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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.4.2025

**on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards
precast concrete products in support of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European
Parliament and of the Council**

(Only the English, French and German texts are authentic)

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on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards precast concrete products in support of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on European standardisation, amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decision 87/95/EEC and Decision No 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council,¹ and in particular Article 10(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council² lays down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products, in order to ensure their free movement in the internal market.
- (2) In accordance with Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, harmonised standards are to provide the methods and criteria for assessing the performance of construction products in relation to their essential characteristics, which according to Article 3(2) of that Regulation are to be laid down in harmonised technical specifications in relation to the basic requirements for construction works.
- (3) Harmonised standards contribute to the free movement of construction products in the Union. Given that such standards are technology-neutral and performance-based, they also contribute to ensuring equal conditions of competition among relevant economic operators dealing with those products, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises. Indirectly those standards also contribute to lower sales costs, benefitting consumers in particular.
- (4) Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 replacing Council Directive 89/106/EEC³ has introduced, among basic requirements for construction works, the sustainable use of

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¹ OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/1025/oj>.

² Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC (OJ L 88, 4.4.2011, p. 5, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/305/oj>).

³ Council Directive 89/106/EEC of 21 December 1988 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to construction products (OJ L 40, 11.2.1989, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1989/106/oj>).

natural resources. Moreover, all the other basic requirements for construction works have been adapted in line with technical and societal developments.

- (5) Several harmonised standards have been drafted in support of Directive 89/106/EEC on the basis of standardisation mandate M/100⁴ of 7 September 1994 to CEN concerning standards for precast normal/lightweight/autoclaved aerated concrete products. Those harmonised standards need to be revised to take into account essential changes introduced by Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, in particular regarding basic requirements for construction works.
- (6) The intention to request drafting of harmonised standards in support of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 is stated in Actions 46 and 86 of the Annex to the 2023 annual Union work programme for European standardisation⁵.
- (7) CEN has indicated that the work covered by the request falls within its area of competence.
- (8) It is therefore appropriate to request CEN to draft new harmonised standards for precast concrete products in support of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 and to revise the existing harmonised European standards related to this product family.
- (9) The assessment methods and criteria to be included in harmonised standards in relation to their essential characteristics should take into account the state of the art and current practice, in order to enable those standards to adequately serve the public interest by facilitating the fulfilment of basic requirements for construction works.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 17(3) of Regulation No 305/2011, harmonised standards are to, where appropriate and without endangering the accuracy, reliability or stability of the results, provide methods less onerous than testing for assessing the performance of the construction products in relation to their essential characteristics.
- (11) Since essential characteristics of construction products have been defined in Article 2(4) of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 as those characteristics of the construction products which relate to the basic requirements for construction works, the standardisation requests should aim at dealing with all the existing standardisation needs for products to be covered by them in relation to those basic requirements for construction works. Therefore, for each essential characteristic, the reference assessment method, the physical dimensions according to the International System of Units and the statistical value used should be included in the declaration. Additionally, when applicable, the units in which the performance is expressed, and the rounding method used should be included.
- (12) For the essential characteristics related to the release or emission of dangerous substances, the harmonised standards should prioritise assessment methods applicable across materials.
- (13) The essential characteristics related to environmental sustainability of the product should be enumerated in the harmonised standard. CEN should establish product category rules that enable the whole life cycle analysis of the products concerned and

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⁴ M/100 Mandate to CEN/CENELEC Concerning the Execution of Standardisation Work on Construction Products Intended to be used for Floor Beds (Including suspended ground floors), Roads and Other Trafficked Areas, 7 September 1994.

⁵ Commission Notice The 2023 annual Union work programme for European standardisation C/2023/1210 (OJ C 93, 13.3.2023, p. 2).

the declaration of their performance in relation to the essential characteristic environmental sustainability. That standardisation work should be based on the standards developed in the framework of the standardisation mandate M/350 “development of horizontal standardised methods for the assessment of the integrated environmental performance of buildings” of 29 March 2004 as amended. CEN should also consider environmental sustainability scenarios.

