

Key points

- A construction product cannot be CE marked until a DoP has been produced
- The DoP format should comply with the format set out in the CPR (Annex III amended)
- The relevant harmonised specification (hEN or ETAG) lists essential characteristics of the product
- The DoP lists important technical performances of the essential characteristics
- The DoP is in effect a legal declaration by the manufacturer that the product complies with the essential characteristics stated in the DoP
- DoPs can be generic and can be on a website (for at least 10 years after product is placed on the market)
- A paper DoP should be available on request
- For structural timber the DoP should have a unique code linking reference which links it to the CE mark in the accompanying documentation

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Structural Timber - Declaration of Performance

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Introduction

This information sheet discusses requirements relating to Declaration of Performance (DoP) documentation which must accompany any construction product which is CE marked. This includes solid structural timber products with a rectangular cross section such as joists, roofing timbers and wall studs. Its purpose is to ensure that manufacturers, specifiers, designers, builders and users understand what these requirements are.

Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and DoPs

The Construction Products Regulation requires construction products to have a DoP and be CE marked where the product has a harmonised European standard (hEN) or a European Technical Assessment (ETA). The following are the main harmonised European standards relating to timber and timber products:

- EN 14080:2013 - glued laminated and glued solid timber
- EN 14081-1:2016 "Timber structures — Strength graded structural timber with rectangular cross section — Part 1: General requirements"*
- EN 14250:2005+A1:2011 - prefabricated roof trusses using punched metal plates
- EN 14374:2004 - laminated veneer lumber
- EN 15497:2014 - structural finger jointed solid timber
- EN 14229:2010 - wood poles for overhead lines
- EN 14592:2008+A1:2012 - dowel type fasteners
- EN 13986:2004 - wood based panels or boards
- EN 14545:2008 - timber connectors

Note. The European standard on strength graded structural timber EN 14081-1:2016 was recently revised and was published in February 2016.

An up-to-date list of harmonized standards can be found at the European Commission's Enterprise and Industry website; ec.europa.eu.

A product such as a roof truss may be fabricated from components which each have their own harmonised standards or specifications; the product manufacturer must prepare a DoP and apply the CE mark in accordance with the relevant harmonised specification for the fabricated product (e.g. I.S. EN 14250 for roof trusses). In this regard the manufacturer is taking responsibility for the components used in fabrication and should insure that they have appropriate DoP, CE marking and accompanying information and that they are suitable for their end use. This information should be retained by the manufacturer as part of the factory production control system records.

Note. The manufacturer is solely responsible for the DoP and CE marking and is also liable in law for compliance with the Construction Products Regulation (CPR). Where a distributor or similar takes actions that affect conformity with the DoP then the obligations of a manufacturer apply to that distributor; this also applies they market the product under their own name.

Declaration of Performance (DOP)

The DoP must follow the model in the CPR (Annex III, amended February 2014).

For timber the DoP should contain:

- the unique identification code of the product-type for which DoP has been drawn up
- the intended use or uses for the construction product, in accordance with the applicable harmonised technical specification (I.S.EN 14081-1)
- the name, the registered trade name or registered trade mark and the contact address of the manufacturer
- the name and the contact address of the authorised representative, if relevant
- the number of the applicable AVCP system or systems of the construction product, as set out in Annex V of the CPR
- the reference number of the harmonised standard and its date of issue (I.S.EN 14081-1:2016) and the identification number of the notified body
- the *list* of essential characteristics as determined in the harmonised technical specification for the declared intended use or uses
- for *each* essential characteristic, the declared performance, by level or class, or in a description, in relation to this characteristic or, for characteristics for which no performance is declared, the letters “NPD” (No Performance Determined). This may be filled up with the use of a table which links the harmonised technical specifications and the systems of assessment and verification of constancy of performance (AVCP) applied respectively to each essential characteristic of the product, as well as the performance in relation to each essential characteristic
- If relevant, appropriate Technical Documentation and/or Specific Technical Documentation has been used in order to indicate the requirements with which the product complies. In such a case, the DoP shall indicate:
 - the reference number of the Specific and/or Appropriate Technical Documentation used
 - the requirements with which the product complies.

The DoP should have a unique reference (usually a code or number) so that it can be referenced/linked to accompanying documentation (including the CE marking). This reference can apply to generic trusses rather than specific individual trusses.

An example of what a DoP is shown below (the associated comments would not be part of the DoP).

DECLARATION OF PERFORMANCE		
DoP No 16/B/00		Unique DoP number
DoP Item	Performance or level example	Comment
1. The unique identification code of the product type:	Strength graded structural timber with rectangular cross section	<i>This is a manufacturers' code identifying individual or a group of product.</i>
2. The intended use/s:	Buildings and bridges	<i>The intended use; a specific use (e.g. studding) could be stated</i>
3. The manufacturers name, registered trade name/ trade mark and contact address	Any Timber Company Ltd Newtown, Ireland	<i>This is to enable the manufacturer to be identified</i>
4. The authorised representative (if appropriate)	Not appropriate	<i>The name and contact details of authorised representatives would be entered here if appropriate</i>
5. System/s of AVCP	2+	<i>EN 14081-1 is applicable only to an AVCP of 2+.</i>
6. (a) Harmonised standard	EN 14081-1:2016	<i>The harmonised standard and year</i>
(b) Notified body	TimberCert NB xxxx	<i>The name or number of the Notified body</i>
7. Declared performance/s		
Mechanical resistance:		
Bending strength	Minimum C16 to EN 338.	<i>The term mechanical resistance is used in EN 14081-1 and other standards. Strength class is the most common way of declaring the timber's design properties.</i>
Compressive strength		
Tensile strength		
Shear strength		
Modulus of elasticity (mean)		
Fire resistance	Species group WPCS Declared by strength class above	Related to species and characteristic density
Reaction to fire	D-s2,d0 CWFT	<i>Timber classified without further testing</i>
Durability	Durability class 5 according to EN 350-2	<i>The timber is untreated and most softwood timbers are not durable. If treated other information is required on the preservative treatment used</i>
Release of dangerous substances	NPD	<i>No performance determined</i>
8. Appropriate Technical Document and/or Specific Technical Documentation		<i>This would be more appropriate where there is an ETD or where technical documentation has been used. This would usually be rare for solid timber.</i>
Name, Signature, date, location		This is filled in by the responsible person on behalf of the manufacturer

The performance of every essential characteristic does not need to be declared e.g. where there is no regulatory requirement for a particular characteristic; in such cases 'NPD' may be used representing No Performance Declared. However, at least one essential characteristic needs to be declared.

The information relating to the essential characteristics (7 above) in CE marking should be the same as in the DoP; there should be no difference in the declarations. The CE mark and accompanying information may have additional information e.g. if the timber was visually graded in Ireland, the grade and the grading standard (I.S. 127) would be given.

Some DoPs give additional information to the above and may not follow the exact format laid out in the CPR; the above follows the CPR format but is only an example. The timber producer (manufacturer) should provide their own DoP; additional information may be contained in the accompanying documentation which will include the full CE mark.

The DoP should have a unique number which should provide a link between the timber and accompanying documentation. The CE mark should reference the DoP and the unique number (e.g. the number used in the DoP 16/B/00 in the example above) is one means of doing this.

This information sheet is for general guidance only and is based on information available at the time of writing; users should ensure that it is relevant to their specific circumstance. It may be advisable in certain cases to engage professional advice. While every effort has been made to ensure the information provided is accurate, WTI or the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine do not accept any responsibility or liability for errors of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, nor for the consequences of any decisions based on this information. Standards, regulations and information are subject to changes which may not be reflected in this information sheet.