

## Product certification for cements and the CE marking

---

### Introduction

In the UK, BCA Member Companies have been applying the CE marking to common cements (including Portland cement CEM I) manufactured in accordance with the European standard BS EN 197-1, since its implementation in April 2001. One year later, CE marking of such products then became generally mandatory throughout Europe. More recently, European technical specifications for other cements have been implemented, thus extending the range of CE marked products available from BCA Member Companies. The CE marking is facilitated via the procedures outlined below.

### What is the CE marking?

The CE marking, is a European regulatory mark indicating 'fitness for intended use' under relevant directive(s). It is the 'public face' of European law that permits products to be freely traded across the European Economic Area (EEA). The CE marking is not a quality mark, as not all parts of a given technical specification may pertain to establishment of 'fitness for intended use'. The parts of a technical specification that are provided for this purpose, are said to be 'harmonised'. In the case of cements, all parts of the applicable technical specifications have been harmonised.

### Can the CE marking convey any characteristics of a quality mark?

The CE marking of cements is subject to the highest level of control under the Construction Products Directive [level 1+ Attestation of Conformity (AoC)] because of the critical role that cements play in construction works. The scheme for conformity evaluation is specified in BS EN 197-2 and includes requirements for assessment/surveillance of Factory Production Control and independent Audit Testing of samples under the control of a third party - an 'EU Notified Body'. This level of scrutiny provides independent verification that cements conform fully to their technical specification. Issue of EC Certificates of Conformity by the Notified Body enables the manufacturer to affix the CE marking which, therefore, indicates conformity to both the technical and regulatory requirements.

### How has the CE marking affected BCA Member Companies' product marking policies?

As a consequence of the 1+ level of AoC and the rigorous conformity evaluation procedures required for EC certification, BCA Member Companies have considered it unnecessary to continue with any voluntary product certification in respect of cements covered by a harmonised European standard. Such additional certification would only be considered where it is deemed necessary to address properties that are not yet within the scope of the standard, or are covered by other Directives [for example, see Fact Sheet 10.7 for information specific to chromium (VI)].

### Which cements bear the CE marking?

CE marked cements are now available to the following specifications:

BS EN 197-1	Common cements
BS EN 197-4	Low early strength blastfurnace cements
BS EN 14216	Very low heat special cements
BS EN 14647	Calcium aluminate cement
BS EN 413-1	Masonry cement

Cements not yet covered by a European Standard, such as sulfate-resisting Portland cement to BS 4027, will continue to bear voluntary quality marks until CE marking becomes possible.

### Is the CE marking supported by any publicly available documentation?

Copies of the EC Certificates of Conformity that legitimise CE marking are available on request from BCA Member Companies in respect of their cements to the above specifications.

### Where can I find out more?

Contact: M G Taylor at BCA, Tel: 01276 608716, [mtaylor@bca.org.uk](mailto:mtaylor@bca.org.uk).

Document No: ST/FS/9	Revision No: 1
Authors: M G Taylor and P Brookbanks	Drafted: April 2003 Last revised: 17 July 2006