- (14) Standardisation activities should not cover areas where standardisation needs cannot be identified in relation to given basic requirements for construction works or parts of them. For the purposes of this standardisation request and in order to ensure a consistent and uniform interpretation, it should be clarified that the scope of products referred to are precast concrete solid slabs, HVAC flue elements, junction boxes, beams and blocks for beam-and-block systems, box culverts, bridge elements, wall elements, elements for fences, floor plates for floor systems, floor slates for livestock, foundation piles, garages, hollow core slabs, linear structural elements, masts, poles, retaining wall elements, ribbed floor elements, special roof elements, shuttering blocks and stairs, precast lightweight concrete products with an open structure and precast autoclaved aerated concrete products. CEN should ensure that harmonised standards of those products correspond to the intended for structural and non-structural purposes.
- (15) The standards should provide the information about the relevant documents to express unequivocally the structural behaviour in the context of the assessment of the product performances. Harmonised standards should include detailed technical specifications. Relevant documents should be provided together with the declaration of performance to express the structural behaviour in the context of the assessment of the product performance.
- (16) In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, when provided for in the relevant mandate, a harmonisation standard is to refer to intended uses of products to be covered by it. To ensure the pertinence of the assessment methods and criteria chosen, harmonised standards should refer to intended uses of products to be covered by them.
- (17) Commission Communication on The European Green Deal⁶ has identified construction as one of the areas to be addressed when transforming the Union’s economy for a sustainable future. As part of that transformation the Commission will review Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 to ensure that the design of new and renovated buildings at all stages is in line with the needs of the circular economy, and lead to increased digitalisation and climate-proofing of the building stock. It is therefore necessary to include requirements for harmonised standards on sustainable use of natural resources.
- (18) In general, harmonised standards should entail only one assessment method in relation to any given essential characteristic.
- (19) In accordance with Article 27(2) of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, where the Commission has established classes of performance in relation to the essential characteristics of construction products, the European standardisation bodies are to use those classes in harmonised standards.
- (20) Pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 17(4) of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 the European standardisation bodies are to determine in harmonised standards the

⁶ Communication from the Commission The European Green Deal, 11.12.2019, COM(2019) 640 final.

applicable factory production control, which is to take into account the specific conditions of the manufacturing process of the construction product concerned. Pursuant to that Article the harmonised standard is also to include technical details necessary for the implementation of the system of assessment and verification of constancy of performance.

- (21) Harmonised standards should therefore enable the economic operators to provide all the necessary information about the performance of construction products covered by those standards, and thus facilitate the free movement of those products in the internal market.
- (22) Harmonised standards should also furnish Member State authorities with all the necessary means to set requirements for the performance of construction products covered by those standards, in relation to their essential characteristics, which could impact the fulfilment of the basic requirements for construction works.
- (23) In addition, harmonised standards should cater for sufficient means for the final users of construction products covered by them to fulfil all the information needs of those users.
- (24) In order to fulfil the requirements set out in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, notably to reach the necessary level of transparency and legal clarity, each drafted or revised harmonised standard should systematically include clear and concise information on the results of the CEN standardisation work. That information is necessary in order to facilitate the work of market surveillance authorities, assist notified bodies in performing their functions, and provide manufacturers, especially small and medium-sized enterprises using a harmonised standard, with working tools enabling them to fully benefit from harmonisation.
- (25) Harmonised standards should be drafted and revised by consistently applying relevant rules for drafting standards, to ensure that they are of an appropriate quality, and should reflect the generally acknowledged state of art.
- (26) The European standardisation organisations (ESO) have agreed to follow the Guidelines for the execution of standardisation requests⁷.
- (27) In order to ensure transparency and facilitate the execution of the requested standardisation activities CEN should prepare a work programme and submit it to the Commission.
- (28) In order to enable the Commission to better monitor the requested standardisation work, CEN should provide the Commission with access to an overall project plan containing detailed information on the execution of the standardisation request and should report regularly on the execution of that request. CEN should also provide the Commission and its contractors assigned to standardisation tasks with access to all documentation referred to in draft standardisation documents.
- (29) Experience shows that during execution of the standardisation request, it could be necessary to adjust the scope of the request or the deadlines set therein. CEN should therefore promptly report to the Commission if it considers that more time is required to draft the standards than what was initially foreseen or that it is appropriate to adapt the scope of the request, in order to allow the Commission to take appropriate action.

