

DESIGN & SPECIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATIONS AND CE MARKING

From 1st July 2013 CE Marking of construction products covered by harmonised European Standards became mandatory.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Harmonised Standard (hENs) are simply documents that set out requirements for a specific item, material, component, system or service, or describes in detail a particular method or procedure.

The information therein has been agreed by all member states of the Economic European Union (EEU).

Many construction products have already been included in harmonised Standards (hENs) to date and many more will be included in future publications. Work is constantly in process reviewing and updating Standards enabling the incorporation of more construction products within their scope.



To show which products are contained within a scope of a harmonised Standard they must bear the CE Marking. This can be affixed either to the product if possible, or to the packaging or with accompanying documents.

It is not the intention that the Construction Products Regulations have all construction products CE Marked by July 1st 2013, only to ensure the ones already covered by a hENS are being marked appropriately.

A products incorporation into a hENs does not mean they are necessarily suitable for every application nor are of good quality, simply that the products characteristics can be understood by members of the EEU.

If a product is not currently covered by a harmonised Standard it must not carry the CE Marking and there are many products which are not yet covered by the scope of any hENS.

Because there are many and varied construction systems available on the market and the manufacturer may wish to prove their suitability for use in specific applications in the UK and Europe, another method of enabling CE Marking of that product or system is to seek European Technical Approval.

Products that are bespoke, formed on site by craftspeople or manufactured to order will never need to carry CE Marking.

BEFORE CE MARKING CAN BE APPLIED

Before a CE Mark can be applied to a product, there must be a Declaration of Performance (DoP) drawn up by the manufacturer declaring characteristics, indicated as essential in the hENs, and signed by a person within the organisation taking responsibility that the quoted characteristics will meet the supplied products characteristics (i.e. strength, durability etc.).

A link to where the DoP can be found must accompany the CE Marking with the product, which will usually be linked to a website.

Ibstock Brick produce facing bricks and pavers which are covered by a harmonised Standard and therefore must be CE Marked, and have been doing so since 2003. Special shapes were not initially covered but will be by July 2013. Bespoke products must not be CE Marked.

HARMONISED EUROPEAN STANDARDS RELATING TO IBSTOCK BRICK

EN 771-1 Specification for clay masonry units;	Bricks of a rectangular parallelepiped shape. Specials contained within the British Standard BS 4729.
EN 1344 Specification for clay pavers;	Clay paving units for rigid, flexible or SUDs laying.

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