



WOOD TECHNOLOGY IRELAND

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NEW WOOD TECHNOLOGY BODY

Wood Technology Ireland (WTI) has been established to provide the Irish timber, construction industry, architects, engineers and specifiers with technical advice and information to facilitate compliance with standard specifications, the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and also with the requirements of the Irish building regulations. WTI can liaise with government, industry and technical bodies for the benefit of Irish companies and timber users.

WTI is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine through Forest Sector Development/COFORD Division.

Mission Statement and aims

Wood Technology Ireland aims to provide independent technical information and advice on design, manufacture, specification and use of wood and timber products for the benefit of the Irish timber and construction industry and for consumers. The areas covered include structural timber and timber products used in building, timber frame construction, joinery products, panel products, flooring, cladding, fencing, decking, wood preservation and protection and a wide range of other timber and wood products used in buildings. WTI will aim to;

- Promote the correct use of timber and wood products through specifications based on National, European and International Standards.
- Enable increased use of wood and timber products, including Irish timber products, through the provision of technical information and advice.

- Assist Irish based companies, timber users and specifiers by providing technical information on timber and timber products.
- Facilitate access to a wide range of technical advice in Ireland, the UK and Europe.
- Participate in the NSAI standards development programme at National and European level and to form a link between the standards work and industry.
- Provide assistance and advice to Irish companies on CE marking and compliance with the CPR.
- Provide and organise training courses for the timber and construction industry

Technical advice and support

The need for an Irish based body to provide technical advice specific to the requirements of the Irish timber and construction industry has become particularly acute since the implementation of the Eurocodes and the CPR. While UK and other external based technical bodies have long been regarded as valuable sources of information, significant differences now exist between Irish and UK based information relating to legal compliance with the CPR and with Irish Building Regulations; in addition Ireland has a greater requirement in terms of certification than the UK and other member states of the EU. Compliance with the CPR is now a mandatory legal requirement and WTI aims to provide advice to suppliers of timber, joinery and wood products on what they need to do to comply with these new regulations.

Products of questionable quality have appeared on the Irish market and in some cases have given problems when they have been incorporated into buildings and have led to expensive remedial work. WTI can provide clarification on requirements for timber and timber products and can help deal with any resulting issues.

The primary areas of technical services and support include;

- Technical advice relating to timber products, CE marking and the Construction Products Regulations
- Technical advice and information on specifications and standards
- The production of Wood Information Sheets
- Identification of training needs and training providers
- Information on testing of timber, wood products and board materials
- Technical queries in general
- A website to communicate information and to provide a forum for technical enquiries
- Liaison with government departments, public, trade and professional bodies
- Provision of timber technical advice to trade and professional organisations including HomeBond
- Provision of technical advice/inspection services to Local Authorities
- Liaison with other technical organizations such as Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), the Structural Timber Association, British Woodworking Federation, Wood Protection Association and other technical and trade bodies.
- Where consultation / inspection and reports are required on specific projects these services may be subject to professional fees to be agreed with the consultant concerned.

Technical advice is normally provided free-of-charge for queries that can be dealt with quickly or in a short period of time. Queries that entail longer periods may be subject to a fee or can be

referred, subject to agreement from the enquirer, to professional experts with fees to be agreed.

Training

WTI can assist in developing training courses in accordance with the identified needs of the Irish timber and construction industry.

Training should provide a career path for participants and WTI will work with industry to provide this.



Standards and specifications

WTI will support and have an active role in the Standards development programme of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) and will liaise with Irish industry in relation to relevant developments in these standards. WTI will also communicate relevant issues to the timber and construction industry and provide a feed-back forum for the industry.

Specific Projects

WTI can if required provide specific reports or advice to Government bodies or other public bodies. It can identify areas where it believes research and investigations may be of benefit to the timber industry and users.



WTI Structure

WTI is structured as follows:

- A. A consultative panel under COFORD the National Council for Forest Research and Development representing the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the timber and construction industry and the professional bodies.
- B. A panel of advisory technical consultants comprising engineers, architects, surveyors, timber technologists and other technical specialists.

Third level educational institutions

WTI will be working closely with third level colleges for the benefit of the Irish timber and construction industry. There are a number of timber programmes in colleges e.g. a new Irish Timber Information Centre (ITIC) based in the National University of Ireland Galway and the Timber Training Initiative in the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT).

CEN Committees

Ireland is represented on a number of timber related European standards committees (CEN) including:

TC25 "Structural Eurocodes" there are a number of working groups dealing with the revision of Eurocode 5 (EN 1995-1-1 deals with general design, EN 1995-1-2 with fire design and EN 1995-2 with bridges)

TC 124 "Timber Structures" there are a number of working groups dealing with solid timber, glulam and connectors.

National representatives report back to NSAI's main timber standards committee WG2.

It is intended that WTI will have a role in informing and distributing to industry these reports and the general work carried out by the CEN committees.



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