of harmonised conditions for marketing of construction products and for annulment of Directive 89/106/EEC of the Council
Essential requirements to the structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mechanical strength and stability 2. Fire protection 3. Hygiene, health and environmental protection 4. Safety in use 5. Sound insulation 6. Energy saving and thermal insulation 	Basic requirements to the structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mechanical strength and stability 2. Fire protection 3. Hygiene, health and environmental protection 4. Safety and accessibility in use 5. Sound insulation 6. Energy saving and thermal insulation 7. Sustainable use of the natural resources
hEN	Harmonised standard (technical specification in terms of the CPD)	hEN	Harmonised standard (technical specification in terms of the CPR)
ETAG	Guidelines for European Technical Approvals	EAD	European Assessment Document (technical specification in terms of the CPR)
ETZ/ETA	European Technical <i>Approval</i> (technical specification in terms of the CPD)	ETA	European Technical <i>Assessment</i>
CUAP	Common Understanding of Assessment Procedure	-	-
-	Certificate of conformity	DoP	Declaration of Performance
CE marking	CE marking implies, that the product fulfils the requirements of the CPD and the technical specification it is based on	CE marking	With attachment of the marking, responsibility is accepted for conformity of the construction product with its declared performance as well as for compliance with any applicable requirements determined for the attachment
-	Approval body in terms of the CPD, which was authorised for granting European technical approvals	TAB	Technical Assessment Body
EOTA	European Organisation for Technical Approvals	EOTA	European Organisation for Technical Assessments
AoC	System of Attestation of Conformity	AVCP	Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance

Table 2: Tasks in the different systems for assessment and verification of constancy of performance of the products acc. to CPR Appendix V

System for assessment and verification of constancy of performance	Declaration of performance of the manufacturer in respect of the substantial features of the construction product on the basis of the following		Type of notified body (NB)
	Tasks of the manufacturer	Tasks of the notified body	
1+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factory production control • Further testing of samples taken at the manufacturing plant by the manufacturer in accordance with the prescribed test plan 	Decision on the issuing, restriction, suspension or withdrawal of the certificate of constancy of performance on the construction product on the basis of the outcome of the following assessments and verifications carried out by that body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the performance of the construction product carried out on the basis of testing (including sampling), calculation, tabulated values or descriptive documentation of that product*; • Initial inspection of the manufacturing plant and of the factory production control; • Continuing surveillance, assessment and evaluation of the factory production control; • Audit-testing of samples taken by the notified product certification body at the manufacturing plant or at the manufacturer's storage facilities. 	Product certification body
1	<i>As under System 1+</i>	<i>As under System 1+ but without</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Audit-testing of samples taken by the notified product certification body at the manufacturing plant or at the manufacturer's storage facilities</i> 	
2+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the performance of the construction product carried out on the basis of testing (including sampling), calculation, tabulated values or descriptive documentation of that product* • Factory production control • Testing of samples taken at the manufacturing plant in accordance with the prescribed test plan 	Decision on the issuing, restriction, suspension or withdrawal of the certificate of conformity of the factory production control on the basis of the outcome of the following assessments and verifications carried out by that body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial inspection of the manufacturing plant and of factory production control • Continuing surveillance, assessment and evaluation of the factory production control 	Certification body for FPC
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factory production control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the performance on the basis of testing (based on sampling carried out by the manufacturer), calculation, tabulated values or descriptive documents of that product* 	Test laboratory
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the performance on the basis of testing, calculation, tabulated values or descriptive documents of that product* • Factory production control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none 	-

* in case of harmonised standards, not in case of European Technical Assessments (ETA);

The contents of this document was thoroughly checked and prepared to the best of our knowledge and belief, however, no guarantee whatsoever can be accepted for correctness.

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