

European Commission
Mr. Dr. Reinhard Klein
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DG Enterprise
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Brussels, 26th June 2007

Dear Mr. Dr. Klein,

**Re.: - Modifications in the Attestation Level of Conformity for Building Lime
- Modification in the wording for "Building limes" in the Mandate**

I. Modifications in the Attestation Level of Conformity for Building Lime

The European Building Lime Standard EN 459, Parts 1, 2 and 3 (edition October 2001) is presently being revised. The revised draft will be discussed at the meeting of the responsible TC 51 Cement and Building Lime in October 2007 and presumably adopted for CEN enquiry.

Apart from the entry of new products and their properties also the previous experiences with the method of attestation of conformity (Level 2) will be considered at the revision. Already in the first year of the implementation of this standard it became evident that the level of AOC as laid down in part 1 is not adequate.

The following reasons were given:

- The Construction Products Directive describes in Chapter V, Article 13, 4, the conditions for the choice of the procedure for a given product. For building limes clauses a) to b) which are relevant also under safety aspects have to be taken into account. Therefore the AOC procedure 2+ should be chosen.
- Present AOC-Level 2 only includes certification of the factory production control (FPC) on the basis of the initial type testing of the factory and the FPC (without continuous surveillance). For the producer this results in a considerable workload and costs for the product control without consequent sustainable advantages for the lime quality. The authorities cannot recognise a change in product quality by this singular FPC. It is not guaranteed that changes in the FPC or the production process are communicated to the certification body.
- Competitive products such as e.g. masonry cement acc. to EN 413 which have the same risk and are used for the same field of application have the level of conformity (AOC-Level) 2 +.
- To our knowledge building lime is the only building product for which the procedure 2 was laid down. With regard to the critical questions this is not comprehensible.

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- The experts in the CEN working committees have always voted for a change of this situation and for introduction of the AOC-Level 2+.

Due to these circumstances the working group TC 51/WG 11 which is responsible for revision of EN 459 has decided after detailed discussion to ask the Standing Committee to raise the attestation level from 2 to 2+. Also CEN/TC 51 Cement and Building Lime has stated in resolution 355 during its meeting on October 3/4, 2002, the following:

"TC 51 requests WG 11 to discuss and comment on the operating procedure for factory production control related to building limes in compliance with EN 459-1 prepared by NB-CPD/SG02 (N740). TC 51 agreed that the given attestation conformity system 2 for building lime is not appropriate and recommends the change to the system 2+. The decision was taken by unanimity"

The Sector Group 2 of the Advisory Group of the Notified Bodies has worked out operating procedures for building limes which are acc. to the opinion of TC 51 not appropriate to conduct the conformity attestation in an adequate way.

Smaller producers with lower production quantities will not suffer from higher workload/costs by the adjustment of the AOC-Level, because the minimum test frequency is fixed in dependence on the production amount.

II. Modification in the wording for "Building limes" in Mandate M114

Mandate M 114 mentions "building limes" in its wording. This is the name which is used in the title of EN 459 "Building Limes".

After different discussions, it appears that this wording is not correct and should be changed into "Building Lime" without a "s" at the end:

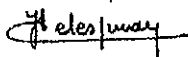
- lime is a generic name and should be used at the singular form to describe lime products
- other building products such as e.g. cement are also used in the singular form, although different types do exist.

WG 11 of TC 51 would like to take the opportunity of the present EN 459 revision to change the title of the standard accordingly.

We therefore ask you to deal with this subject on the forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee and to make a decision to change the AOC-Level from 2 to 2+ for building limes according to EN 459 and to change the wording "building limes" into building lime".

We will be pleased to also further explain our ideas in a personal dialogue.

Yours sincerely,



Yves de Lespinay
Secretary General



Willem Berbers
Chairman of the Standardisation
Committee