



## **BUSINESS PLAN**

### **CEN/TC 134**

#### **Resilient, textile, laminate and modular mechanical locked floor coverings**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

CEN/ TC 134 is responsible for the development of standards within the flooring sector of the construction industry. It deals with standardization of all aspects of resilient, textile, laminate and modular mechanical locked floor coverings and ensures that duplication of effort is avoided by adequate liaison with other committees concerned with flooring as well as subjects of common interest to all products.

#### **Business Environment**

The main use areas for floor coverings within the scope of CEN/ TC 134 are residential (homes, apartments) and commercial, (health care, education, hospitality, public buildings, offices, retail, transportation). These areas are limited to indoor use. Excluded from the scope are screeds, raised access floors, paving, surfaces for sports areas, as well as parquet, wood veneer and bamboo floorings. The European floor covering market in 2019 was estimated to be approx. 1.3 Billion m<sup>2</sup>, amounting to approx. 9 Billion €.

#### **Benefits**

The aim of CEN TC134 is to define the necessary (harmonized) standards for bringing of resilient, textile, laminate and modular mechanical locked floor coverings onto the European market.

Since the TC has been established in 1999 more than 85 European standards and other documents have been developed.

#### **Priorities**

The main priority of CEN/ TC 134 is to develop standards in the area of resilient, textile, laminate and modular mechanical locked floor coverings for indoor use and to keep them updated to follow new developments and trends in this area. These international standards aim to provide a common ground for testing and specifying floor covering products internationally, replacing or supplementing national or regional testing and specification methods, including a classification of use system.

CEN TC134 has also added as priority the development of standards towards a circular economy and in line with the goals of the European Green Deal.

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# **1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC**

## **1.1 Description of the Business Environment**

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal and/or international dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this CEN/TC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

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CEN/TC 134 keeps up to date with recent and expected technical changes within the flooring sector, including modular flooring, floating flooring, various mechanical locking systems, loose lay flooring and hybrid products and develops new standards or amends current standards when needed.

CEN/TC134 will also actively participate in reaching the European Green Deal goals.

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CEN/TC 134 is committed to considering the environment in general and applying the principles of circular economy within the scope and development of the standards.

Stakeholders in the standardization process for floor coverings all of whom will benefit from the use of International Standards are (non-exhaustive and in alphabetical order):

- architects, specifiers and interior designers
- building/ construction industry
- business/ trade associations
- certification organizations
- environmental organizations
- flooring contractors
- flooring manufacturers
- national or regional authorities
- NGOs
- private and public consumers and users.
- recyclers

- standardization organizations
- test houses/ institutes/ laboratories

The main interests of the stakeholders are (in alphabetical order):

- Assessment of compliance and consistency with the product specifications
- Health and Safety of the product
- Installation and maintenance
- Product characterization and testing.
- Tools for making an informed choice
- Waste management and ecodesign
- Where and how to use the product and classifications.

CEN/TC 134 standards address the following health and safety issues which are applicable during the lifetime of the products (in alphabetical order):

- Biological contamination/degradation
- Content/ release of dangerous substances/ materials of concern
- End of life/ disposal/ recycling/ recovery
- Fire safety
- Indoor air quality
- Slip resistance

Since test methods and specifications for some of the above issues are developed in separate Technical Committees (TC's), liaisons with these TCs have been established or will be established in the future when deemed necessary.

CEN/TC 134 also follows up on other relevant international, regional or national standards or voluntary initiatives, such as ISO TC219, ASTM F06 (resilient), ASTM D13.21 Pile Floor coverings (test methods) + CRI (specifications), NALFA (laminat), and other standardization organizations, China, Japan and Australia. From 2021 on also separate developemnts in the UK will become important.

Products in the scope of CEN/TC 134 may need to comply with regulatory and legal issues on European and national level, including national or regional building codes and/ or (technical) regulations. Products exported to other countries outside Europe will also need to comply with their national or regional requirements.

## **1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment**

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the CEN /TC:

The European floor covering market in 2019 was estimated to be approx. 1.3 Billion m<sup>2</sup>, amounting to approx. 9 Billion €.

16 out of the in total 85 EN standards and other documents were developed together with or have been adopted by ISO/TC219.

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## **2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC**

The main priority of CEN/ TC 134 is to develop standards in the area of resilient, textile, laminate and modular mechanical locked floor coverings for indoor use and to keep them updated to follow new developments and trends in this area. These European standards aim to provide a common ground for testing and specifying floor covering products internationally, replacing or supplementing national or regional testing and specification methods, including a classification of use system. This results in a common basis for evaluating floor covering products in the different countries and regions worldwide, facilitating trade and reducing the cost for product testing and development of new products.

