

CE MARKING AND THE NEW EUROPEAN STANDARDS FOR WINDOWS AND DOORS

When CE Marking for windows and curtain walling is introduced, fabricators will be responsible for compliance, in line with the relevant European standards. This document looks at the implications of the new legislation.

When did the new EN standard for windows become mandatory?

The new European standard for windows has been cited in *The Official Journal for the European Union* and *EN 14351-1 Window Product Standard* became compulsory in February 2007, replacing BS 4873 2004.

What does the standard cover?

The document sets out the requirements for fabricating window and external pedestrian door sets, and includes classifications, acoustics, ventilation, test methods, production control and performance characteristics such as weather tightness, giving guidance for both the systems company and the fabricator in the design, fabrication and installation of windows to approved standards.

When will CE Marking be mandatory?

On 1st February 2009, CE Marking for windows and door sets will become mandatory in the majority of member states, making it a legal requirement for the window and door fabricator to apply for and retain CE approval, and provide the required certification to the building owner.

Why is CE Marking being introduced?

This is a completely new approach, which is intended to ensure that all windows and doors are fabricated and installed in line with the system supplier's instructions, to defined standards and by fully trained and approved fabricators.

The new initiative is a significant and welcome step in giving end users and specifiers the assurance of a high quality finished product.

What are the implications for fabricators?

- To apply for, retain and provide CE approval for all window and door sets supplied after February 2009
- To have available independently audited tests (ITT tests) specified in EN 14351-1
- To fabricate all window and door sets in adherence to the Factory Production Control procedures required under EN 14351-1
- To ensure all operatives involved in the fabrication of windows and doors are fully trained by the system supplier, as required by the new European standards
- To keep the appropriate records and be able to demonstrate through audits that all fabrication is in line with the procedures and standards set out in EN 14351-1.

What are the ITT Tests?

It is the responsibility of the systems company to provide all fabricators with the required test results for every window type it offers – for example, open-out, tilt/turn and side hung. The fabricator then has to incorporate the relevant results in the CE package that is handed over to the building owner on completion of each project.

The Initial Type Tests (ITT) have to be carried out by an accredited and independent body which will ensure the window systems have been designed to fulfill all EN Standard requirements. The rigorous tests assess each product for: Air permeability

- Water resistance
- Wind loading
- Safety
- Impact resistance
- Thermal transmittance value.

When will CE Marking be introduced for curtain walling?

The situation with the introduction of CE Marking for curtain walling is less clear. The European standards for curtain walling – EN 13830 – were issued in 2004 but the requirement for CE Marking may be another two to three years away – even though it became mandatory in Germany in December 2005 and in France, November 2006.