

Finnish request to add fire protection ability as a new criteria for characteristic resistance to fire into mandate M/113 Wood-based panels and to add fire protection ability as a new criteria for characteristic resistance to fire into Table ZA.1 of EN 14915

Fire protection ability is a recognized characteristic for wood-based panels and wood paneling and cladding as shown in the Commission SCC document CPR 13-964 'Commission Implementing Decision on the classification without further testing of wood-based panels in accordance with EN 13986 and of solid wood paneling and cladding in accordance with EN 14915 as regards their fire protection ability'.

Wood-based panels

Unfortunately it is not yet possible to add the content of the above decision (concerning wood-based panels) into the harmonised product standard EN 13986. This is due to fact that fire protection ability K-criteria is not mentioned in the mandate M/113 even though resistance to fire (including R, E, I and M-criterias) is already included.

We ask the Commission to add a.s.a.p. the fire protection ability K-criteria into mandate M/113 or if this cannot be performed quickly accept the answer to the mandate from TC 112 which should include K-criteria. This is necessarily needed to make it possible to include the characteristic resistance to fire (including K-criteria) to the harmonised product standard EN 13986 and also include the content of above decision (concerning wood-based panels) as part of the standard. Only this would enable the manufacturers to declare K-classes in the CE-marking of wood-based panels.

The proposed actions are needed so that there will not anymore be a need for the Member States to request national approval for K-criteria in addition to the CE-marking which in practice creates technical barriers to trade.

Wood paneling and cladding

Unfortunately it is not yet possible to add the content of the above decision (concerning solid wood paneling and cladding) into the harmonised product standard EN 14915. This is due to fact that fire resistance (including fire protection ability K-criteria) is not mentioned in the Table ZA1 of EN 14915.

Mandate M/121 already includes fire resistance with fire protection ability for internal and external wall and ceiling panels including cladding. However, Table ZA.1 in EN 14915 does not include resistance to fire. According to our understanding EN 14915 shall cover all the relevant essential characteristics mentioned in the mandate M/121. That is why resistance to fire (with fire protection ability) shall be added as a new requirement clause and also shall be added to Table ZA.1 in EN

14915. The new requirement clause shall also include the content of above decision (concerning solid wood paneling and cladding).

The proposed actions are needed so that there will not anymore be a need for the Member States to request national approval for K-criteria in addition to the CE-marking which in practice creates technical barriers to trade.

With best regards,

Matti J. Virtanen

Head of the Finnish Delegation to SCC