EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains
Clean Technologies and Products

Construction Products Regulation
Survey on information needs among Member States Authorities

1) Methodology

Commission services designed this survey as complementing a survey contracted out to explore information needs of construction product users. While the latter related to professional users of construction products in the construction sector, this survey focused on the needs of Member States authorities, active in the field of Market surveillance or building control. The questionnaire developed in the context of the parallel survey was adapted to the potential respondents and translated into the same languages.

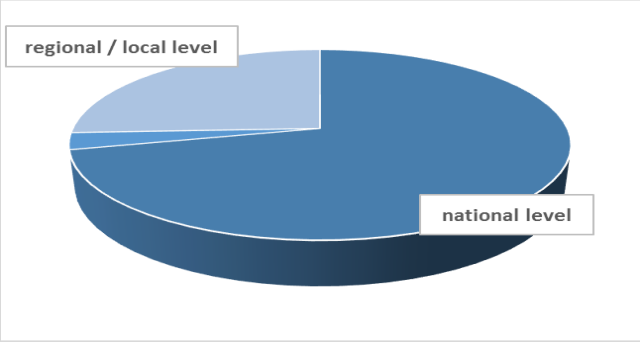
The survey was published on EU survey on 12 January 2018 in German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Romanian, Polish, Italian, Danish and English. On the same day, members of the Standing Committee for construction, of the Advisory group on construction products and of the Group of Notified Bodies were invited to reply to the survey and to disseminate the information among relevant counterparts. The survey closed on 15 February 2018.

In total, this survey received 34 replies. Given the limited number of respondents (and the unbalanced geographical coverage), it is obvious that the result cannot be seen as statistically significant. However, they have the merit to bring some further light on the needs and experience of public administration in (some of) the Member States.

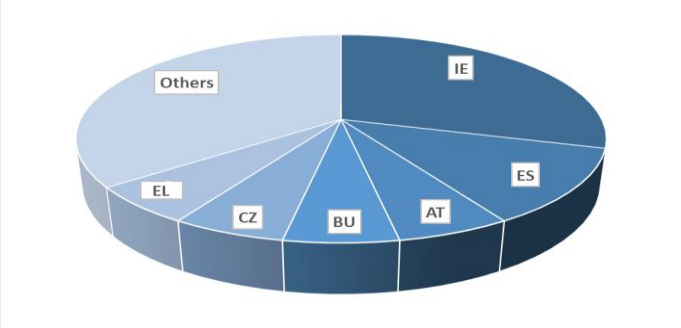
2) Respondent information

The questions numbered 1 and 2 aimed at informing on the respondents, i.e. the name of the authority and its country. Replies are kept confidential, thus the identity of the authorities is not revealed, however it allowed distinguishing between national and regional/local authorities.

Type of authorities (total=34):
- 25 at national level;
- 8 at regional, local level,
- 1 undefined.



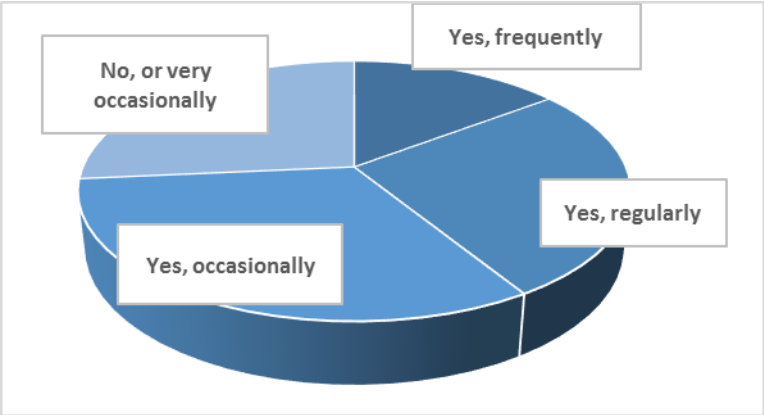
Countries of authorities (total=34):
- 10 replies from Ireland;
- 4 from Spain;
- 2 from Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Greece;
- 1 from Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.



3) About the respondents' experience in obtaining technical information (or data) on construction products

3- During the past 5 years, have you needed to obtain technical information on construction products?
(for example, because you have not encountered or controlled the product before or because of a different intended use of an already known product) - *(single reply)*

Yes, frequently (e.g. on a daily or weekly basis)	5
Yes, regularly (e.g. monthly or multiple times in a year)	9
Yes, occasionally (e.g. a few times throughout a year)	11
No, or only very occasionally (e.g. you are generally familiar with all the construction products that you encounter or control and do not need to obtain new information about them)	9



The following questions in this chapter, i.e. questions 4 to 10, were only asked to the respondents who replied YES - frequently, regularly or occasionally - at question 3 (meaning that the 9 respondents who replied NO were directly sent to question 11)..

