

Guide to the Construction Products Regulation and CE Marking

October 2016

What is CE marking?

A CE mark is a verification mark which appears on a product. The mark is a visible sign to confirm that the product meets the safety standards of a relevant Harmonised European Standard or European Technical Approval.

Why do construction products need to be CE marked?

The Construction Products Regulation (EU Regulation No. 305/2011) – abbreviated to CPR – was enacted on 9th March 2011 and came into force on 1st July 2013. All construction products manufactured from this date for sale in the European Economic Area must conform to the CPR. They must be CE marked if a relevant Harmonised European Standard or European Technical Approval exists.

The purpose of the CPR is to level the playing field so that construction products can be sold across the EEA, with an assurance of their performance. The intention is to prevent individual countries from imposing punitive local regulations in an attempt to quash free trade.

Which Permaban products conform to the CPR?

Every product we sell conforms to the Construction Product, and is appropriately CE marked.

CE marking has been in force for a few years. Why is Permaban only talking about this now?

When the CPR first came into force there was no clear route to CE marking for our joints and dowels, as a Harmonised European Standard or European Technical Approval for joints doesn't exist.

We have never been happy about this. Our products play a vital part in the construction of a large-scale concrete floor, which is a hard-working, structural element of a building. There ought to be some standard to evidence quality and performance, as an assurance to customers.

In early 2016 we undertook a series of tests to comply with certain national approval requirements, in order to sell our products into major EU markets. These tests revealed a way by which some of our products (specifically dowels, the load-bearing element of the joint) could be CE marked.

Having discovered this, we had a legal obligation to research it, and were pleased to do so in the interests of raising industry standards. Hence in recent months we have put considerable research time into finding a possible route to CE marking for dowels, and have now found a suitable way forward.

What are the relevant European standards enabling Permaban to do this?

There are three:

- BS EN 10025, a material specification used in the manufacture of some dowels.
- EN 13877, a product standard for dowel installations.
- EN1090, which applies to the manufacture of structural metalwork.

Are prices going to change?

No – there will be no price increase as a result of this. What's more, Permaban customers can benefit from peace of mind that they are using CPR-compliant products, and products which have full quality traceability, right back to the steel mill.

Can CE marks be applied retrospectively?

No, due to production traceability requirements.

What paperwork will be sent with orders?

There are two documents to be aware of – a Declaration of Performance and Certificate of Conformity. The Declaration of Performance outlines the design parameters of the product. The Certificate of Conformity confirms that the product has been produced and inspected to ensure that it meets the design parameters.

Copies of both will be available on the Permaban website, and a hard copy will be sent with all orders from July 2016. These will be general documents – if order-specific documents are required, these can be provided on request.

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