

Cerame-Unie position on the future of the CPR

Key messages:

- Cerame-Unie believes that the Construction Products Regulation is key and shall remain the regulatory framework for construction products
- Cerame-Unie rejects the repeal of the Construction Products Regulation
- In order to solve the disagreements between the European Commission, Member States, CEN and industry, Cerame-Unie calls for a joint constructive effort to solve the most urgent problems related to the implementation of the CPR, for example standardisation issues

Introduction

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR), which replaced the Construction Products Directive (CPD), entered into full force in July 2013. The goal of the CPR is to set up harmonised rules for placing construction products on the EU market and therefore make the single market work better. The CPR contributes to removing barriers to trade and improves the free movement of construction products in the EU. When a construction product is covered by a harmonised European standard (hEN) that is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), the manufacturer shall draw up a Declaration of Performance (DoP) and affix CE marking to the product. Such hEN play an important role in establishing a level playing field for construction products.

Benefits of the CPR and consequences of the repeal

The CPR has a key role in the harmonisation of the conditions for marketing products by establishing a harmonised technical language that defines the essential characteristics in relation to their performance in hEN.

The combination of DoP and CE marking has demonstrated to be an effective way to provide technical information on the performance of a construction product using a common language.

In addition to hENs, the Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) systems are also important technical tools of the CPR that contribute to a level playing field for construction products.

The whole construction products industry, i.e. manufacturers, member states, contractors, architects and engineers, have invested considerable time and resources to fulfil the requirements of the CPR. Repealing the CPR would not be cost-effective and bring unnecessary additional burden for construction products manufacturers. Moreover, barriers to trade could occur due to the lack of harmonised rules for trading construction products on the EU market. For example, manufacturers could have to comply with different national regulations which would lead to additional costs to trade across EU Member States. The repeal of the CPR would also have an impact on the role of standardisation at EU level. European standards would remain valid but companies would be discouraged to invest their resources on its development because its implementation would depend on agreements and would not be supported as a principle.

Cerame-Unie proposal

The construction products industry needs a stable regulation. Cerame-Unie believes that CPR is key and shall remain the regulatory framework for construction products. Therefore, Cerame-Unie rejects Option III – the repeal of the CPR.

In order to solve the disagreements between the European Commission, Members States, CEN and industry, Cerame-Unie calls for a joint constructive effort to solve the most urgent problems related to the implementation of the CPR.

The European ceramic industry covers a wide range of products including abrasives, bricks & roof tiles, clay pipes, wall & floor tiles, refractories, sanitaryware, table- & ornamentalware, technical ceramics, expanded clay and porcelain enamel. The industry generates over 200,000 direct jobs and a production value of €28 billion in the EU.

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