

CEN and CENELEC instructions for the fast-track route

1. Background

In 2021, the European Commission (EC) launched the expert group on the [Construction Products Regulation \(CPR\) Technical Acquis process](#), with the aim to establish a permanent advisory structure to review the harmonised technical specifications and legal acts within the current CPR framework and prepare the technical content of new Standardisation Requests to be adopted under the current or the future revised CPR.

The CPR Acquis governance consists of the Steering Group (EC; Member States; optional observers and EC consultants), which represents the coordination level, and 34 sub-groups (SG) corresponding to the construction product families (+ 1 horizontal sub-group on environmental sustainability), made up of technical experts appointed by the Member States, industry and stakeholders.

The **34 product families** have been prioritized, as presented in Annex 1, based on feedback received from EU Member States on 8 criteria, with the most important criterion to be related to the “Member States’ regulatory needs”.

The task of each product family SG is to prepare technical input that will be included in the Annexes of upcoming draft standardization requests (SReq) for construction products. Following the validation of the SG work by the CPR Acquis Steering Group, the EC will prepare draft SReq(s) that will be submitted to CEN or CENELEC for comments (further guidance on SReq development is available on [BOSS](#))

2. CPR Acquis: “normal” route and “fast-track” route

2.1 CPR Acquis “normal” route

Under the CPR Acquis “normal” route, the EC is responsible for establishing the SGs and coordinating the work. The EC carries out all the administrative and technical work, i.e., send the call to participate in the SGs, organise and manage the SG meetings, compile circulate and process the comments of the experts. CEN or CENELEC will be invited to nominate experts to participate in the SGs. CCMC will forward the EC invitation to the relevant Technical Committee(s) (TC) who can appoint experts (usually TC leadership + convenors).

Based on the EC resources and capacity, it is anticipated that a maximum of 4 SGs will be running in parallel by the EC and each SG is expected to deliver all milestones within 15 months. SGs will be initiated based on the CPR Acquis product family priority list (Annex 1).

This means it will take many years until the last SGs (corresponding to the lowest priorities identified) will be invited to provide input that will be used for the respective draft SReq. Consequently, the EC has proposed an alternative route for those SGs with lower priority to speed up the CPR Acquis process to support the preparation of draft SReq by the EC: **the fast-track route**.

2.2 CPR Acquis: “fast-track” route

Based on the assumption that the regulatory interest of the Member States is not high, under the CPR Acquis “fast-track route, the relevant TC will replace the corresponding SG of the CPR Acquis and be responsible for conducting the technical work, including organising and coordinating the work without the EC lead and coordination. However, the Steering Group of the CPR Acquis will provide comments and will remain responsible for supervising the works and approving the final milestones produced by the Technical Committee.

During the Steering Group meeting on 2023-02-15, the EC presented the “fast track route”, **applicability conditions** and the **set of product areas for which this route can be undertaken**.

The list of product families for which the fast-track route can be applied is presented in Annex 2, these product families have been identified as the ones for which the regulatory interest of the Member States is moderate or even negligible.

The TC(s) proposing to use the fast-track route is the one that would be competent in the regular CPR Acquis process. In addition, it shall respect the following principles:

- I. the TC delivers the work in line with the milestones I and III of the CPR Acquis within a defined timeframe;
- II. the TC follows the CPR Acquis guidance and templates prepared by the EC;
- III. the TC delivers, via CCMC, outcomes of Milestone I and III for submission to the EC for consultation with the Steering group;
 - a. **Case A**: If the TC is interested in renewing the whole scope of the mandate without extending its scope, CCMC provides the outcome of Milestone I and III to the Steering Group for consultation → Recommended
 - b. **Case B**: If the TC is interested in renewing only part of the old mandate or in extending the scope of the old mandate, a two-step approach must be followed: CCMC provides the outcome of Milestone I to the Steering Group for approval and if the feedback is positive at a later stage, CCMC provides the outcome of Milestone III to the Steering Group for consultation.
- IV. the TC outcome shall be drafted based on the following CPR Acquis milestones and by utilizing templates provided by EC:
 - a. definition of the scope of the product areas (products, forms, material intended uses etc);
 - b. prepare the content of the high-level structure of harmonized technical specifications;
 - c. basic requirements for construction works and their essential characteristics, including the identification of assessment methods, thresholds and classes of performance;
 - d. identification of requirements related to the product including inherent requirements and information requirements, in particular when included in previous hENs and are not performance based (if no requirements are identified , template not to be filled).
- V. the TC(s) includes release of dangerous substances and environmental sustainability;
- VI. the TC(s) shall consider EC’s observations and any other request or comments that might result from the consultations with the Steering Group and the other SGs of the CPR Acquis.

