

June 2022
Statement

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) is key to ensure fire safety in buildings – any review must keep the current safeguards

Summary:

- The Modern Building Alliance (MBA) welcomes the CPR review proposal as it confirms the fundamentals of the internal market legislation.
- MBA supports that the proposal does not bring discontinuity to the basic requirements covering reaction to fire performance.
- MBA supports all provisions aiming to:
 - o Improve the quality and compliance of products – increase market surveillance
 - o Ensure smooth operation and efficiency of the single market
- Harmonised technical specifications must be developed in full collaboration with experts from the European Standardisation Organisations

The 2011 version of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) is the most important regulation for construction product manufacturers. The CPR lays down harmonised rules for the marketing of construction products in the European Economic Area, via a common European framework to test, classify and communicate the level of performance of these products. Based on this rule book and in full adherence to the subsidiarity principle, national authorities can set requirements and criteria for construction works, including construction products.

The Modern Building Alliance (MBA) welcomes the fact that the fundamentals of this internal market legislation are confirmed in the Commission's review proposal. We support that the proposal does not bring discontinuity to the basic requirements covering reaction to fire performance.

The members of MBA generally support the proposed new provisions related to notifying authorities, technical assistance bodies, market surveillance authorities and requirements of cooperation between countries. Such provisions support the efficiency of the single market by ensuring construction products are properly tested before being placed on the market but also that afterwards, the national market surveillance is effective and of high quality.

With regards to the development of harmonised technical specifications via the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), the Modern Building Alliance would like to emphasise that industry participation in CEN committees is essential to develop coherent, fit for purpose and applicable documents. Therefore, the new measure in this review proposal to confer power to the European Commission to draft harmonised technical specifications in case CEN is not delivering on time and quality, could potentially bring discontinuity in the marketplace. Furthermore, the proposed exclusion of micro-enterprises from the system of robust performance tests could lead to a security gap, since, according to the current state of knowledge, documents assessments cannot fully replace real product tests.

The members of MBA advocate for the safety of construction products in general and for fire safety in particular, including design, manufacturing to placing on the market. Its members pay attention to the proposed changes to the CPR in light of the impact on safety taking into account the interconnection with the other elements of the framework including national building codes.

Over time, the CPR has brought significant improvements across the EU for the fire safety of buildings. Standards for fire safety are now comparable between member states. This means that a buyer, a designer or a builder can easily compare the fire performance of construction products via harmonised classifications regardless of the country of origin. Together with improved national fire safety measures,

the number of fire fatalities in Europe has significantly decreased over the years. However, more still needs to be done, including on digitalisation.

The CPR is only one ingredient to ensure fire safety in buildings

Further improvements can be achieved in Europe by supporting a holistic view of fire safety. Such a holistic approach must cover the [7 layers of fire safety in buildings](#) (prevention, detection, early suppression, evacuation, compartmentation, structural safety and fire-fighting).

To allow and support integration into building codes defining building installation and organisational requirements, the EU standards need to deliver the basis for such an approach (please see the B.I.O framework for more details: <https://www.modernbuildingalliance.eu/b-i-o-framework>).

Contact:

Jarita Christie, Executive Chair

@ : jarita@modernbuildingalliance.eu

t: +32 485 890 070

About the Modern Building Alliance

We are an alliance of trade associations and companies representing the plastics industry in the construction sector. Plastics are increasingly used in building and construction applications to make our buildings more sustainable, from window frames and durable pipes to state-of-the-art insulation solutions. An essential pillar of our cause is the ambition for greater fire safety across the construction industry. It is a key driver of our product design and manufacturing: improving the fire safety in buildings is a joint responsibility of the whole value chain involved in building and construction. That's why, by engaging with policy makers and stakeholders, we are committed to supporting the EU in ensuring safe and sustainable construction for people across Europe.



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