

Type approval is coming into practical use in Finland for reinforcing steels and steel mats

Finnish Ministry of Environmental legal acts for the type approval of reinforcing steels and steel mats came into force 16.2.2016. Based on these legal acts reinforcing steels and steel mats can be type approved when intended to be used in construction in Finland.

Given type approval is in force 5 years at a time or until some day in the future obligatory CE-marking with a harmonised product standard comes into force in EU internal market.

Type approval is a voluntary national approval scheme for the applicability of the construction products for their intended use in Finland. Finnish construction surveillance authorities consider the type approval as primary approval scheme for reinforcing steels and steel mats from 1.8.2017. If reinforcing steels and steel mats do not have type approval certificate on construction site, then they applicability have to be shown using construction site compliance statements. This means that construction surveillance authorities have right to ask from the owner of the construction additional expert's opinions and also inspection fees.

If reinforcing steels and steel mats do not have type approval certificate in precast concrete unit factory, then there is a need to receive from the third party performing surveillance in the factory a statement showing that the steel is in compliance with the requirements given in Finnish Ministry of Environmental legal acts 125/2016 and 126/2016.

Manufacturers of reinforcing steels and steel mats are nowadays under way to start using type approval.

Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries RT recommends, that the contractors and precast concrete manufacturers start to require the use of type approval for reinforcing steels and steel mats from 1.8.2017.

Ps. Applicability of reinforcement elements is for the time being shown using voluntary certificates (e.g. FI-mark) until Finnish Ministry of Environment authorize the assessment rules for the use authorized certificate.

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