The system of harmonised technical specifications mentioned above include harmonised European standards (hENs), generally for traditional construction products, and European Assessment Documents (EADs), usually for innovative products. Both these provide assessment methods for the performance of construction products.

Harmonised European Standards (hENs)

Currently, there are over 420 hENs covering a broad range of construction products. hENs are progressively becoming the norm as conflicting national standards (e.g. Irish and British Standards commonly used here) are being withdrawn.

All hENs under the CPR have an informative Annex ZA. In general, this Annex contains:

- ZA.1 A list of product characteristics as well as the clauses in the standard in which the assessment or test method is set out or referred to. The list represents a compilation of all regulated requirements for the product in question across the EU.
- ZA.2 A list of tasks for conformity assessment, namely the tasks to be carried out by the manufacturer and the notified body. This list is generally referred to as the agreed system of attestation of conformity, but will be known as the System of Assessment and Verification of Constancy of the Performance (SAVCoP) under the CPR.
- ZA.3 The process for CE Marking and labelling.

A list of Notified Bodies under the Construction Products Regulation is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=directive.newbodylist&dir_id=13

As the majority of construction products are covered by hENs, they will be known for their
dependencies with regard to the products they place on the internal market.

The Annex ZA2 currently could be considered as a ‘checklist’ for CE Marking, where the manufacturer can see all the requirements of the products that they manufacture in detail. This will, under the CPR, form a checklist for the drawing up of a Declaration of Performance (DoP) and for affixing the CE Mark.

All the information supplied with the DoP should be provided by strictly applying the methods and criteria provided by the relevant hEN. The DoP provides information about the characteristics of the product. The manufacturer, by drawing up the DoP, assumes responsibility for the conformity of the construction product with the declared characteristics. The application of the CPR does not make the manufacturer and effectively certifies that the manufacturer has strictly followed all the applicable requirements in drawing up his DoP and that, consequently, the DoP is accurate and reliable.

The manufacturer must also:

- keep documentation for ten years;
- ensure consistent production;
- monitor the product on the market;
- take corrective measures where necessary; and
- cooperate with requests from national authorities.

For more information on these responsibilities see Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 available at the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/legislation/

To check if your product manufactured is covered by a hEN, follow the flow chart in Figure 1. Manufacturers should also check the guidance on the conformity assessment in the Annex ZA of the hEN standard, which addresses the procedures that apply to such products for particular intended uses. This list of notified bodies can be seen at: http://www.nsi.ie/Construction/BuildingProducts/NotifiedBodies/CR.htm

The obligations on manufacturers are clearly set out in the CPR with regard to the products they place on the internal market.

Introduction

The construction products Regulation (No. 392/2009 - CPR) lays down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and is directly applicable in its entirety in all member states.

The general objectives and main instruments of the CPR. 2

Four key instruments are:

- A framework of notified bodies, 4, and
- A system of harmonised technical specifications,
- Assessment and Verification of Constancy of the Performance (DoP) for the product, and
- affix the CE mark.

The four key instruments are:

- A framework of notified bodies, 4, and
- A system of harmonised technical specifications,
- Assessment and Verification of Constancy of the Performance (DoP) for the product, and
- affix the CE mark.

The system of harmonised technical specifications mentioned above include harmonised European standards (hENs), generally for traditional construction products, and European Assessment Documents (EADs), usually for innovative products. Both these provide assessment methods for the performance of construction products.

Harmonised European Standards (hENs)

Currently, there are over 420 hENs covering a broad range of construction products. hENs are progressively becoming the norm as conflicting national standards (e.g. Irish and British Standards commonly used here) are being withdrawn.

All hENs under the CPR have an informative Annex ZA. In general, this Annex contains:

- ZA.1 A list of product characteristics as well as the clauses in the standard in which the assessment or test method is set out or referred to. The list represents a compilation of all regulated requirements for the product in question across the EU.
- ZA.2 A list of tasks for conformity assessment, namely the tasks to be carried out by the manufacturer and the notified body. This list is generally referred to as the agreed system of attestation of conformity, but will be known as the System of Assessment and Verification of Constancy of the Performance (SAVCoP) under the CPR.
- ZA.3 The process for CE Marking and labelling.

A list of Notified Bodies under the Construction Products Regulation is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=directive.newbodylist&dir_id=13

As the majority of construction products are covered by hENs, they will be known for their
dependencies with regard to the products they place on the internal market.

The Annex ZA2 currently could be considered as a ‘checklist’ for CE Marking, where the manufacturer can see all the requirements of the products that they manufacture in detail. This will, under the CPR, form a checklist for the drawing up of a Declaration of Performance (DoP) and for affixing the CE Mark.

All the information supplied with the DoP should be provided by strictly applying the methods and criteria provided by the relevant hEN. The DoP provides information about the characteristics of the product. The manufacturer, by drawing up the DoP, assumes responsibility for the conformity of the construction product with the declared characteristics. The application of the CPR does not make the manufacturer and effectively certifies that the manufacturer has strictly followed all the applicable requirements in drawing up his DoP and that, consequently, the DoP is accurate and reliable.

