

THE CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATION AND CE MARKING

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The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) will require all construction products covered by a harmonised European standard to have a declaration of performance (DoP) drawn up and to be CE marked (European Conformity marked). Construction products covered by this regulation will not be able to be legally sold in the UK or within the rest of the European Economic Area if they do not comply (with some limited exceptions). This comes into effect on 1 July 2013.

CE marking of construction products has been possible for over a decade and is a legal requirement in much of Europe. However, it has hitherto only been voluntary for products sold in the UK. This means that this regulation is likely to have a significant impact on those UK manufacturers who do not currently affix the CE Mark to their products.

This Information Paper gives guidance on the CPR and on CE marking. These issues are important for manufacturers, specifiers, importers and distributors of construction products based in the UK owing to the previously voluntary nature of these requirements in this country. After reading this paper, those UK professionals not previously familiar with the CPR and CE marking should be able to adapt their procedures accordingly in order to comply with the latest regulations.

INTRODUCTION

The Construction Products Directive (CPD) of 1989^[1] was introduced to create a common framework for regulations on buildings and construction works and to ensure free movement of safe construction products within the European Union. It sets requirements for construction

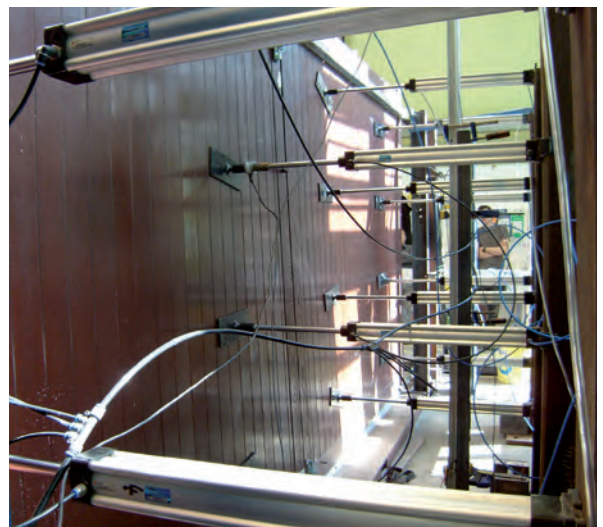


Figure 1: Industrial door testing at BRE to harmonised standard BS EN 13241-1

works, known as the 'essential requirements', and provides for CE marking of construction products. The CE Mark is a self-certification mark (based on supporting evidence from 'notified bodies' where required) that can be affixed to construction products in order to demonstrate compliance with the essential requirements. Products with the CE marking may be sold legally within the European Economic Area (EEA). Under the CPD, CE marking is compulsory in all EEA member states, except for the UK, Ireland, Finland, Norway and Sweden, where it is voluntary. The CPD was implemented in the UK in 1991*.

The EU Construction Products Regulation^[2] was published in April 2011. It will replace the CPD and will simplify and clarify the existing framework in order to improve the transparency and effectiveness

* The CPD was implemented by the UK Construction Products Regulations 1991, which should not be confused with the new European Construction Products Regulation 2011.

