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I will start with the background to CE Marking, which is the Construction Products Directive. In 1985 the "New Approach to technical harmonization" was introduced through the European Council (EC) resolution 85/C136/01.

The CPD is one of these "New Approach Directives".

It is not intended to "raise standards" for construction products, but as a device to promote free trade and to remove technical barriers.

CE Marking is not a quality mark

- The CPD was adopted into UK Law as the UK Construction Products Regulations on the 27th December 1991!
- Practically harmonised technical specifications need to be available before CE marking is available for various products.
- At present the UK, Eire and Sweden stop short of making application of the mark compulsory.
- This will change with the modification of the CPD into a EU regulation (2011-13?)

What does the CPD apply to?

- Any product which is produced for incorporation permanently into works. i.e. building, civil engineering, highways etc.
- All construction products that are covered by regulations somewhere in Europe i.e. at least one Essential Requirement (ER) applies to them in their end use. The 6 ER's are:
  1. mechanical resistance and stability
  2. safety in case of fire
  3. hygiene, health and environment
  4. safety in use
  5. protection against noise
  6. energy economy and heat retention

What is a CE Mark?

- The CE mark on a product is a manufacturer's declaration that their product meets the minimum requirements of a harmonised technical specification.
- As these harmonised technical specifications have been produced in line with the Construction products Directive (CPD) it also shows compliance with the CPD and the minimum requirements of EU & EFTA member states.
- It therefore acts as a 'passport' and enables a manufacturer to legally place the product on the construction market in all member states.

**How does QMS differ from product certification?**

- A Quality management system documents a company's existing procedures and ensures they consistently meet them. It may be certified in accordance with ISO9001.

- Product certification looks at the technical properties of the component, element, or system and its end use to show that the product is fit for its intended use.
- It also includes a QMS to ensure the quality of the product is consistently met.

What are the routes to CE marking?

- The only document a manufacturer can CE mark to is called a harmonised technical specification.
- Only two types of harmonised technical specification:
  - Harmonised European standard (hEN) - produced by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)
  - European Technical Approval (ETA) - produced by an ETA Approval Body through EOTA (European Organisation for Technical Approvals).

There are 3 main areas for assessment and certification

- Initial Type Testing (ITT)
  - This provides initial compliance and provides characteristic values
- Factory Production Control (FPC)
  - This proves continued compliance to the technical specification
  - This includes an initial inspection and annual surveillance visits
- On going test programme
  - The minimum requirements will be stated in the technical specification and this will then be incorporated into the FPC manual

What needs doing to permit CE marking?

- The technical specification will give each product an 'Attestation of Conformity' or AoC level
- In simple terms the Attestation of Conformity is basically the "who does what" to allow CE marking
- AoC will dictate who takes responsibility for:
  - initial type testing (ITT)
  - factory production control (FPC) and
  - an on-going test programme

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Why Should a manufacturer CE Mark?

- If a harmonised technical specification exists for a product and the manufacturer sells to all bar 3 member states it is a legal requirement.
- Before the CPD a manufacturer had to satisfy the requirements of EU member states on an individual basis. Now they satisfy them ALL with one product and/or production assessment.
- CE marking is proof a product is fit for its intended end use. If a manufacturer cannot prove this fitness, should they be selling the product?

How can BM TRADA help?

- The BM TRADA Q-Mark is a quality mark for a product, system or kit and shows they have been assessed against specified performance levels through independent accredited testing or appraisal.
- It also shows that every product manufactured will offer the same level of performance as the schemes include an approved quality management system.
- Continuous performance and production are also checked through audit testing and inspections.

Areas of current Q-Mark Schemes

- Engineered Wood Products
  - I beams
  - OSB
  - Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs)
  - Roofing systems
  - Flooring
  - Cladding
- Timber Engineering Hardware
- Timber Balustrades
- Building systems
  - Timber frame
  - Metal frame

Summary

- BM TRADA are a notified body under the CPD
- We can offer CE or Q-Mark for a wide range of construction products.
- CE marking in most member states is a legal requirement.
- Q-Mark is more stringent than CE and adds value.
- For assessment of steel products we have a partnership with SCI.