

BUSINESS PLAN
CEN/TC 127
FIRE SAFETY IN BUILDINGS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Scope of CEN/TC 127 is to address fire safety in buildings. This is achieved by:

1) developing standards utilizing relevant existing work where available, e.g. in ISO, IEC, CENELEC, CEC and EFTA assessing the fire behaviour of building products, components, elements and systems of construction;

2) developing standards for classification of products, components, elements and systems of construction, appropriate to the fire risks related to their application;

3) developing standards for assessing fire hazard and for providing fire safety in buildings.

CEN/TC 127 is a horizontal TC as the work it does is in support of TCs preparing product standards. CEN/TC 127 has to provide a means for consistently determining the fire performance characteristics of the different types and families of construction products.

Harmonized standards are one way of showing compliance with basic requirements for construction works (BRCW) within the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). Many of the work items were mandated by the EC in support of the essential requirements of the Construction Products Directive (CPD) and now the BRCW within the CPR.

1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC

1.1 Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal and/or international dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this CEN/TC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

1. The work done by TC127 is governed by legal factors. Many of the current work items were mandated by the EC in support of the essential requirements of the Construction Products Directive (CPD) and now the BRCW of the CPR.

All countries have legislation relating to fire performance of construction products. Depending on the nature of such legislation, standards are either directly or indirectly used to demonstrate compliance with the legislation. Following the implementation of the CPD and most recently the CPR in July 2012 and the ENs on construction products, national building regulations have been amended to align with the European requirements.

2. Some of the TC127 standards have been developed from ISO standards and ISO is now looking to adopt the agreed ENs from TC127. This could result in international harmonization of fire standards. Harmonization on approaches to fire safety in buildings is the responsibility of government departments in different Countries – the Regulators who are the custodians of the building regulatory systems.
3. Some national building regulations are shifting from a prescriptive base, i.e. specific requirements against defined test methods, to a performance based approach. This is due to several reasons, one of which is advances in fire science and engineering. Several countries in Europe together with Japan, Australia and New Zealand are already adopting such an approach. As fire science develops and relevant standards are accepted this change will permeate through other countries. ISO/TC92 has published Technical Reports on fire safety engineering (ISO/TR 13387: Parts 1-8) and it should be decided if, and how, such documents and approaches could be used in CEN.
4. CEN/TC127 is a horizontal TC as the work it does is in support of TCs preparing product standards. CEN/TC 127 has to provide a means for consistently determining the fire performance characteristics of the different types and families of construction products.

1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the CEN/TC:

The gross output of the construction sector in the EU member states amounts to billions of Euros, which represents approximately 11% of community GDP and 5,6% of the value added. Construction is the largest sector in terms of employment, providing jobs for millions of people and some 7% of the working population. Considering support and indirect jobs created in the construction sector, it can be considered that some millions of workers in the EU depend directly or indirectly on the construction sector.

There will be a total of approximately 600 harmonized product specifications and European Technical Approvals under the CPR (of which about 450 will be accepted as Harmonized Standards under EC mandate). In excess of 80% of these will include some fire performance.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

CEN/TC127 is a 'horizontal' TC in that its current work is developing fire test methods which will be referenced by other CEN TCs responsible for product standards in the construction area which require performance against fire. Consequently, the market for TC127 standards is composed of all producers and users of construction products where specified fire performance is required.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC

All the CEN national members are entitled to nominate delegates to CEN Technical Committees and experts to Working Groups, ensuring a balance of all interested parties. Participation as observers of recognized European or international organizations is also possible under certain conditions. To participate in the activities of this CEN/TC, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEN/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

1. To elaborate test methods, classification methods and extended application methods in support of the BRCW 2 (safety in case of fire) of the CPR.
2. In conjunction with product TCs, to develop test methods or other procedures which enable them to characterise their fire behaviour in an end use application.
3. In conjunction with other appropriate CEN fire committees and European and national fire regulators, to elaborate standards on fire safety engineering.
4. To elaborate any other standards in the area of fire safety in buildings as required by CEN member bodies.

4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN/TC's defined objectives

1. Establish all necessary working structures such as working groups and liaisons as necessary to carry out the work needed. CEN/TC 127 follows the recommended and most efficient committee structure with seven active Working Groups.
2. Hold meetings of TC127 and working groups when required – currently 6 monthly.
3. Monitor and work closely with the EC and the EC Advisory Group – Sub-group fire.
4. Consider standards needed in support of a performance based approach to fire safety when such an approach is fully understood and appreciated by national fire regulators.

