

CPR ACQUIS PLANNING

SUB-GROUP ON PRODUCT AREA:

XXX

WORK PROGRAMME FORMAT

**FOR THE DEFINITION OF THE HIGH LEVEL STRUCTURE OF FUTURE HARMONISED
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS IN THE CONSTRUCTION PRODUCT SECTOR**

Coordinator of the sub-group	
Date of approval	
Date of beginning	

Executive Summary

The European Commission has set up an informal Expert Group to support the Commission in the work to prioritise, prepare and then revise the so-called “CPR Acquis”, which consists of harmonised standards, other technical specifications and complementary legal acts.

The group is composed of a main forum, the “Steering Group”, 36 sub-groups corresponding to the product areas identified by the CPR and up to 5 thematic sub-groups to deal with horizontal issues (e.g. fire safety, dangerous substances, sustainability, etc.).

The sub-group shall operate in compliance with the “rules of procedure for the governance of the CPR Technical Acquis planning” (reference) and shall report to the Steering group in accordance with this work programme.

This work programme is proposed by the sub-group in charge of the product area XXX and is to be approved by the Steering Group. The aim is to suggest the content of the high level structure of harmonized technical specifications including assessment methods, essential characteristics, expression of test/assessment results (inclusion of classes of performance and/or threshold levels), requirements and regulatory needs.

The work programme might lead to additional technical specifications and substantial additions/corrections to the existing ones. The new set of harmonised technical specifications will potentially introduce additional requirements for the appropriate functioning and performance, inherent product safety, environmental impacts and sustainability of construction products. In addition, requirements responding to the information needs of different addressees (from designers to occupants) and environmental obligation for manufacturer may be introduced.

The implementation of the work programme is measured against milestones based on specific deliverables, and a pre-determined timeframe.

The overall timeframe to implement the work programme is established in XXX months.

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1 Introduction and context

1.1 Background

As clearly identified in the CPR Evaluation report¹, the system for creating and adopting harmonised standards under the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) is in need of a substantial overhaul.

Most of the harmonised European standards for construction products currently in use have been developed as response to mandates issued under the framework of the Construction Products Directive (CPD). Therefore they are no longer adequate to support the development of standards under the CPR. Furthermore, following the strengthened legal scrutiny of proposed standards as a consequence of the James Elliott² case and despite the guidance provided by the Commission, the Technical Committees have not been able to propose standards of citable quality in the last two years.

By consequence, the Commission had to reject 134 out of 208 standards and amendments proposed by CEN under the CPR due to insufficient legal quality and, specifically, in 2019 and 2020, the rate of acceptable standards has been 0%.

In addition, a revision of the CPR has been announced in the Circular Economy Action plan and in the Renovation Wave, with the view to consider the introduction of sustainability criteria to support the uptake of more sustainable construction products in construction works, criteria that would eventually need to be integrated in future mandates and harmonised standards.

Therefore, in XXX 2021, the European Commission (EC), Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Directorate-General, has set up a group of experts “Commission Expert Group on the CPR Technical Acquis planning” in the field of the Construction Products Regulations.

A coordinating group “Steering group” and several sub-groups according to the product areas defined in the CPR or to thematic issues are to be created.

Member States of the EU and of the EEA, Turkey and Switzerland have identified the priorities for reviewing the CPR Acquis based on 8 criteria. The product area “XXX” of annex IV to the CPR, subject of this work programme, is resulted as the XXX priority.

The detailed tasks of the Working Groups on product areas are established by the Steering Group and cover several aspects, the most important is to suggest the content of the high-level structure of harmonized technical specifications including assessment methods, essential characteristics, expression of test/assessment results (inclusion of classes of performance and/or threshold levels), requirements and regulatory needs.

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1.2 Overview of harmonised Technical specifications available

¹<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/37827>

²http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document_print.jsf?docid=184891&text=&dir=&doclang=EN&part=1&occ=first&mode=lst&pageIndex=0&cid=344%E2%80%A6

Under the product area XXX, XXX harmonised standards (hENs) have been published in the OJEU. These hENs have been developed by CEN in response to the Mandate XXX and Mandate XXX.

In addition, XXX EADs result published in the OJEU.

A detailed map of all the harmonised technical specifications available for this product area is offered in the Annex XXX. The map presents also a view on the standards developed by CEN but not cited in the OJEU as evaluated not eligible by the European Commission.