The aim is to align them with the international standards as closely as possible, through cooperation with ISO TC219.

## **3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC**

All the CEN national members are entitled to nominate delegates to CEN Technical Committees and experts to Working Groups, ensuring a balance of all interested parties. Participation as observers of recognized European or international organizations is also possible under certain conditions. To participate in the activities of this CEN/TC, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

## **4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEN/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT**

### **4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC**

CEN/ TC 134 has developed a portfolio of test method and product specification standards. Since there are differences between resilient, textile, laminate and modular mechanical locked floor coverings towards testing and specifications, the work program is elaborated by one working group dedicated for each product type and one working group dedicated for harmonizing the work among the product working groups and/ or developing standards common to all:

WG7 Resilient floor coverings

WG8 Textile floor coverings

WG9 Laminate floor coverings

WG10 Harmonization

WG11 Modular mechanical locked floor coverings (MMF)

The focus of the different WG is as follows:

WG7: Development of standards and technical specifications for resilient floor coverings including cork, linoleum, rubber, PVC, other polymeric flooring and related underlays. Liaison with ISO/ TC 219/ WG 2.

WG8: Development of standards and technical specifications for textile floor coverings and related underlays. Liaison with ISO/ TC 219/ WG1.

WG9: Development of standards and technical specifications for laminate floor coverings and related underlays. Liaison with ISO/ TC219/ WG03

WG10: Harmonization of work between the product specific working groups and identification of needs for establishing new work, including proposing new working groups, if needed. An important topic, in particular, is sustainability and circular economy.

WG11: Development of standards and technical specifications for Modular mechanical locked floor coverings (MMF) and related underlays. Liaison with ISO/ TC 219/ WG2 regarding EN ISO 20326.

A major task for all working groups is to regularly evaluate their standards portfolio and update them according to current developments and the current state of the art and to ensure that novel products being placed on the market are also being addressed.

#### **4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN/TC's defined objectives.**

CEN/TC 134 will employ the following strategies to satisfy the preceding objectives:

- establish priority of work items within working groups;
- establish project teams for each work item with designated project leaders and progress with a project-based approach to development of standards;
- give priority to the timely circulation of documents and adherence to target dates;
- limit meetings to when necessary or use the tools offered by the CEN management centre to hold virtual meetings; use other means of communication to resolve issues and progress documents e.g. conference calls or e-mail; minimal 1 plenary and WG meeting per year;
- co-ordinate concurrent meetings in the same location;
- make maximum use of the Vienna Agreement in co-operation with ISO/ TC219;
- continue using a single language for meetings to obviate the problems and expense of organizing translation;
- establish close liaison with relevant CEN and ISO committees as well as European and international organizations.

#### **4.3 Environmental aspects**

New standards for sustainability and circular economy, including (non-exhaustive list and in alphabetical order):

- bio-degradability
- definitions and declarations in the context of circular economy
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)
- design for circular economy
- product passport
- recyclability/ recycling potential
- recycled content
- renewable materials
- terms and definitions

For this work CEN TC134 has established liaisons with CEN-CLC SABE TG C-E, and other CEN TC's (CEN TC249, CEN TC 350, CEN TC351, CEN TC461).

CEN TC134 follows the activities of the CPA (Circular plastics alliance) and the developments under the European Green Deal.

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### **5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC WORK PROGRAMME**

CEN/ TC134 aims to maximize the acceptance and use of the standards it develops by its business community. For this, procedures laid out by the by the CEN-CENELEC Management Center are utilized as much as possible:

- there is a regular check with chairperson, secretariat and convenors on their intention to continue their work in order to identify as early as possible when a replacement is necessary
- if specific expertise is needed for a project, an effort will be made to find the necessary expert and invite them to participate in the work
- for validation of a test method support from relevant stakeholders is sought. This includes financial support if required.

Concerning the limited resources of experts, CEN/ TC134 has so far relied on its members to search for the necessary financial support. In the future the possibilities for using tele- and video conferencing, as offered by the CEN-CENELEC Management Cente, will be established as valid alternative to travel. It is considered important, though, to have a physical meeting at least once per year.

CEN TC134 focusses on aligning with European legislation and does not intend to answer specific national requirements.

The work of CEN TC134 has been affected by the dispute between the European Commission and CEN-CENELEC on the non-citation of harmonized standards.