These questions aimed indeed at exploring the experience in the se-arch of technical information or data on construction products.

4- For which types of construction products (or product groups) have you needed to obtain technical information?

(Multiple replies possible)

Total respondents: 25

Cement	12
Gypsum products	8
Concrete, mortar & grout	13
Precast concrete products	10
Masonry products	15
Aggregates	15
Road construction products	8
Circulation fixtures	6
Reinforcing steel	10
Structural metallic products	11
Structural bearings	4
Structural timber products and ancillaries	11
Wood based panels	9
Roof coverings	10
External Thermal Insulation Composites Systems (ETICS)	12
Thermal insulating products	15
Geotextile products	6
Membranes	7
Wall and ceiling finishes	7
Curtain walling products	3
Floorings (all materials)	8
Glass products	6
Doors, windows	14
Chimneys	8
Pipes, tanks (for fuels, gas, water, drinking water)	9
Fixed fire-fighting equipment	11
Sanitary appliances	6
Space heating appliances	11
Waste water disposal products	9
Power, control and communication cables	8
Anchors	5
Adhesives	12
Sealants for non-structural use in joints in buildings and pedestrian walkways	5
Other	4

3 respondents specified other products as follows:

- fire extinguishers, fire protection products (firedampers);
- fire extinguishers, fire protection products (including firedampers), fire doors;
- anti-seismic devices, gabions.

5- For the construction products (or product groups) for which you have needed technical information, which of the following types of information were you looking for?

(Multiple replies possible)

Total respondents: 25

Intended use of the product	23
Mechanical strength (data or class)	20
Behaviour in fire (e.g. resistance or reaction to fire -performance class)	19
Recyclability (e.g. manufacturer's declaration, availability of recycling infrastructures)	6
Reusability/possibility for dismantling	5
Contents of dangerous substances	10
Emissions into indoor air (values or classes)	8
Leaking into soil and water (values or classes)	5
Sound insulation properties	11
Thermal conductivity (data or class)	13
General Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)	5
Guidance/manual for installation	12
Guidance/manual for maintenance or repair work	5
Contact details of manufacturer	16
Contact details of testing facility/Technical Assessment Body (for ETAs)	16
Other	2

The following other type of information was specified:

- Details regarding integration of materials with other materials as part of construction make-up.

6- For the construction products (or product groups) for which you have needed technical information, which of the following sources did you use to obtain the needed information?

(Multiple replies possible)

Total respondents: 25

Product data sheet	19
Product information supplied on the product or accompanying the product (e.g. Declaration of performance or CE marking)	21
Certificates provided by authorities (without any specific technical data)	7
Certificates provided by authorities (including specific technical data)	19
Other	5

4 respondents specified other sources:

- Technical dossier;
- NBs, TABs, administration, associations, experts;
- Harmonised standards for technical specifications;
- Google scan of barcodes.

7- For the construction products (or product groups) for which you have needed technical information, were you able to obtain the information that you were looking for?

(Indicate the response that best corresponds to your situation)

Total respondents: 25

	YES relatively easily	YES but with some effort required	NO unable to find information	Not relevant
Intended use of the product	12	11	1	1
Mechanical strength (data or class)	14	7	0	4
Behaviour in fire (e.g. resistance or reaction to fire - performance class)	12	8	0	5
Recyclability (e.g. manufacturer's declaration, availability of recycling infrastructures)	1	3	6	15
Reusability/possibility for dismantling	1	2	8	14
Contents of dangerous substances	2	11	4	8
Emissions into indoor air (values or classes)	1	7	5	12
Leaking into soil and water (values or classes)	1	6	3	15
Sound insulation properties	7	5	1	12
Thermal conductivity (data or class)	10	8	0	7
General Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)	2	4	5	14
Guidance/manual for installation	6	11	1	7
Guidance/manual for maintenance or repair work	2	9	1	13
Contact details of manufacturer	12	8	0	5
Contact details of testing facility /Technical Assessment Body (for ETAs)	10	9	1	5
Other (as specified in Question 5)	3	3	0	19

8- In your opinion, what could be done to make technical information on construction products more easily available for your work?

