BUSINESS PLAN
CEN/TC 175
ROUND AND SAWN TIMBER

1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC 175

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 sectors, 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:

All products relevant to CEN/TC 175 are based on forest resources. Forests have an important environmental and social functions in addition to its role as a major raw material source.

The market covered by CEN/TC 175 is:

- round, sawn and processed timber,
- sawn and processed lignified material other than wood

in all uses e.g. joinery, parquet floorings, panellings and claddings, pallets and packaging… but excluding structural aspects, and excluding laminate flooring.

To fulfil the Mandates M 119 (for floorings) and M 121 (for panellings and claddings), CEN/TC 175 aims to finalize supporting standards and harmonised standards in the framework of the Construction Product Directive (CPD) and the Construction Product Regulation (CPR).

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 175:

- Forests cover 157 million ha, about 40% of the total land area in the EU, with more than 16 million forest owners and producers, private and public.
- The total amount of wood is estimated at 24.1 billion m³, which has increased by 4.9 billion m³ over the past 20 years.
- In 2010, more than 405 million m³ of roundwood were produced in the EU-27. Europe’s annual wood consumption is estimated at 160 million tonnes (geographical Europe, excluding the CIS). Of this, 15 million tonnes is recycled every year, an amount which is expected to rise significantly, as legislation will soon prohibit using landfill for waste wood.
- 37 million ha of forest area is under biodiversity protection.
Europe gained 5.1 million ha of forest, and other forest land, since 2005 and 16.9 million ha, since 1990.

The volume of timber in the EU forests is at its highest level since records began. The net annual increment in 2010 was 620 million m$^3$.

Europe’s forests remove annually 430 million tonnes of CO$_2$ from the atmosphere by photosynthesis.

It has been estimated that an annual 4% increase to 2010 in Europe’s wood consumption would sequester an additional 150 million t CO$_2$ per year and that the market value of this environmental service would be about 1.8 billion a year.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC 175

- Removal of technical barriers to trade and open markets throughout Europe
- Using of same grading rules and specifications for round and sawn timber
- Harmonisation of national standards
- Support European legislation, in particular New Approach Directives by developing harmonised standards.

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 175, 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 175

Most of Standards regarding round and sawn timber are available, so the main objectives are:

- To finalize harmonised standards on parquets floorings, claddings and panellings,
- To develop missing standards on processed timbers on wood joinery and stairs areas
- To revise ENs if necessary
- To take into account new products and further development of existing products

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

- Identify the needs from the European market,
- Review status of ENV or TS Specifications to EN
- Ask the deletion of an old Directive on grading of round timber (66/89) which is in contradiction with the European Standardization developing by CEN/TC 175.
- Establish liaison with other relevant CEN/TC to avoid overlapping work

4.3 Environmental aspects

Review of the key environmental issues associated with the scope of the work covered by the CEN/TC 175:

- natural resources coming from sustainable managed forests.
- emissions into air in normal use;
- re-using, recycling or energy recovery at the end of life;
- carbon cycle and CO2 saving;
- regulated dangerous substances

Natural timber does not emit regulated dangerous substances

The environmental aspects are treated notably by “Calculation of sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide” or “Product category rules for wood and wood based products for Environmental Product Declaration”.

It is intended to take into account the impact of the climatic change for every species.

5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC 175 WORK PROGRAMME

- An old Directive 66/89 on grading of round timber is in contradiction with European Standards
- Irregular participation by working group members