



BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 241

GYPSUM AND GYPSUM BASED PRODUCTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objectives of the Technical Committee CEN/TC 241 is to finalise candidate harmonised European standards for gypsum plasterboard, gypsum plasters, gypsum units, gypsum based products and ancillary products as well as for design and application of the products : definitions, performance requirements, specifications & test methods.

Raw materials used to produce gypsum are : natural gypsum (mineral raw material), flue gas desulfurisation gypsum produced in a flue gas desulfurisation process and gypsum from chemical industry.

Well over 200 factories are involved in gypsum product process and more than 400 000 people are directly or indirectly dependent on gypsum products.

Among the most competitive the three major European companies are well worldwide settled on the 5 continents next to American and Japanese companies.

There are many uses for gypsum products in buildings. In Europe, the vast majority of walls and ceilings are either made from or lined with gypsum products. Gypsum products are mainly covered by the European Construction products directive (89/106/EEC).

1. SCOPE OF CEN/TC 241

To prepare European standards for gypsum plasters, gypsum units, gypsum based and ancillary products as well as for design and application of the products: Definitions ; – performance requirements ; - specifications ; - test methods.

2. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF CEN/TC 241

2.1 Description of the Business Environment

Market Situation

- Interested parties in the standardization process (industries, consumers, trade unions, public authorities, non-governmental organizations,...) and their existing representative organizations (a particular mention could be made to those already carrying out a “pre-standardization” activity): EUROGYPSUM (for products), UIEP (for application) and ECOBA (for raw materials).
- Structure of the market:

Three major companies hold about 85 % of the European market: Lafarge (Siniat), Placoplâtre and Knauf.

The main application is building: in housing, 80 – 90 % of all interior surfaces and partitioning are made with gypsum products and 50 – 60 % in non-housing (excluding agricultural and industrial buildings).

Products made the most widely are: plasterboards, blocks and tiles (except in Nordic countries and the United Kingdom) and gypsum plasters (except in Nordic countries).

Market Environment

- Technical Factors

Even if the convergence in technologies is not realized, a certain harmonization in the production is carried out.

- Legal Factors

Further to the existence of European legislation national legislations exist in most European countries for the extraction of mineral raw materials, for waste management and for dangerous substances.

- International trade and standardization aspects

As the products travel mostly within Europe but not very much outside, the international standardization activity is weak. The ISO/TC 152 "Gypsum, gypsum plaster and gypsum products" has been disbanded in 2009.

In Europe, it is foreseen that the products could be qualified on the basis of European standards where there is no national standards outside Europe (developing world).

2.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

It is difficult to obtain general statistical information on the level of economic activities on each country due to the fact that there exist only three major manufacturers in Europe.

A particular feature of gypsum products is their weight to value ratio which can militate against long distance export. Export across common national boundaries in Europe is irregularly widespread and there is a small but significant export market for European gypsum products to the Far East.

3. BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF CEN/TC 241

Legal factors are important for CEN/TC 241 in the framework of the "Construction Products Regulation" (EU) No 305/2011 (CPR) which repeals the "Construction Products Directive (EU) No 89/106/EEC (CPD) as well as the mandate given by the European Commission M/106 "Gypsum products".

The product specifications are candidate harmonized standards, addressing the requirements of European commission and which enable complying products to be CE marked. This process will aid the completion of the single market and lower barriers to trade.

4. PARTICIPATION IN CEN/TC 241

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 CEN/TC 241, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

5. OBJECTIVES OF CEN/TC 241 AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

5.1 Defined objectives of CEN/TC 241

- Elaboration of product performance standards in terms of thermal, fire, acoustic properties.
- Elaboration of design and application standards necessary to justify the performance above mentioned, as supporting standards.
- Elaboration of Product Category Rule (PCR) to justify the environmental impact of gypsum products (based on CEN/TC 350 work and EN 15804 "Sustainability of construction works – Environmental product declarations – Core rules for the product category and construction products").

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

- Terminology

Most of the product standards developed by the TC contain a clause on terminology which is largely based on the existing publications.

Within WGs, the work is mostly done in English.

- Structure of the TC

The TC has developed a structure into WGs according to the product types and to the manufacture processes. Since 2012, the TC is composed in 3 WG's:

- WG1 "Powders"
- WG2 "Cast products"
- WG3 "Board products"

- Liaisons

A joint working group between CEN/TC 125 "Masonry" and CEN/TC 241 "Gypsum and gypsum based products" has been established;

Internal liaisons have been established with horizontal (functional) CEN/TC's:

- CEN/TC 88 "Thermal insulating materials and products",
- CEN/TC 89 "Thermal performance of buildings and building components",
- CEN/TC 126 "Acoustic properties of building products and of building",
- CEN/TC 127 "Fire safety buildings",
- CEN/TC 292 "Characterization of waste",
- CEN/TC 350 "Sustainability of construction works"

and TC's dealing with building components where gypsum products are used

- CEN/TC 277 "Suspending ceilings".

6. FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CEN/TC 241 WORK PROGRAMME

Gypsum products are covered by different mandates given to CEN and to EOTA which are sometimes overlapping each other. Nevertheless the implementation of the European standards is currently underway which ensures that the gypsum industry is concerned with future participation and maintenance of the package of CEN/TC 241 European standards as well as their amendment and revision work if necessary.