



BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 254

FLEXIBLE SHEETS FOR WATERPROOFING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CEN/TC 254 is developing a portfolio of standards for bituminous, plastic and rubber flexible sheets for waterproofing used in the construction industry.

The main areas of application are:

- Roof sheeting;
- Underlays for walls and roofs;
- Vapour control layers;
- Damp proof courses
- Damp proof membranes and basement tanking membranes;
- Bridge deck waterproofing.

Correct design of the waterproofing system and selection, testing and installation of the sheets is necessary to ensure product performance and that the design life is achieved; many of the industrial users of these sheets are international buyers of sub-components where it is essential to achieve constant quality and performance regardless of the source of the items involved.

The objectives of CEN/TC 254 are to contribute to the elimination of technical barriers to trade within Europe.

CEN/TC 254 has developed and continues to develop a portfolio of European Standards, which address the above issues, working in parallel with the following European trade bodies:

- European Disposables And Nonwovens Association (EDANA)
- International Federation of Roofing Contractors (IFD)
- Bitumen Waterproofing Association (BWA)
- EuPC The European Plastics Converters (EuPC)
- Bureau Européen de Normalisation pour l'Artisanat et les Petites et Moyennes (NORMAPME)
- European Federation of Construction Chemicals (EFCC)
- European Committee of Liquid Applied Waterproofing Systems (CESEL – ECLAWS)

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:

Flexible waterproofing sheets, both bituminous (SC1) and synthetic (SC2) perform an important role in the European construction sector. By far the largest user sector being the roofing market where bituminous membranes have traditionally enjoyed the largest share. Synthetic roofing membranes have recently enlarged their market share in the commercial and industrial large-span building sectors. Synthetic membranes continue to dominate the geomembrane market.

There is a wide range of interest groups represented in the Technical Committee and its subordinate committees as follows:

- *contractor trade associations*: national and European organisations
- *manufacturer trade associations*: national and European organisations
- *testing institutes*: some institutes have agency status on behalf of national government. Some (e.g. NBI Norway and BRE United Kingdom are carrying out pre-standardisation research).
- *individual manufacturing companies*

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:

Gathering details of overall European trade and use of standards is notoriously difficult in this industry sector. However, over the next few years it is hoped to compile information in order to express some or all of the quantitative indicators listed below:

- Total international trade in the industry sector/products/materials (in €) over the last 3 years;
- Imports and exports in the industry sector/products/materials (in €) by major geographical regions and/or by countries over the last 3 years;
- Total European trade in new industry sector/product/material growth areas (in €) over the past three years
- Estimated number of companies (European-wide) operating in the industry sector or producing the products/materials over the past three years;
- Estimated employment (European-wide) in the industry sector over the last 3 years;
- Estimated percentage of products in the marketplace self-declared or certified to the CEN committee's European standards;
- Real examples of increased income and/or cost savings achieved through implementation of the CEN committee's European Standards;
- Indication of cases where organizations (European-wide) require compliance with the CEN committee's European Standards by suppliers, contractors and other service providers;
- Indication of cases of governmental adoption of the CEN committee's European Standards into legislation, regulations or procurement requirements;

- Indication of cases where CEN committee's European Standards are cited as normative references in European Standards of own and other CEN committees.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

Standards from TC 254 are expected to support European legislation, in particular New Approach Directives. Sixteen of the standards that are published, are cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under Directive 89/106/EEC, the Construction Products Requirements, and confer presumption of conformity with Essential Requirements of that Directive.

It is expected that the publication and adoption of the TC 254 standards will remove technical barriers to trade and open markets throughout Europe.

To date the committee has published 63 standards, of which 46 are test methods.

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

To develop a framework for the harmonisation of test methods and products for flexible sheets for waterproofing; to assist industry and consumers to identify and standardise the determination of characteristics which may be important for the specification or appropriate selection of products for particular applications.

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

Waterproofing membranes by their very chemical composition fall into two categories: those based on bituminous and those made from polymers. Originally two separate TCs (TC 116 and TC 117) were established to deal with products based on these different materials. However, because of the extensive degree of overlap in their work they were replaced by one TC, TC254 but with two sub-committees delegated to work in each of the categories. Both the Technical Committee and the two sub-committees use the following practices to achieve objectives:

- Prioritisation of projects (for example, developing test methods first, then product standards);
- Use of available national or regional source documents on which to base European Standards;
- Where appropriate, co-operation and liaisons with other CEN committees and international trade organizations.

4.3 Environmental aspects

TC 254 takes account of European and national legislation, guidance and latest practices on environmental aspects related to efficiency and emissions (affecting air, ground water, noise etc.) CEN/TC 254 agrees to consider environmental aspects during the preparation and revision of product standards and recommends to include an environmental checklist according to CEN Guide 4 "Guide for addressing environmental issues in product standards" as informative annex to these standards.

The following subjects will be taken into account:

- Regulated Dangerous Substances, according to the work achieved by CEN/TC 351,
- Environmental Performance Declaration, according to the work achieved by CEN/ TC 350,
- Construction Product Regulation, taking into account the basic requirement n°7, sustainable use of natural resources.

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

The completion of the TC 254 work programme is affected by the need to clarify different subjects:

- Uncertainty over the fire regulations in EC Member States relating to roof coverings;
- CENTC 351 'Dangerous Substances'
- Request to the Commission of harmonization of attestation of conformity