The manufacturer must also:

- keep documentation for ten years;
- ensure consistent production;
- monitor the product on the market;
- take corrective measures where necessary; and
- cooperate with requests from national authorities.

For more information on these responsibilities see Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 available at the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/legislation/

To check if your product manufactured is covered by a hEN, follow the flow chart in Figure 1. Manufacturers should also check the guidance on the conformity assessment in the Annex ZA of the hEN standard, which addresses the procedures that apply to such products for particular intended uses. This list of notified bodies can be seen at: http://www.nsi.ie/Construction/BuildingProducts/NotifiedBodies/CR.htm

The obligations on manufacturers are clearly set out in the CPR with regard to the products they place on the internal market.

The system of harmonised technical specifications mentioned above include harmonised European standards (hENs), generally for traditional construction products, and European Assessment Documents (EADs), usually for innovative products. Both these provide assessment methods for the performance of construction products.

Harmonised European Standards (hENs)

Currently, there are over 420 hENs covering a broad range of construction products. hENs are progressively becoming the norm as conflicting national standards (e.g. Irish and British Standards commonly used here) are being withdrawn.

All hENs under the CPR have an informative Annex ZA. In general, this Annex contains:

- ZA.1 A list of product characteristics as well as the clauses in the standard in which the assessment or test method is set out or referred to. The list represents a compilation of all regulated requirements for the product in question across the EU.
- ZA.2 A list of tasks for conformity assessment, namely the tasks to be carried out by the manufacturer and the notified body. This list is generally referred to as the agreed system of attestation of conformity, but will be known as the System of Assessment and Verification of Constancy of the Performance (SAVCoP) under the CPR.
- ZA.3 The process for CE Marking and labelling.

A list of Notified Bodies under the Construction Products Regulation is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=directive.newbodylist&dir_id=13

As the majority of construction products are covered by hENs, they will be known for their
dependencies with regard to the products they place on the internal market.

The Annex ZA2 currently could be considered as a ‘checklist’ for CE Marking, where the manufacturer can see all the requirements of the products that they manufacture in detail. This will, under the CPR, form a checklist for the drawing up of a Declaration of Performance (DoP) and for affixing the CE Mark.

All the information supplied with the DoP should be provided by strictly applying the methods and criteria provided by the relevant hEN. The DoP provides information about the characteristics of the product. The manufacturer, by drawing up the DoP, assumes responsibility for the conformity of the construction product with the declared characteristics. The application of the CPR does not make the manufacturer and effectively certifies that the manufacturer has strictly followed all the applicable requirements in drawing up his DoP and that, consequently, the DoP is accurate and reliable.

The manufacturer must also:

- keep documentation for ten years;
- ensure consistent production;
- monitor the product on the market;
- take corrective measures where necessary; and
- cooperate with requests from national authorities.

For more information on these responsibilities see Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 available at the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/legislation/

To check if your product manufactured is covered by a hEN, follow the flow chart in Figure 1. Manufacturers should also check the guidance on the conformity assessment in the Annex ZA of the hEN standard, which addresses the procedures that apply to such products for particular intended uses. This list of notified bodies can be seen at: http://www.nsi.ie/Construction/BuildingProducts/NotifiedBodies/CR.htm

The obligations on manufacturers are clearly set out in the CPR with regard to the products they place on the internal market.
When choosing the products most suitable for their intended use in construction works, review the manufacturer’s Declaration of Performance, and when placing a product on the market, clients, specifiers, designers, etc., are free to demand details are available

- ensure that products are stored or moved under such conditions that don’t alter the products compliance.
- take corrective measures where necessary, and
- cooperate with requests from national authorities.

For more information on these responsibilities see Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 available at the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/construction/legislation/

If a distributor places a product on the market under its trade name, or modifies a product, then he will be treated as the manufacturer.

Distributors should also check if additional guidance in the form of a National Annex or a Standard Recommendation exists, which set out appropriate performance levels for specific intended uses of the product in Ireland. NSAI host this information at www.nsai.ie.

It is clearly set out in the CPR what responsibilities distributors have with regard to the products they trade. Failure to comply with any provision of the CPR would be considered a breach of the Regulation and may give rise to a prosecution 10.

I am a Specifier, Designer or Builder

The transition to harmonised European product standards represents a change for the construction industry. Traditionally, national product standards, Irish standards or British standards were prescriptive in relation to performance and the appropriate uses to which products could be put. The HENs differ in this regard, as they provide harmonised testing methods, documentation and conformity assessment rules. Ireland, like other Member States, is therefore free to set its own minimum requirements on the performance of building works and construction products incorporated into such works. In this regard, the NSAI has produced additional guidance to some HENs in the form of National Annexes or Standard Recommendations (SRs) which set out appropriate performance levels for specific intended uses of the product in Ireland. NSAI host this information at www.nsai.ie.

-Clients, specifiers, designers and builders etc. should:

Also see Table 1 extract from Annex IV of Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011 for further information on the Construction Products Regulation.