15 respondents made the following suggestions:

- Make the scope of standards more detailed.
- The information should be available next to the product or on web sites.
- Direct contact with the technical department of the manufacturer.
- Maybe a database with EU construction products could be useful.
- Having a One Site method of looking up all necessary information rather a distributed method.
- Mandatory barcodes.
- Have tools and / or applications to access all the information of the product (smart information).
- That all the information accompanies any product review and that it may have a certain degree of standardization Placing the DoP and technical sheets on a website.
- Use of QR code - mandatory installation of a European database.
- European database in which the contents of the declaration of performance must be entered by the manufacturer.
- Readily available on line on a an approved website, once product is released to market.
- All information under 7 depends on the quality of the manufacturer's information.
    - Improving quality of standards:
      - The essential features are partly incomplete in the mandates.
      - Some of the references in Annex ZA.1, Essential Characteristics, are missing in the clauses of the standard or there are less essential features in Annex ZA.1 than properties in the clauses of the standard. Due to the legal situation, these surplus properties cannot be verified by the market surveillance authorities. A better alignment of Annex ZA with the sections of the standard is desirable.
      - Similarly, the scope of the front part of the standard should be the same as in Annex ZA.
      - European standards are not available for all standards or test standards refer to the product standard, but there is no statement on this (eg glazing in thermal insulation materials).

- Scope is partly too unspecific (eg EN 1090-1).
    - Improving cooperation between MSs:
      - It would be desirable for a controlling market surveillance authority of one Member State to find that there is a breach of an economic operator of a second Member State, that it is coordinated with the market surveillance authority of the second Member State before action is taken against the economic operator.
      - It would also be desirable if notified bodies provided cross-border information to the market surveillance authorities at their request.
- Mandatory publication of DoP on websites of manufactures.
- The supply of the declaration of performance (DoP) among operators should be strengthened. Often, DoPs are hardly available at the distributor's level. The supply of the DoP should be made more systematic at this level. Besides, there should be more than at least one of the essential characteristics of the CP mentioned in the DoP.

9- For the construction products (or product groups) for which you have obtained technical information, was the information sufficiently precise for the purposes of your work?
(Indicate the response that best corresponds to your situation)
Total respondents: 25

	YES sufficiently precise	YES but could be better	NO not sufficient	Not relevant
Intended use of the product	10	13	1	1
Mechanical strength (data or class)	12	7	2	4
Behaviour in fire (e.g. resistance or reaction to fire -performance class)	12	6	2	5
Recyclability (e.g. manufacturer's declaration, availability of recycling infrastructures)	0	1	7	17
Reusability/possibility for dismantling	0	2	6	17
Contents of dangerous substances	0	9	6	10
Emissions into indoor air (values or classes)	0	6	7	12
Leaking into soil and water (values or classes)	0	4	8	13
Sound insulation properties	3	10	1	11
Thermal conductivity (data or class)	10	8	1	6
General Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)	1	3	8	13
Guidance/manual for installation	6	9	4	6
Guidance/manual for maintenance or repair work	4	5	5	11
Contact details of manufacturer	11	8	1	5
Contact details of testing facility/Technical Assessment Body (for ETAs)	9	8	4	4
Other (as specified in Question 5)	2	3	0	20

10- Please describe and give any specific details or examples of your experience of product information that is not sufficiently precise and/or could be improved.

10 respondents made the following suggestions:

- Recyclability of bricks are in some cases declared by manufacturer but without possible infrastructure.
- Some certificates are not sufficiently documented.
- Pour les coordonnées du fabricant, le fait qu'il est prévu dans la proposition de la révision du règlement 765 la désignation d'une personne responsable facilitera les demandes d'informations. Concernant les appareils de chauffage individuels, difficulté de savoir ce que la norme vise par

substances dangereuses, divergences d'interprétation sur le terrain. Le fait que certains rapports de test soient présentés dans une langue autre que l'anglais ou les langues nationales rend l'analyse de ceux-ci quasi impossible.

- Matters relating to the interaction and integration of certain products with other products.
- Difficult to find CE marking.
- The standards that are in practice mandatory should be free, and certifications should be public (the process).
- This cannot be generalized. Degree of accuracy does not depend on the type of a construction product but on the manufacturer/distributor.
- 1. Lack of specific information in the harmonized technical specifications on the content of dangerous substances (compliance criteria and test methods). There are no guidelines that construction products are at risk, i.e. they may contain hazardous substances (this is important especially in the absence of a manufacturer's declaration).

  2. Incorrect determination by the manufacturer of the intended use (contrary to the standard) causes problems with assessing whether a given characteristic should be included in the declaration of performance as suitable for the declared use.

  3. Annexes ZA are not adapted to Regulation No. 305/2011 in most harmonized standards.
- All information under 9) depends on the construction product and the quality of the standard.
- The information of the content of dangerous susbtances, which should be provided together with the DoP, is often absent or not well documented. As regards the emissions into outdoor air and other construction products like exterior carpentry, we have come across collective test results which, sometimes, were not matching exactly the CP in question. Together with the instructions and safety information which must already accompany the CP, manufacturers should also provide key information on the installation, maintenance and repair work which can be associated to their CP.

4) About the respondents' opinions on the technical information (or data) on construction products that they would like to get from manufacturers. And where (or how) this information should be available

Questions 11 to 13 were asked to all respondents.

