



BSI Standards Publication

Construction Products — Assessment of release of dangerous substances — Use of harmonised horizontal assessment methods

National foreword

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English Version

**Construction Products - Assessment of release of dangerous
substances - Use of harmonised horizontal assessment
methods**

Produits de construction - Évaluation de l'émission de
substances dangereuses - Utilisation de méthodes
d'évaluation horizontales harmonisées

Bauprodukte - Bewertung der Freisetzung von gefährlichen
Stoffen - Verwendung harmonisierter horizontaler
Bewertungsmethoden

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 23 March 2013. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 351.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TR 16496:2013) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 351 "Construction products - Assessment of release of dangerous substances", the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

This Technical Report gives guidance for the selection and integration of the recommended horizontal product testing protocols on dangerous substances harmonised by CEN/TC 351 into hENs and EADs. Since the work in CEN/TC 351 in cooperation with the European Commission and its Expert Group on Dangerous Substances (EGDS) and the product TCs is a work in progress, some subjects and issues remain open for the time being. However, the results of the work of CEN/TC 351 are now mature enough for practical implementation in product standards and EADs.

This document takes into account relevant information that had become available by March 2013 through the activities in the working groups and task groups of CEN/TC 351 as well as the guidance provided by the European Commission.

This document is intended as easy-to-use guidance especially for product TCs and EOTA Working Groups (or equivalent groups under the Construction Products Regulation). Where reference is made to 'Product TCs', EOTA WGs are also meant where appropriate.

1 Introduction

1.1 General

The Construction Products Directive 89/106/EEC (CPD) contained six essential requirements for works that gave rise to a number of 'essential characteristics' for products that had to be covered by European Technical Specifications (ETS) for construction products (harmonised European Standards (CEN) and European Technical Approvals (EOTA)). As derogation from this rule, essential requirement No 3 "Hygiene, health and the environment" (ER3) was dealt with via a convention in the ETS which did not take it directly into account, mainly due to the absence of European harmonised test methods. In order to solve this problem, the European Commission gave CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, a mandate (M/366) in 2005 to develop European harmonised test methods for the assessment of release or emission of dangerous substances from construction products.

From July 2013 the CPD has been replaced by the Construction Products Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, CPR). The fundamental principles of the CPR are the same as for the CPD. The CPR now refers to basic requirements for construction works (BRCWs) instead of ERs, but the same six functional requirements as for the CPD are still there, supplemented by a seventh, the "Sustainable use of natural resources", and BRCW 3 is extended to the construction and demolition phase. However, it is expected that the work in CEN/TC 351 according to mandate M/366 will be carried out under the terms and conditions of the CPD with a focus on release and emission in the use phase of construction works.

Mandate M/366 requires that CEN develops horizontal test methods that, as far as possible, are based on existing test methods. This means that European harmonised test methods will not be developed for each construction product separately. The methods should be preferably applicable to all constructions products as defined in the CPR as far as they are covered by BRCW 3. The intention is to avoid the unnecessary and onerous development of product specific test standards for a multitude of construction products and to minimise the amount of costly testing. The horizontal approach is described in detail in CEN/TR 16098.

Furthermore, according to the guidance of the EC (Decision 192, CEN/TC 351 meeting in Berlin on 2013-02-11/12), CEN/TC 351 is asked to provide horizontal methods reflecting the state of the art. Different test methods or testing options can be considered by CEN/TC 351 when technically justified because of different conditions of use, different end uses or product characteristics, but not because of differences in regulations.

In order to apply the horizontal test methods correctly to individual construction products, some product specific additions remain necessary. For example, aspects such as pre-treatment and preconditioning of test specimens cannot be completely specified horizontally but require product specific additions. The necessary product specific additions to the horizontal test standards must be included in the harmonised product standards for the implementation of BRCW 3.

The European Commission has recently amended ten and is currently amending some further existing construction product mandates issued to CEN to include detailed requirements for BRCW 3. The updated mandates include the requirements for each harmonised product standard. For each hEN or mandated prEN, the relevant release/emission scenarios and the relevant regulated dangerous substances¹⁾ are listed. The CEN product TCs are obliged to amend their product standards using the mandate amendments as a checklist for including BRCW 3-related requirements.

This Technical Report (TR4 of mandate M/366) gives instructions on which aspects related to the horizontal test methods are important to address when amending product standards. The report is intended as guidance for CEN product TCs for the revision of product standards in regard to dangerous substances. The report focuses on the use of the harmonised test standards. The

1) The term regulated dangerous substances refers to dangerous substances for which performance criteria have been defined in notified regulations in the EEA.