

From 1 July 2013 manufacturers of construction products which are covered by harmonised European product standards (hENs), will be required, when placing a product on the market, to:

- Make a Declaration of Performance (DoP) for the product
- Apply the CE mark

Annex ZA as found in hENs can under the CPR be used as a checklist for the drawing up of a Declaration of Performance (DoP) and affixing the CE Mark.

All the information supplied with the DoP should be obtained by following the methods and criteria specified by the relevant hEN. The DoP provides information about the essential characteristics of each product.

The Basic Requirements for Construction works are:

- Mechanical resistance and stability
- Safety in case of fire
- Hygiene, health, and the environment
- Safety and accessibility in use
- Protection against noise
- Energy economy and heat retention
- Sustainable use of natural resources

The four main provisions of the CPR are:

- A system of harmonised technical specifications
- An agreed system of Assessment of Performance and Verification of Constancy to above
- A framework of notified bodies
- The CE Marking label

Harmonised technical specifications include harmonised European standards (hENs), which provide assessment methods for the performance of construction products.

Currently, there are over 400 hENs covering a broad range of construction products. hENs are progressively becoming the normal standard, with conflicting national standards being withdrawn.

All hENs under the CPR have an informative Annex ZA. In general, this annex contains 3 parts:

- ZA.1 - A list of product characteristics as well as the clauses in the standard in which the assessment or test method is set out or referred to. The list represents a compilation of all regulated requirements for the product in question across the EU,
- ZA.2 -The procedures for conformity assessment, namely the tasks to be carried out by the manufacture and the notified body. This is currently referred to as the agreed system of attestation of conformity, but will be known as the system of Assessment of Performance and Verification of Constancy (APVC) under the CPR, and
- ZA.3 - The process for CE Marking and labelling.

As the majority of construction products are covered by hENs, they will become the key documents for:

- Manufacturers when declaring the performance
- Authorities when specifying requirements for construction products in regulations, specifications, public procurement documents etc., and
- Specifiers' and designers (architects, engineers, builders etc.) when choosing construction products.