CEN/TC 351 workshop on Radiation from construction products

Details
Date  Friday, 30 October 2009  
Venue  CEN/CENELEC Meeting Centre, Avenue Marnix 17 (4th floor), B-1000 Brussels  
Audience  Experts from DG TREN, DG Enterprise, construction products industry, national regulators (especially Austria and Poland)  
Number  circa 25 persons  
Language  English  
Organised by  CEN/TC 351 secretariat (NEN Construction), in cooperation with members of CEN/TC 351/TG 6 Radiation, Mr Fuchs and European Commission's Expert Group on Dangerous Substances (EGDS)

Background
CEN/TC 351 "Construction products: Assessment of release of dangerous substances" was established in 2005 to answer the mandate M/366 (Full title: Horizontal complement to the mandates to CEN/CENELEC concerning the execution of standardisation work for the development of horizontal standardised assessment methods for harmonised approaches relating to dangerous substances under the Construction Products Directive (CPD) - Emission to indoor air, soil, surface water and ground water). Part of the mandated work (item 12) is a horizontal standard on the measurement of radiation from construction products.

More general information on CEN/TC 351 and its work can be found on www.centc351.org.

The issue was discussed in the EGDS (the European Commission's Expert Group on Dangerous Substances, advising the SCC) meeting of November 2008, and Austria and Poland appeared to be the two MS to have current regulation on this issue. Furthermore, Finland and Germany are considering implementation of regulation in this field.

Workshop
To get a clearer view on what is needed and how the revision of the European Basic Safety Standards for radiation protection by EURATOM interferes, CEN/TC 351 is organising a workshop on the subject with authorities from the member states that have regulation now, experts on construction products and on the technical aspects of radiation, civil servants from DG Enterprise and DG TREN.

This workshop is meant as a fact finding exercise to identify the need for standardization and harmonization with regard to methods for assessment of radiation from construction products under the CPD.

The workshop language is English; the audience is estimated to be 20-25 experts in the field. The final date in October 2009 is chosen based on the availability of the Austrian and Polish experts, being key persons in the whole discussion.

Relevant issues
Relevant issues are, a.o.,
- What is radiation from construction products: differences and similarities between (assessing) gamma and radon;
- The relation with the Construction Products Directive (CPD) and with the European Basic Safety Standards for radiation protection;
- Are the existing Austrian and Polish regulations linked to construction products? In what way?
- Is the existing legislation enforced?
- Which instruments and/or test methods are used?

Depending on the outcomes of the discussion on these issues, the experts may advice the EC on the need for a horizontal test method and, if this need exists, what would be the best basis for such a method. This statement implicates that the EC may very well decide that development of a horizontal method is not necessary. The work item will then be removed from the CEN/TC 351 work programme.

The programme of the workshop is attached.

The German experts choose to take part in the discussion, rather then making a presentation.
CEN/TC 351 Construction products: Assessment of release of dangerous substances

Programme of the workshop on Radiation from construction products

Friday, 30 October 2009

Newton B, CEN/CENELEC Meeting Center, Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels (B)

9.00 Registration and coffee

9.30 Opening and welcome
    Mr Jeroen Bartels, chairman CEN/TC 351

9.35 The issue of radiation from construction products: what is it
    Mr Peter de Jong, Nuclear Research and consultancy Group (NRG)

9.50 The issue of radiation from construction products: why is it in the CPD and therefore in the mandate for CEN/TC 351
    Mr Manfred Fuchs, DG Enterprise

10.10 Revision of the European Basic Safety Standards for radiation protection and the impact for construction products
    Ms Asa Wiklund, DG TREN

10.30 Question time

10.45 Coffee break

11.15 Existing regulations: AUSTRIA
    Mr Franz-Josef Maringer, Austrian Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying

11.35 Existing systems: FINLAND
    Mr Mika Markkanen, Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)

11.55 Existing regulations: POLAND
    Polish expert (to be confirmed)

12.15 Question time

12.45 Lunch
14.00 View of industry on regulatory approach and practical issues  
*Mr Pieter Lanser, The STRAVEN Foundation*

14.20 How does these views fit together?  
*Mr Pekka Vuorinen, intended convenor of CEN/TC 351/TG 6 Radiation*

14.40 Discussion on test methods, fitting the problem into a box: what problem is to be solved by CEN/TC 351, what not

15.30 **Tea break**

16.00 Continuation of discussion on test methods, fitting the problem into a box

16.30 Next steps of and for CEN/TC 351, contemplating today’s’ discussions  
*Mr Jeroen Bartels, CEN/TC 351 chairman*

17.00 Closure of meeting

**General information on CEN/TC 351**  