1.3 Overview of other acts composing the CPR Acquis in this product area

Under the product area XXX, the following implementing measures (including those adopted under Directive 89/106/EEC) have been adopted by the European Commission:

XXX) Commission Decision YY/NNN/EC of XXX implementing Article XX on construction products (OJ L XXXXX on XXXXXXXXX)

XXX) Commission Implementing Decision YYYY/NNN/EU of XXX on XXX (OJ L XXX).

XXX) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) YYYY/NNNN of XXX supplementing Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing XXXXX (OJ L XXX)

XXX) Commission Delegated Decision (EU) YYYY/NNNN of XXX on the applicable systems to assess and verify constancy of performance of XXX.

Under the product area XXX, also the following documents are available:

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2 Objectives and time frame

2.1 Objectives

As described in the “rules of procedure for the governance of the CPR Technical Acquis planning” ([reference](#)), and in the background text above, the various subgroups shall, among others, suggest the content of the high level structure of harmonized technical specifications including assessment methods, essential characteristics, expression of test/assessment results (inclusion of classes of performance and/or threshold levels), requirements and regulatory needs;

To fulfil its tasks, the subgroup has to propose a work-programme to be approved by the steering group. The work programme is elaborated in accordance with the CPR Acquis Guidance ([reference](#)), which ensures a common and systematic approach of all subgroups. The work-programme is targeted in particular to define the high-level structures of future technical specifications that, ideally, can be quickly transformed into standardization requests or become the basis of a harmonised technical specification adopted as COM act.

The work programme will lead to additional technical specifications and substantial additions/corrections to the existing ones, including additional requirements for the appropriate functioning and performance, inherent product safety, environmental impacts and sustainability of construction products. In addition, (potentially) different information needs for different user groups have to be taken into consideration.

2.2 Milestones

The implementation of the work programme will be measured against milestones based on specific deliverables, and pre-determined time frame. The milestones are listed downwards, these will be documented, monitored and reported during the execution of the work programme ([The milestones may be different](#)).

- I. Definition of the scope of the product areas;
- II. Creation of technical-boards of the sub-group (optional);
- III. Prepare the content of the high level structure of harmonized technical specifications:
 - a. Basic requirements for construction works and their essential characteristics, including the identification of thresholds and classes of performance;
 - b. Requirements ensuring the appropriate functioning and performance;
 - c. Safety product requirements;
 - d. Environmental product requirements;
 - e. Environmental sustainability assessment of construction products;
 - f. Environmental obligations of manufacturers;
 - g. Information requirements;
- IV. Final consultation with observers and adoption of all the deliverables.

The milestones may also include specific targets associated with stakeholder engagement.

2.3 Time frame

The time frame to implement the work programme is established in XXX months (15 at most). If more time is needed to complete the work programme, the Steering group can allocate up to 6 additional months to the subgroup after the submission of a request by the coordinator of the subgroup. The request must explain why the work programme cannot be completed in the time frame as foreseen, and must explain which actions will be undertaken by the subgroup in order to complete it by the requested extension of time.

Each milestone must be reached within the period identified in Annex 2.

The proposed date to start the implementation of the work programme is XXX

3 Execution of the work programme

3.1 Introduction

The successful development of the future harmonised technical specifications for the construction product sector will face a series of key challenges. In particular:

- The uncertainty on the outcomes of the CPR revision and on the elements that the legislator will decide to include or modify. Therefore, the focus is firstly on what is most important, as highlighted in the CPR Acquis guidance (reference) by means of the colour codes. The objectives must be realistic in the context of the available timescales and resources (experts offered, good hTSs available, etc.).
- The high level of interdependency between certain product areas demands careful planning and phasing of activities to promote consistency of technical approach and the support of subgroups in specific product areas that might start their own work at a later stage.
- The work programme has to be broken down into specific tasks of focussed scope so that drafting can be undertaken by technical boards of experts with the highest levels of technical knowledge relevant to their work.
- Despite the work is led by the coordinator and the main contributors (both belonging to national administrations), the involvement of observers acting as active experts in meetings or as experts offering written contribution (employed mostly in the industry or representing other stakeholders) is of utmost importance in order to meet the necessary needs of different user groups.