Note 1: Milestone II and IV are not applicable under the fast track route, as they are related to EC organization.

Note 2: For environmental sustainability, the TC(s) shall include the environmental impact categories/indicators as defined in EN 15804 as established by CEN/TC 350. During the fast-track route work, the TC(s) shall consider the development/revision of Product Category Rules (PCRs), which will be used as the assessment method for the environmental sustainability essential characteristics. Additional provision based on the thematic subgroup on environmental sustainability shall be taken into account.

Note 3: For release of dangerous substances, the TC(s) shall take into consideration the horizontal methods established by CEN/TC 351.

Technical Committees can propose to use the fast-track route for the product families presented in Annex 2. If a product family (i.e., mandate) is covered by more than one TC, the TCs, with the support of CCMC, shall collaborate to ensure that they can deliver an outcome to be included in the respective draft SReq for the whole product family.

TCs shall express their interest to use the fast-track route to CCMC. A detailed timeframe with concrete deadlines for each step involved in delivering the input shall be prepared by the TC. The overall recommended timeframe is approximately 12 months and TCs are responsible for the:

- overall coordination for the collection of the inputs for each milestone, especially when more TCs are involved in the same priority product family, with support of CCMC when needed;
- practical organization of the work, including scheduling meetings and drafting documents.

If any delays occur during the work the CCMC PM shall be informed.

During the input collection, the EC consultant will support the development of the outcomes of each milestone. The EC will verify the outcomes before presenting them at the Steering Group. TCs shall contact the CCMC PM to discuss any difficulties or uncertainties.

3. Fast-track route: simplified instructions for TCs

TCs shall follow the steps in the Table below when following the fast-track process. The description of Case 1 and Case 2 is presented in section 2.2.

Fast-track instructions		
	Case A (Recommended)	Case B
1	TC(s) submit a request to CCMC, who will present it to the EC. The request will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) TCs to be involved (if more than one) based on the product family; (b) A time schedule that includes defined deadlines for relevant steps involved in delivering Milestones I and III; (c) Information on whether the TC is interested in renewing the whole scope of the mandate without extending its scope (Case A) or if the TC is interested in renewing only part of the old mandate or in extending the scope of the old mandate (Case B) and justification for the choice. 	
2	TCs are advised to create a dedicated folder for the fast-track in CEN documents and assess the need to create a working/ad-hoc group to coordinate and organise inputs;	
3	TCs to assess the need to develop/revise a Product Category Rules (PCRs) based on EN 15804 and contact CEN/TC 350 to inform about the standards of concern. They shall liaise with CEN/TC 350 to apply the workflow and templates of CEN/TC 350 when developing complementary PCRs and to ensure alignment with EN 15804;	
4	TCs shall use the input collection template which will be provided by the CCMC PM. The following input shall be collected: Input for Milestone I* : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify products to be covered, as well as forms and materials if needed, including products covered by European Assessment Documents; • specify the intended uses; Input for Milestone III** : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • list of essential characteristics**. It is advised to consult the original mandate and cited standards as a first indication, however, 	TCs shall use the input collection template which will be provided by the CCMC PM. The following input shall be collected: Input for Milestone I* : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify products to be covered, as well as forms and materials if needed, including products covered by European Assessment Documents; • specify the intended uses; <i>*Note: TCs to assess the existing regulatory provisions by Member States (Product contact points- link).</i> It is advisable that TCs schedule regular meetings to ensure consistency and progress.

