



BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 229

PRECAST CONCRETE PRODUCTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The scope covers the standardization of precast concrete products construction for buildings, civil works for street furniture and garden. CEN/TC 229 specifies the performance of precast concrete products, sampling and tests methods.

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:

- Industrially prefabricated concrete products are currently used in all Europe for all kinds of constructions (buildings, bridges, floorings, environment, etc).
- They are used in the private or public domain.
- They are produced in highly automated factories.
- The sector mainly consists of small and medium-sized enterprises.
- For structural products the implementation of EUROCODES creates a common design rule, which is taken into account by the relevant product standards.
- Thermal performance of buildings, environmental declaration, sustainability of resources, the construction works foot-print, durability and fire safety engineering are taken into account.

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:

- European precast concrete industry consists of approximately 8000 production sites employing 210 000 people for a turnover of around 35 billion Euros of turnover (source BIBM). CEN/TC 229 product standards cover around 40% of this industry. The other 60% are covered by standards prepared by other CEN/TCs such as CEN/TC 125, 165, 178, etc.
- In the past import/export exchanges within the European market were very limited, due to the existence of National Standards or Technical Approvals.
- The European federation of precast concrete producers, BIBM (Bureau International du Béton Manufacturé) strongly supports the European Standards.
- Quite all the products standards are harmonized with the CPD (Construction Products Directive). So national authorities recognize them. The implementation of CE Marking is now finished.
- The standard EN 13369 “Common rules for precast concrete products” is referred to in the standards drafted by other Technical Committees, like CEN/TC 50 “Lighting columns”, CEN/TC 104/SC 2 (Execution of concrete structures) and CEN/TC 226 (Road equipment).
- Structural product standards are referred to in the standards drafted by CEN/TC 104/SC 2 (Execution of concrete structures).

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

- 41 standards and 3 Technical Reports have been published, 1 standard is under development.
- All the current precast concrete structural products are covered by the standards;
- All the standards for structural products prepared by CEN/TC 229 apply EUROCODES (EN 1990 series, prepared by CEN/TC 250) that have been published.
- All the standards contribute to remove trade barriers, to create a common language and to increase the performance value for the relevant products in whole Europe.

- 27 already available product standards have been cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under Construction Products Directive and confer presumption of conformity with that Directive and the future Regulation adopted in 2011 (Construction Products Regulation).

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 standardization body in your country.

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

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

In the near future, the CEN/TC 229 will have to examine which improvements have to be done in the published standards.

In order to facilitate a full acceptance by all actors of the published standards, the CEN/TC 229 will find the best solutions to achieve the necessary revisions. This optimization will take into account the different timeframes (CPR, environmental issues...) to reduce the impact of the revisions.

Moreover, it will be necessary to introduce requirements based on the stakeholders feed-back, information related to environmental matters and/or regulated dangerous substances.

Finally, evolutions in the concrete field (e.g. Self Compacting Concrete) and the use of new materials (e.g. fibers) will require an adaptation of the standards and possibly the drafting of new test methods to address specific requirements not covered by CEN/TC 104 standards.

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

To achieve these objectives, the CEN/TC 229 will report and provide information with other CEN/TC's involved in precast concrete committee, such as:

- CEN/TC 50 *Lighting columns and spigots*
- CEN/TC 51 *Cement and building limes*
- CEN/TC 104 *Concrete and related products*
- CEN/TC 125 *Masonry*
- CEN/TC 128 *Roof covering products for discontinuous laying and products for wall cladding)*
- CEN/TC 154 *Aggregates*
- CEN/TC 164 *Water supply*
- CEN/TC 165 *Waste water engineering*
- CEN/TC 166 *Chimneys*
- CEN/TC 177 *Prefabricated reinforced components of autoclaved aerated concrete light-weight aggregate concrete with open structure*
- CEN/TC 178 *Paving units and kerbs*
- CEN/TC 226 *Road equipment*
- CEN/TC 227 *Road materials*
- CEN/TC 246 *Natural stones*
- CEN/TC 388 *Perimeter protection*
- ...etc

But also,

- CEN/TC 250 *Eurocodes*
- CEN/TC 127 *Fire safety in buildings*
- CEN/TC 350 *Environmental matters*
- CEN/TC 351 *Dangerous substances*
- ...etc

And,

- Federation of precast concrete producers (BIBM)
- European Commission (DG Grow in charge of implementing the Construction Products Regulation).
- Eurocodes National Correspondents Group (Member States representatives for the application of Eurocodes).
- Group of Notified Bodies (SG 13 precast concrete).

The main objective is to maintain consistency between EN 13369 – *Common rules* and product standards. CEN/TC 229 will also use EN 13369 – *Common rules* as the main vector for including all new transverse issues.

4.3 Environmental aspects

The following subjects will be taken into account:

- Regulated Dangerous Substances, according to the work achieved by CEN/TC 351,
- Construction products in contact with drinking water,
- Environmental Performance Declaration, according to the work achieved by CEN/TC 350,
- Construction Product Regulation, taking into account the basic requirement n°7, sustainable use of natural resources.

As concerns Regulated Dangerous Substances issue, CEN/TC 229 proposes to take the lead and assist all other CEN Technical Committees dealing with precast concrete products.

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

Although the precast concrete industry is constituted by small and medium enterprises, the industry provides experts in order to be able to complete and implement the work programme.

Following the implementation of the CPR, published on the 4th of April 2011, basic requirements will be added or modified. New guidance papers and a new Annex ZA template will be provided at European level, so that the European standards are able to be revised, as from July 2013.

Precast concrete industry needs to revise all harmonized product standards in a consistent way in order to dispose of an updated standardization corpus in accordance with CPR which shall fully apply at the end of a period of three years. To be achieved, this plan considers the following hypothesis:

- The result of the CEN enquiry for the revision of EN 13369 "Common rules for precast concrete products" will be known before the end of the first semester of 2017. After taking into account the result of this enquiry, the process of registration of work items will start in order to proceed to the revision of the corresponding harmonized standards;
- In a first step, in general, the revision of the standards shall be limited to the introduction of references to the new common rules and the introduction of the new annex ZA only. In

a second step, relevant comments which were not dealt with in the first step will be considered and dealt with in amendments;

- The revision of the standards is based upon the use of the 4 methods of declaration and no new classes or essential characteristics will be introduced.

- All standards should have the maximum coexistence period (3 years);

- For a few standards, the systematic review shall be done before the five years period.

With this in mind, CEN/TC 229 expects that the citations in the Official Journal of the European Union will take into account this timeframe.