

1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC 175

1.1 Description of the Business Environment

The business environment of the wood-based sectors, products, materials, disciplines, or practices related to the scope of this CEN/TC is influenced by various political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal, and international dynamics. These factors significantly shape the standards development processes and the content of resulting standards. Key aspects of this business environment include:

- **Sustainable forest management:** All products within CEN/TC 175 are based on forest resources, and the sustainable management and resource-efficient use of wood are essential. Sustainable forestry plays a crucial role in the transition to a sustainable and carbon-neutral economy.
- **Market coverage:** CEN/TC 175 encompasses round, sawn, and processed timber, as well as lignified materials other than wood. It includes various applications such as joinery, parquet flooring, panellings, claddings, pallets, and packaging, with the exclusion of structural aspects and laminate flooring.
- **Compliance with regulations:** To fulfil Mandates M 119 (for floorings) and M 121 (for panellings and claddings), CEN/TC 175 aims to develop and revise related harmonised standards in the framework of the Construction Product Regulation (CPR).

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 175:

- Forests cover 227 million ha (35 %) of the total land area in the EU, with more than 16 million forest owners and producers, private and public.
- Growing stock has increased by 50 % since 1990. The total amount of wood is estimated at 34.9 billion m³.
- The volume of wood supply has grown, reaching 550 million m³ in 2020.
- Europe's annual wood consumption is estimated at 160 million tonnes (geographical Europe, excluding the CIS).
- Of this, 15 million tonnes are recycled every year, an amount which is expected to rise significantly in line with a future circular economy.
- Potentially, every wooden product is recyclable as high quality Secondary Raw Material (SRM) with the ability to replace and supplement some virgin wood. As deriving from a natural, renewable and bio-based resource, for example every virgin untreated wooden product could be seen as circular because it fits to the biological cycle as well as in the technical cycle.
- As deriving from a natural, renewable and bio-based resource every wooden product is to be seen as a carbon storage system with unique characteristics.
- Almost 50 million ha of forests (nearly 24 %) are in areas protected for the conservation of biodiversity and landscape.
- Europe gained 7,8 million ha of forest area since 2005 and 19,3 million ha, since 1990.
- The volume of timber in the EU forests is at its highest level since records began. The net annual increment in 2015 was 652,3 million m³.
- Between 2010 and 2020, the average annual sequestration of carbon in forest biomass reached 155 million tonnes in the European region. In the EU-28, sequestration corresponds to around 10 % of gross greenhouse gas emissions. In the period 1990–2015, the carbon

stock in harvested wood products increased from 2,5 to 2,8 tonnes of carbon per capita, thus contributing to CO₂ emission reductions.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC 175

- Elimination of technical barriers to trade and promotion of open markets throughout Europe
- Mutual adoption of grading rules and specifications for round and sawn timber
- Harmonisation of national standards to ensure consistency and coherence
- Advancement of future topics through standardisation efforts.

Support European legislation to establish a sustainable product policy framework by developing and adapting harmonised standards.

- Anticipated revision of standards to enhance material and energy efficiency of products and address climate change challenges.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC

All 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 175, 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 175

Most standards regarding round and sawn timber are available, so the main objectives are to:

- develop missing standards on processed timbers on wood joinery and stairs areas
- revise ENs if necessary
- take into account new products and further development of existing products
- consider the impact of climate change on wood properties and availability
- enable the application of new and previously unused wood species and assortments
- adapt existing standards to new legislation on circularity and sustainability of products

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

- Identify the needs of the European market
- Review status of ENV or TS specifications to EN
- Establish liaisons with other relevant CEN/TC to avoid overlapping work

4.3 Environmental aspects

Review of the key environmental issues associated with the scope of the work covered by the CEN/TC 175:

- natural resources coming from sustainably managed forests
- re-using, repair, recycling or energy recovery at the end of life
- carbon cycle, carbon storage and CO₂ saving
- regulated dangerous substances
- impact of climate change on wood properties and availability

The environmental aspects are treated notably by "Calculation of sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide" or "Product category rules for wood and wood-based products for Environmental Product

Declaration”.

5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC 175 WORK PROGRAMME

Several factors can significantly impact the completion and implementation of the CEN/TC 175 work program, which encompasses about 65 standards and work items.

These factors include:

- **Workload and complexity:** Managing a work program of this magnitude requires a substantial effort. The number of standards and work items involved presents a challenge in terms of coordination, collaboration, and timely completion.
- **Resource allocation:** Adequate allocation of resources is crucial for the drafting of standards and conducting necessary research. Given that the industry primarily comprises small or medium-sized businesses with limited expert resources, it becomes imperative to ensure that sufficient resources are available to support the work effectively.
- **Expertise and continuous effort:** The successful completion of the work program relies on the hard work and expertise of the members involved. Constantly evolving circumstances, such as changes in technology, regulations, and market trends, necessitate a high level of expertise and continuous effort to ensure that the standards are and remain relevant and effective.