

1.0 Purpose

This document sets out NSAI's policy for:

- Agrément Certification of construction products and systems and its relationship to the Construction Products Regulation;
- The legal framework governing CE marking and Declaration of Performances (DoPs);
- How CE-related information is treated within NSAI Agrément assessments and certificates;

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Agrément certification applications (new applications, revisions and periodic reviews);
- Products covered by harmonised standards or EADs submitted in Agrément assessments;

3.0 Definitions

- Harmonised European Standard (hEN) – A standard published in the OJEU that legally mandates CE marking.
- CE Marking – CE marking indicates that the manufacturer has taken responsibility for the conformity of the product with the applicable requirements of the Construction Products Regulation, including the declared performance of the relevant essential characteristics. It does not, by itself, demonstrate that the product or system is suitable for every intended use or that it satisfies all requirements of the Irish Building Regulations.
- ETA – European Technical Assessment – A documented assessment of the performance of a construction product in relation to its essential characteristics, prepared on the basis of an applicable European Assessment Document. An ETA may provide the technical basis for a manufacturer to draw up the relevant declaration and affix the CE marking under the applicable Construction Products Regulation.
- Agrément Certificate – A voluntary NSAI certificate setting out the assessment of a product or system for its stated intended use, including its contribution to meeting relevant requirements of the Irish Building Regulations, subject to the conditions and limitations stated in the certificate.
- Declaration of Performance (DoP) – A document drawn up by the manufacturer setting out the performance of a construction product in relation to its relevant essential characteristics under the Construction Products Regulation.

4.0 CE Marking Requirements Under Harmonised Standards

CE Marking is a legal requirement for a construction product when a harmonised standard applies to that product. Accordingly, where a construction product falls within the scope of an applicable harmonised technical specification and is placed on the EU market, the manufacturer must fulfil the relevant Declaration of Performance and CE-marking requirements under the applicable Construction Products Regulation.

5.0 Agrément Assessments and CE Marking

Agrément Certification does not substitute the legal requirement to CE mark a construction product to a harmonised standard. Agrément Certification assesses a product or system for its stated intended use, including its contribution to meeting relevant requirements of the Irish Building Regulations. It does not replace the manufacturer's obligations under the applicable Construction Products Regulation. The following interactions occur between an Agrément Assessment and a CE marked product:

- Where a product or system to be Agrément Certified is covered by a harmonised standard and is placed on the market for an intended use covered by that harmonised standard, it shall be CE marked in accordance with the Construction Products Regulation.
- As part of an Agrément assessment, NSAI Agrément does not undertake a separate conformity assessment of the CE marking or Declaration of Performance under the Construction Products Regulation. Responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and regulatory compliance of that information remains with the manufacturer. NSAI may nevertheless review relevant information and supporting evidence where it is relied upon as part of the Agrément assessment.
- CE marking indicates conformity with the product's declared performance under the applicable Construction Products Regulation. It does not, by itself, establish that the product or system is suitable for every intended use or that it meets all relevant requirements of the Irish Building Regulations. Additional evidence may therefore be required as part of an Agrément assessment.
- For Agrément Certificates, the European Commission explicitly instructs:
 - CE markings must not appear on voluntary certificates, including Agrément Certificates;
 - Declared characteristics (DoP performance values) may not be reproduced in voluntary certificates, as this would imply CE validation;
 - Only the manufacturer may legally affix a CE mark to a product.



NSAI must strictly adhere to these rules. Accordingly, Agrément Certificates may reference CE marking and may identify the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance (DoP), by reference to its title, number or revision. Agrément Certificates may also reference test reports and other evidence assessed as part of the certification process. Where such information is included, the certificate shall make clear that it relates to evidence reviewed by NSAI as part of its assessment and does not constitute the manufacturer's declared performance under the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). In all cases, Agrément Certificates shall not reproduce or restate the manufacturer's declared performance for essential characteristics covered by a harmonised standard, and users shall be referred to the manufacturer's DoP for such information.

6.0 Review

This policy is subject to periodic review and may be revised by NSAI to reflect changes in applicable legislation, regulatory guidance, accreditation requirements or the operation of the NSAI Agrément certification scheme.