

Product Certification - Jargon Explained

There are two main areas of product certification: Technical Performance and Environmental Performance. The two areas of certification are entirely separate and this section attempts to explain the difference.

Certification of Technical Performance

CE2+	A claim that all the tests required by the CPD for structural use have been carried out. It normally results from Attestation System 2+, in which a Notified Body is required to carry out the initial mechanical performance testing and thereafter continuously audit the manufacturer's Factory Process Control to ensure continuity.
CE4	A claim that all the tests required by the CPD for non-structural use have been carried out. It normally results from Attestation System 4, in which NO involvement of a Notified Body is required.
CE Mark	A mark, specified by the CPD, that a manufacturer places on the product or its packaging to signify that the product is fit for its intended use or specified range of uses (subject to proper design and building practice) and thus enables the construction to satisfy the relevant essential requirements of the CPD. It is a passport to the European Market, not a quality mark.
Certification	In the context of wood-based panel products, a process involving a third party with the authority to attest that performance claims for the products are true.
CPD	Construction Products Directive is a European legal framework, regulating the fitness for purpose of building products in terms of their technical performance and setting "essential requirements" for the buildings made from them, effective in all European Member States.
CPD Compliant	A term to describe a product for which the manufacturer has carried out all the performance tests required by the CPD for a particular end use and in the specified manner.
EN 13501-1	The harmonised European Standard in which different levels of reaction to fire are classified.
EN 13986	A harmonised European Standard that implements the CPD for wood panels by indexing individual European product Standards to which a manufacturer might need to refer. It also describes different systems of attestation which will, for a particular end use, define the extent to which a Notified Body is required to be involved in certifying that the performance claims are true.
Euroclass B	When specified from EN 13501-1, the highest level of reaction to fire performance of which wood based-panels (normally impregnated with special chemicals) are capable.
Euroclass C	When specified from EN 13501-1, an intermediate level of reaction to fire performance of which wood based-panels (normally impregnated with special chemicals) are capable.
Eurocode 5	A standardised European structural design framework that defines a set of rules for manufacturers to follow in establishing their product as a panel suitable for structural use.
European Standard	A standard method, applicable throughout Europe, that classifies, specifies or measures the performance of building products and supersedes national standards in European member states that have the same scope but conflict with it.
Fire Resistance	A measure of the ability of a product, when part of a complete structure, to prevent the passage of fire from one area of a building to another for a specified time. Normally measured in units of half an hour. Do not confuse with Reaction to Fire.
Harmonised Standard	A principal European standard, made by CEN in accordance with a mandate from the European Commission, consolidating the harmonised European standard requirements of a defined building product or group of building products. In the case of wood based panels, the Harmonised Standard is EN 13986.
Non-structural Use	Use in a building other than for structural use.
Notified Body	A testing laboratory / auditing company that has been scrutinised by UKAS, the UK Accreditation Service, and found competent to attest to product performance claims under the CPD on behalf of the European Commission, and notified under Commission procedures for that purpose.
Permanent Installation	A situation where a CPD compliant product is incorporated into a construction project with the intention that it should remain in service for the anticipated life of the building.
Product Certification	In the context of wood-based panel products, a process of attestation by a third party, having the authority to certify that performance claims for the products are true.
Reaction to Fire	A measure of fire propagation exhibited by a product when attacked by fire. The testing process measures heat generation, smoke output and burning droplets. Do not confuse with Fire Resistance.
Regulated Building Work	Building work in which the selection of the level of performance required of a product and the manner in which it is installed is governed by the Building Regulations (England and Wales) or the Building Standard (Scotland).
Structural Use	Use in a building for any load bearing application, eg for floor decking, roof deck, sarking or wall sheathing.
System of Attestation	A measure of the extent to which a Notified Body must be involved, or alternatively need not be involved (according to circumstances as defined in the CPD).
Technical Performance	Physical & mechanical properties of the product enabling it to perform its day to day function. This includes 'ultimate function' in respect of performance in fire.
The Building Regulations	A complex set of rules, enforced by the Building Control service, governing the selection of materials and the standard of workmanship in the construction of buildings in England & Wales.
The Building Standard	Similar to Building Regulations but applicable in Scotland.

Certification of Environmental Performance

Chain of Custody (COC)	A system of product tracking procedures, implemented by a business to ensure continuous identification throughout the period of ownership. The procedures are normally to a recognised standard, audited by a third party accredited for the purpose.
C.S.A.	Canadian Standards Association, in the context of sustainable forestry, is an endorsed member of the P.E.F.C.
Environmental Performance	A measure of the socio-ecological impact of producing and using a product.
F.S.C.	Forest Stewardship Council, a charity set up to develop standards and set criteria for the objective measurement of good forest management in terms of legal harvesting and responsible forest management.
Legally Harvested	A claim that the person extracting logs from a forest either owns it or has acquired the legal right to extract them from the owner.
P.E.F.C.	Programme of Endorsement for Forest Certification Schemes, an association of national forest certification schemes. The measurement criteria for each scheme must meet or exceed the minimum standards for legal harvesting and sustainable forest management set down by the P.E.F.C. to receive "endorsed membership".
S.F.I.	Sustainable Forestry Initiative, in the context of sustainable forestry, is an endorsed member of the P.E.F.C. operating in the United States of America.
"Tick-Tree" Logo	The registered trademark of the F.S.C. applied to wood products and documents by businesses licensed to do so. The logo indicates that a product contains wood from an F.S.C. certified (well managed) forest.
Well Managed Forest	Forest managed to ensure long term, viably commercial and legal operation without degrading the local ecology in the process.