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⁷ SWD(2015) 205 final of 27 October 2015.

- (30) In accordance with Article 10(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 each standardisation request is subject to acceptance by the relevant European standardisation organisation. It is therefore necessary to provide for the rules on validity of this request if it is not accepted by CEN.
- (31) In order to ensure legal certainty as to the validity of the request after its execution, it is appropriate to provide for a date of expiry of this Decision.
- (32) The harmonised standards adopted in response to the standardisation request set out in this Decision may be subject to access to documents requests in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸. In its judgement of 5 March 2024⁹ the Court recognised that there is an overriding public interest, within the meaning of Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, justifying the disclosure of harmonised standards.
- (33) Given that several harmonised standards have been drafted on the basis of standardisation mandate M/100 and this Decision provides for a basis to complete work on draft harmonised standards based on that mandate, it is appropriate to provide for the end of validity of the standardisation mandate M/100.
- (34) In accordance with Article 10(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, the Commission is to assess the compliance of documents drafted by the European standardisation organisations. That assessment requires information regarding which essential requirements are covered by a harmonised standard. Such information is also required to enable the Commission to publish the references of harmonised standards in the *Official Journal of the European Union* in accordance with Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012. CEN should therefore describe, in each harmonised standard, the extent to which it covers essential characteristics related to one or several basic requirements for construction works set out in Regulation (EU) No 305/2011.
- (35) The European standardisation organisations, the European stakeholders' organisations receiving Union financing and the Committee on Construction established by Article 64 of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 have been consulted.
- (36) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1
Requested standardisation activities

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is requested to draft new harmonised standards listed in Table 1 of Annex I to this Decision and to revise existing European standards listed in Table 2 of Annex I to this Decision for precast concrete products in support of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 by the deadlines set out in that Annex.

The standards referred to in the first paragraph shall meet the requirements set out in Annex II.

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⁸ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2001/1049/oj>).

⁹ Judgment of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 5 March 2024, Public.Resource.Org, Inc. and Right to Know CLG v European Commission, C-588/21 P, ECLI: EU:C:2024:201, paragraph 85.

CEN shall provide the Commission with the titles of the requested harmonised standards in all the official languages of the Union.

Article 2

Work programme

CEN shall prepare work programme indicating all the standards listed in Annex I, the responsible technical bodies and a timetable for the execution of the requested standardisation activities in line with the deadlines set out in that Annex.

The draft work programme shall take into account the priorities set out in point 2 of Annex II for the execution of the request referred to in Article 1.

CEN shall submit the draft work programme to the Commission by 11 June 2025 and provide it with access to an overall project plan.

CEN shall inform the Commission of any amendments to the work programme.

Article 3

Reporting

1. CEN shall report annually to the Commission on the execution of the request referred to in Article 1 indicating the progress made in implementation of the work programme referenced to in Article 2.
2. CEN shall submit the first annual report to the Commission by 31 January 2025.
3. CEN shall provide the Commission with the final report by 31 January 2026.
4. CEN shall promptly report to the Commission any major concerns relating to the scope of the request referred to in Article 1 or the deadlines set out in Annex I.

Article 4

Validity of the standardisation request

If CEN does not accept the request referred to in Article 1 within a month of receiving it, the request may not constitute a basis for the standardisation activities referred to in that Article.

This Decision shall expire on 31 January 2026.

Article 5

Expiry of existing standardisation request

Standardisation mandate M/100 of 7 September 1994 may not constitute a basis for standardisation activities as regards the product areas and harmonised standards referred to in Article 1 of this Decision.

Article 6
Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the European Committee for Standardisation.

Done at Brussels, 10.4.2025

For the Commission
Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ
Executive Vice-President