	<p>TCs can include and/or exclude essential characteristics as appropriate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the assessment method per essential characteristic. Ensure that the assessment methods are compliant with CPR and assess the need for revisions; • identification of way to declare performance of construction products in relation to each essential characteristic. Identification of classes/threshold of performance. • identify the requirements related to the product including inherent requirements and information requirements. In particular when included in previous hENs and are not performance based (if no requirements are identified , template not to be filled). <p><i>*Note: TCs to assess the existing regulatory provisions by Member States (Product contact points- link).</i></p> <p><i>**Note: TCs to consider Member states regulatory needs, environmental sustainability and dangerous substances.</i></p> <p>It is advisable that TCs schedule regular meetings to ensure consistency and progress. CCMC PM should be informed in writing for any delays and should be invited to meetings;</p>	<p>CCMC PM should be informed in writing for any delays and should be invited to meetings;</p>
5	<p>Upon the finalization of Milestone I and III input, TCs shall launch a TC consultation by CIB to seek consensus. Any comments received shall be discussed and be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>Upon the finalization of Milestone I input, TCs shall ensure TC agreement. Any comments raised during drafting shall be discussed and be taken into consideration.</p>
6	<p>The outcome of Milestone I and III shall be forwarded to CCMC PM for circulation to the EC. The CPR Acquis steering group shall assess and validate the provided input, in case there are objections TCs will be informed and discuss the next step.</p>	<p>The outcome of Milestone I shall be forwarded to CCMC PM for circulation to the EC. The CPR Acquis steering group shall assess and validate the provided input, in case there are objections TCs will be informed and discuss the next step.</p>
7		<p>Upon the Steering group validation, TCs shall use the input collection template which will be provided by the CCMC PM. The following input shall be collected;</p> <p>Input for Milestone III**:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • list of essential characteristics**. It is advised to consult the original mandate and cited standards as a first indication, however, TCs can include and/or exclude essential characteristics as appropriate;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the assessment method per essential characteristic. Ensure that the assessment methods are compliant with CPR and assess the need for revisions; • identification of way to declare performance of construction products in relation to each essential characteristic. Identification of classes/threshold of performance. • identify the requirements related to the product including inherent requirements and information requirements. In particular when included in previous hENs and are not performance based (if no requirements are identified , template not to be filled). <p><i>**Note: TCs to consider Member states regulatory needs, environmental sustainability and dangerous substances.</i></p> <p>It is advisable that TCs schedule regular meetings to ensure consistency and progress. CCMC PM should be informed in writing for any delays and should be invited to meetings;</p>
8		<p>Upon the finalization of Milestone III input, TCs shall launch a TC consultation by CIB to seek consensus. Any comments received shall be discussed and be taken into consideration.</p>
9		<p>The outcome of Milestone III shall be forwarded to CCMC PM for circulation to the EC. The CPR Acquis steering group shall assess and validate the provided input, in case there are objections TCs will be informed and discuss the next step.</p>

Annex 1

CPR Acquis - Product families and priorities

Rank	Product families	weighted points	share
1	M100 Precast concrete	47.28	6.85%
2	M120 Structural metallic	44.39	6.43%
3	M115 Reinforcing steel	40.67	5.89%
4	M101 Doors, windows	40.41	5.86%
5	M114 Cement	36.78	5.33%
6	M103 Thermal insulating	31.93	4.63%
7	M112 Structural timber	31.71	4.60%
8	M128 Concrete, mortar &	30.95	4.49%
9	M116 Masonry	28.88	4.19%
10	M125 Aggregates	25.88	3.75%
11	M109 Fixed fire fighting	22.61	3.28%
12	M124 Road construction	22.58	3.27%
13	M119 Floorings	22.55	3.27%
14	M489 ETICS	18.43	2.67%
15	M108 Curtain walling	18.10	2.62%
16	M113 Wood based panels	17.81	2.58%
17	M104 Structural bearings	15.99	2.32%
18	Kits and assembled products	15.75	2.28%
19	M121 Wall and ceiling finishes	14.95	2.17%
20	M129 Space heating	14.43	2.09%
21	M122 Roof coverings	13.65	1.98%
22	M111 Circulation fixtures	13.40	1.94%
23	M118 Waste water disposal	12.70	1.84%
24	M127 Adhesive	12.50	1.81%
25	M106 Gypsum	12.01	1.74%
26	Anchors and fasteners	11.77	1.71%
27	M102 Membranes	11.44	1.66%
28	M135 Glass	11.42	1.65%
29	M107 Geotextiles	10.15	1.47%
30	M110 Sanitary appliances	9.41	1.36%
31	M131 Pipes, tanks not in	9.01	1.31%
32	M443 power, control and	8.98	1.30%
33	M105 Chimney	7.55	1.09%
34	M474 Sealants for non-	3.90	0.57%
	TOT points	689.97	

Annex 2

List of product families for which the fast-track route can be considered

Rank	Product families	weighted points – all 8 criteria
11	M109 Fixed fire fighting equipment	22.61
15	M108 Curtain walling	18.10
16	M113 Wood based panels	17.81
17	M104 Structural bearings	15.99
18	Kits and assembled products of the families above	15.75
19	M121 Wall and ceiling finishes	14.95
20	M129 Space heating appliances	14.43
21	M122 Roof coverings	13.65
22	M111 Circulation fixtures	13.40
23	M118 Waste water disposal	12.70
24	M127 Adhesive	12.50
25	M106 Gypsum	12.01
26	Anchors and fasteners	11.77
27	M102 Membranes	11.44
28	M135 Glass	11.42
29	M107 Geotextiles	10.15
30	M110 Sanitary appliances	9.41
31	M131 Pipes, tanks not in contact with DW	9.01
32	M443 power, control and communication cables	8.98
33	M105 Chimney	7.55
34	M474 Sealants for non-structural use in joints in buildings and pedestrian walkways	3.90