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5. Hold liaison meetings, as required, with representatives of CEN and CENELEC which are also involved in aspects of fire standardization or will use the standards prepared by TC127.
6. Monitor developments in fire safety standardization in ISO/TC 92 to see if any new areas covered should be implemented in Europe (under the Vienna Agreement).
7. Prioritize work taking into account the urgency of standards required in support of standards produced by product committees, to enable the limited resources available to TC127 to be used most efficiently.
8. CEN/TC 127 maintains strong liaison with the following TCs and organisations:

CEN/TC 33	Doors, windows, shutters and building hardware
CEN/TC 72	Fire detection and alarm systems
CEN/TC 88	Thermal insulating materials and products
CEN/TC 99	Wall coverings
CEN/TC 112	Wood-based panels
CEN/TC 124	Timber structures
CEN/TC 125	Masonry
CEN/TC 128	Roof covering products for discontinuous laying and products for wall cladding
CEN/TC 129	Glass in buildings
CEN/TC 134	Resilient and textile floor coverings
CEN/TC 156	Ventilation in buildings
CEN/TC 166	Chimneys
CEN/TC 189	Geotextiles and geotextile-related products
CEN/TC 191	Fixed firefighting systems
CEN/TC 192	Fire service equipment
CEN/TC 229	Pre-cast concrete products
CEN/TC 241	Gypsum and gypsum based products
CEN/TC 248/SC 1	Burning behaviour of textiles, textile products and textile containing products
CEN/TC 249	Plastics
CEN/TC 250	Structural Eurocodes
CEN/TC 254	Flexible sheets for waterproofing
CEN/TC 277	Suspended ceilings
CLC/TC 20	Cables
CLC/TC 213	Cable management systems
ISO/TC 92	Fire safety
ISO/TC 92/SC 1	Fire initiation and growth
ISO/TC 92/SC 2	Fire containment
ISO TC92/SC4	Fire Safety Engineering
BWA	Bitumen Waterproofing Association
CEFIC	European Chemical Industry Council
CEPE	The voice of paint, printing ink and artists' colours in Europe
Cerame-Unie	European Ceramic Industry Association
CP Europe	Construction Products Europe
EAA	European Aluminium Association
EAPFP	European Association for Passive Fire Protection
EFSN	European Fire Sprinklers Network
EGOLF	European Group of Fire Laboratories
EIFP	European Institute for Fire Protection
EUMEPS	European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene

EURIMA
EUROGYPSUM
GNB-FSG (SH02)
PPA-Europe (EPAQ)
PU EUROPE

European Insulation Manufacturers Association
Association of European Gypsum Industries
Group of Notified Bodies – Fire Safety Group
European Association for Panels and Profiles
European voice of the polyurethane (PUR / PIR)
insulation industry

4.3 Environmental aspects

CEN/TC 127 has identified the environmental aspects to be addressed in its standards are 'use of materials', 'risk to the environment from accidents/misuse', 'waste' and 'possible other effects on biodiversity'. These are identified in field number 6 when completing the Projex-Online Working Area to create a new work item. The environmental aspects will be addressed by prescribed test methods within the standards.

5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC WORK PROGRAMME

The work of TC127 could be at risk for the following reasons:

1. As all of the current work of TC127 is in support of the CPR, the pace of some of the work is governed by the pace of decisions in the EC Standing Committee on Construction.
2. There are limited resources available in the fire community. A limited number of technical experts can only devote a limited amount of time to standardization activities, especially if the work is not funded on a commercial basis.
3. In some areas e.g. extended application of results from fire resistance tests, work cannot proceed quickly as there is no database of results from the new EN tests recently published or in the process of publication, but the work is needed by the product TCs.
4. Some decisions in the fire safety area cannot be made quickly or without thorough consultation because of the political and commercial sensitivity in the area of fire safety.
5. New developments in fire safety engineering cannot be utilized unless such an approach is understood and accepted by national fire regulators in Europe.
8. TC127 is reliant on the co-operation of other CEN TCs in the development of any work in the fire safety engineering area.