The work programme shall present realistic outcomes with realistic timescales, addressing the priority and the regulatory needs of the States, the needs of industry and other stakeholders, and the legal and technical requirements of the normative Acquis.

3.2 Description of the approach

The execution of the work programme contains the identification of milestones and considers horizontal aspects that influence the outcomes. The main horizontal aspects that have been considered to determine the approach are: the involvement of industry and stakeholders, ensuring transparency all along the process, the respect of the time frame,

In order to ensure that the horizontal aspects are addressed, the following principles have been observed:

e.g. The involvement of the industry is ensured with a consultation at the beginning and at the end of each milestone.

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The work programme has been split into four periods (4 is an indicative number). As shown in annex II, tasks of specific milestones might be started and finalised in different periods (e.g certain tasks of milestone 1 may be finalised in the second or third period). This has been done to enable that potential interdependencies between activities can be effectively managed, and to ensure that the work is undertaken as efficiently as possible.

The achievement of the milestones, in particular milestone III, may foresee a series of sub-milestones.

3.3 Description of the tasks

The structure of the work-programme will follow the list of the identified milestones. During milestone 2 the subgroup may establish technical-boards to lead the implementation of certain tasks. The complete work programme is presented in Annex 1. A common template has been used to set out the scope and outcomes for each task. The template includes the corresponding milestone for each task together with supporting justification if needed. For each task, the template defines priority items according to the likelihood that that aspect will be envisaged in future technical specifications, with specific justification provided where relevant. Potential interdependencies between tasks are also highlighted (including other Working Groups')

An outline schedule (Gantt chart) for the execution of the work programme is included in Annex 2.

3.3 Organisation and coordination

The effective coordination is ensured by the Coordinator, according to the rules defined in the “rules of procedure for the governance of the CPR Technical Acquis planning” (reference).

Annex 1 – Detailed Work Programme

Milestone I: Definition of the scope of the product areas							
Sub-milestones: none							
Description of the milestone: (e.g. All the products and the intended uses to be covered by future hTSs in this area are identified)							
Task Ref.	Task name	Description of the task (what is to be done)	Interdependencies (including tasks carried out by other working groups)	Outcomes (what are the results expected)	Priority colour code	Notes	Potential risks and solutions
1	Identification of the products to be covered	All the products to be covered by future hTSs covered by the relevant product code are identified.	Identifying data needs from other working groups/technical specifications/stakeholder input. After the identification of the intended uses, this task might be subject to a revision.	The list of products to be covered, with type and subtype if relevant, complemented with the composing materials.	DARK GREEN	The task is finalised under the 1 st period. The involvement of observers is not required.	Data not provided by other working groups/MS authorities/technical boards – Solution is to
2							
3							

Milestone II: Creation of technical-boards							
Sub-milestones: none							
Description of the milestone: (e.g. In order to identify product safety and environmental requirements two technical-board are established)							
Task Ref.	Task name	Description of the task	Interdependencies (including tasks carried out by other working groups)	Outcomes	Priority colour code	Notes	Potential risks and solutions
1							
2							
3							

Milestone III: Prepare the content of the high level structure of harmonized technical specifications							
Sub-milestones:							
a. Basic requirements for construction works and their essential characteristics, including the identification of thresholds and classes of performance;							
b. Requirements ensuring the appropriate functioning and performance;							
c. Safety product requirements;							
d. Environmental product requirements;							
e. Environmental sustainability assessment of construction products;							
f. Environmental obligations of manufacturers;							
g. Information requirements;							
Description of the milestone:							
Task Ref.	Task name	Description of the task	Interdependencies (including tasks carried out by other working groups)	Outcomes	Priority colour code	Notes	Potential risks and solutions
a.1							

a.2							
a.3							
b.1							
b.2							
b.3							
c.1							
c.2							
c.3							
d.1							
d.2							
d.3							
e.1							
e.2							
e.3							
f.1							
f.2							
f.3							
g.1							
g.2							
g.3							

Milestone IV: Final consultation with observers and adoption of all the deliverables.							
Sub-milestones: none							
Description of the milestone:							
Task Ref.	Task name	Description of the task	Interdependencies (including tasks carried out by other working groups)	Outcomes	Priority colour code	Notes	Potential risks and solutions
1							
2							
3							

Annex 2

