



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

New Approach Industries, Tourism and CSR
Construction, Pressure Equipment, Metrology

CEN TC226/WG2 Request for amendment to mandate M/132 to cover premix glass beads (EN 1424)

Today, two glass beads classifications exist according to their use:

- Drop-on Glass beads
- Premix Glass beads

Glass Beads used as drop-on material are covered by the harmonized European product standard EN 1423: 1997/A1:2003) and CE marked accordingly.

Premix glass beads are covered by a voluntary non-harmonized European Standard (EN 1424:1997) and does not allow for the affixing of CE marking. However, both types of glass beads do serve the same essential characteristic of the road marking applied: Night-time visibility (both, initial and retained).

In accordance with both standards EN 1423 and EN 1424 quality characteristics for drop-on glass beads and premix glass beads are identical.

Therefore, we request to introduce premix glass beads in mandate M/111 for the following reasons:

- On applied road marking, after a period of time of exposure to traffic, the drop-on beads gradually wear away. The retro-reflectivity (night visibility) is then produced by the premixed beads (if present) that then become exposed.
- Premix glass beads in thermoplastic play a very important role both in providing longer lasting levels of retro-reflectivity, as well as the wear resistance of the product itself. So premix glass beads have an active influence on durability of road marking.
- Premix glass beads are mostly never controlled by Road Authorities, because when mixed to road marking products, it becomes extremely difficult to extract them to measure their quality.
- If not CE-marked, cheap premix glass beads of a poor quality may be used on the roads. In some cases, due to lack of market surveillance, are used as drop-on glass beads against road security levels.
- Since 2001 Belgium certifies premix glass beads following the national norm EN1424+PTV 882. PTV "prescriptions techniques-Technische voorschriften or technical specifications" is written as complement on the EN 1424.

Commission proposal:

The understanding of the Commission services is that premix glass beads are used for the production of the road paints and thermoplastic products which are afterwards placed on the market by the manufacturer as a finished product to be used in road paints.

Therefore premix glass beads have to be considered as a component of premixed road paints and, as such, premix glass beads ARE NOT PLACED ON THE MARKET. **For this reason the Commission services consider that the inclusion of premix glass beads in the mandate under the Directive 89/106/EEC is not possible.**

Furthermore, as both ENs (EN 1423 and EN 1424) have the same provisions on the performance of the corresponding products, the Commission services consider that there is no real performance issue that needs to be mandated in order to ensure the performance of the premix glass beads.

On the occasion of the last PG meeting the Commission services have asked CEN/TC 226 to clarify the aspect of "placing on the market" for premix glass beads. Until now the Commission has not received convincing explanations that premix glass beads are actually placed on the market.

If, during the discussion of the issue in the SCC, the Commission is ensured that premixed glass beads are placed on the market as such and that they should be covered by a mandate, then the following amendment to mandate M/132 should be discussed.

It should be noted that drop-on glass beads have been introduced in mandate M/111 by an amendment realized through mandate M/132. Therefore the inclusion of premix glass beads in mandate M111 can, in a similar way, be introduced through an amendment to M/132.

AMENDMENT TO MANDATE M/132

Mandate M/132 is herewith amended as follows:

1. In the first table of Annex 2 titled "FAMILY AND SUBFAMILIES" after the family "**Drop-on materials**" and the paragraph ending with "...after application to the road surface" add "**Premix glass beads**, placed on the market as such, to be used in road paints and other products for horizontal road markings".
2. In the "ADDITION TO ANNEX 3 OF MANDATE", after the indent "- Drop-on materials (glass beads, anti-skid aggregates and combinations of the two)" insert a new indent:
"- Premix glass beads".