11- What level of detail of information on construction products is necessary for it to be useful for your work?

(Indicate the response that best corresponds to your situation)

Total respondents: 34

	Specific values	Performance class	Satisfies minimum requirements	Not relevant
Intended use of the product	15	7	8	4
Mechanical strength (data or class)	16	9	6	3
Behaviour in fire (e.g. resistance or reaction to fire -performance class)	10	14	5	5
Recyclability (e.g. manufacturer's declaration, availability of recycling structures)	5	2	10	17
Reusability/possibility for dismantling	4	2	12	16
Contents of dangerous substances	13	4	8	9
Emissions into indoor air (values or classes)	12	3	8	11
Leaking into soil and water (values or classes)	9	6	5	14
Sound insulation properties	11	10	3	10
Thermal conductivity (data or class)	15	10	3	6
General Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)	0	2	10	15
Guidance/manual for installation	11	4	10	9
Guidance/manual for maintenance or repair work	8	4	9	13
Other	5	1	0	

2 respondents made other suggestions:

- Google search;
- It is necessary oftentimes to seek precise information through specific values relevant to an installation.

12- How relevant for your work are the following types of information?

(Indicate the response that best corresponds to your situation)

Total respondents: 34

	Very relevant	Relevant	Not relevant
Name and contact details of manufacturer	27	7	0
Name and contact details of testing facility/Technical Assessment Body	24	9	1
Period of validity of product information (e.g. expiry date of certificate, new technical standards in preparation)	23	10	1
Other	4	0	29

2 respondents specified other types of information:

- Relevant information relating to performance of the product over its expected durability;
- Essential characteristics.

13- From which source(s) would you prefer to get technical information on construction products?

(Multiple replies possible)

Total respondents: 34

Product information accompanying a Declaration of Performance/CE marking: on paper	21
Product information accompanying a Declaration of Performance/CE marking: on the website of the manufacturer or supplier	29
Product data sheets provided by the manufacturer or supplier: on paper	15
Product data sheets provided by the manufacturer or supplier: on the website of the manufacturer or supplier	25
Website/database/publications of scheme providers for General Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)	17
Specific logos (e.g. quality marks) attached to product: without any specific technical data	1
Specific logos (e.g. quality marks) attached to product: with accompanying specific technical data	10
Personal feedback from experts/companies	13
Other	1

1 other source was mentioned:

- NBs and TABs.

5) About the respondents' procedures for checking product performance declarations for construction products

Questions 14 to 17 were asked to all respondents.

14- If you encountered/controlled construction products for the first time, which of the following would you usually do to check on product performance?

Multiple replies possible

Total respondents: 34

Not relevant	0
Check for trademarks (e.g. rely on positive experience of already used construction products as an indication of product performance)	5
Check for the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance for the product	31
Check for a CE marking accompanying the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance for the product	31
Check for certificates or logos accompanying the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance for the product	14
Collect information/feedback from other experts/companies with enough experience with the product to know its performance and how to install it	11
Other	2

2 respondents mentioned other checks:

- Google search;
- Type test reports and factory production control data.

15- For construction products for which you have obtained performance information in the past, the information may become outdated (e.g. new test methods, expiry of certificates). Do you normally check the validity of previously obtained information?

Indicate the response that best corresponds to your situation

Total respondents: 34

Yes, systematically	17
Yes, when I am in doubt or I have been informed about changes	12
No, I do not expect any significant changes in the products I am using	5

16- Do you have a preferred source for obtaining information on construction product performance?

Indicate the response that best corresponds to your situation

Total respondents: 34

No preferred source	27
Preferred source	7

6 respondents specified their preferred sources:

- Manufacturer;
- On line;
- CE Mark, DoP, Type Test etc. in accordance with current euro standards;
- CE marking and declaration of Performances;
- DoP, EN, EAD;
- The DoP.

17- Are there any other issues concerning information availability and data quality for construction products that are not addressed so far in this survey but that you consider as relevant?

8 respondents specified the following issues:

- Effectiveness of Market Surveillance Authority implementation, enforcement, and penalties for non compliance.
- End users are still not sufficiently informed about the existence of the DoP. As a consequence, they do not ask for it, and the operators tend to miss to supply the DoP efficiently.
- Green ecological construction products.
- The ICSMS database (and in particular the DRPI Construction products) is a good source of information on whether the product has already been verified by another European authority.
- Aspects related to the "intelligent information" of construction products.
- More transparency of the Assesment Bodies, They should be public and provide information free of charge. They could be financed by the manufacturers, but not by the users.
- Scientific publications if relevant.
- The people using or installing all products should be more aware at point of purchase of all products, more awareness training required. Companies selling all products should have performance data, installation guidance readily available to all purchasers. The product and manufacturer should be approved officially before release to market, this information should be readily available and once available made known to user groups.