

# News on Wood Standardisation

News on CEN and ISO standardisation  
for wood and wood-based products

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## Timber in joinery and stairs

Work to prepare a new Technical Specification “Timber blanks and semi finished profiles for non structural uses – Production control and testing” has recently started. This will complete the group of European standards for joinery. Two standards of importance for stairs are “Traditionally designed prefabricated stairs made of solid wood – Specifications and requirements” and “Prefabricated timber stairs – Mechanical test method”. These will soon be subject to final vote. Two more documents will be prepared, “Wood and wood based products in stairs” as a Technical Specification and “Prefabricated timber stairs incorporating wood-based products and components – Specifications and requirements” as a European standard.

## Wood flooring and wood panelling

The requirement to CE mark wood flooring has been postponed until 1 March 2008. The revision of the harmonised standard for wood flooring EN 14342 will start immediately. The present version of the standard is in conflict with the CPD and in very difficult to follow.

For wood panelling and cladding the harmonised standard EN 14915 was ratified in August 2006, and CE marking will come into force on 1 June 2007.

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## Drying quality

Finland underlines that there are conflicting requirements for allowable ranges of moisture content of sawn and planed timber for joinery, flooring, panels and cladding. The different requirements make it difficult and problematic for the industry to comply. The wish is to investigate and preferably follow the recently ratified drying and drying quality standards.

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## Durability and wood protection

The most important work related to wood durability and wood protection is:

- Revision of the standard for hazard classes (now: use classes), EN 335. The most prominent changes are the sub-divisions of use classes 3 and 4.
- Revision of the standard for specification of preservative-treated wood and guidance on sampling for the analysis of treated wood, EN 351, part 1 and 2. The changes proposed will have little influence on the production of treated wood by Nordic treaters.
- Revision of the standard for classification of the natural durability of wood species of commercial interest in Europe, EN 350-2. The present classification, mainly based on old data will be reviewed.
- A European standard for wooden poles is about to be finalized after many years. It is expected that it will contribute to a stronger position of wooden poles on the market.
- A standard for preservative-treated structural timber is underway. The purpose of this standard is to serve as the basis for CE marking of preservative-treated structural timber.
- A Technical Specification for heat-treated wood – “Thermal modified timber – Definitions and characteristics” – is underway for final vote.
- A task group has been established within CEN/TC 38 to focus on issues related to service life estimations and how different test methods can be applied in such processes.

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## Eurocodes

The work on Eurocodes is finalized. An extensive work to review and develop the Eurocodes has commenced. The European Commission has given the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy, a key role in this work. Apart from editorial errors, immediate changes of the codes shall only be introduced when crucial for the safety.

During 2006 Finnish authorities pointed out that several standards for wooden products (glulam, LVL, roof trusses etc) did not formally comply with four methods for CE marking specified in Guidance Paper L. Substantial efforts have been initiated to resolve the problem.

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## Fire safety in buildings

Fire standards are developed for all types of building products within CEN and ISO, mainly test, classification and application standards. Fire issues for approval and certification are handled by the European Commission and its Expert Group on Fire issues, EGF (former Fire Regulators' Group).

Present CEN work of main industrial interest is Mounting and fixing and Extended application of test results, e.g. for CE-marking. ISO work of interest for wood products is e.g. methodology for determining Degrees of combustibility.

However, most important for the wood industry is the EC work on Classification without further testing (CWFT) that is being performed for all major wood products: wood-based panels, structural timber, glulam, wood panelling and wood flooring. Fire classification needed for CE-marking has been reached. Extension for non-coated wood flooring is underway.

A new opportunity for wood products is the new K classes for Fire protection ability. Gypsum plasterboards have earlier been typical K class products. Work on wood-based panels has started. Solid wood panelling shall also

be included but the industrial awareness and support have not yet been expressed.

Finally, new work on European standardisation of Durability of the reaction to fire performance of Fire retardant treated wood products was initiated in 2006. It is based on a recent Nordtest standard NT Fire 054 and will be further developed in CEN during 2007.

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