



Brussels, 11 December 2020

Recommendation on the use of a numbering system for the essential characteristics in EN 15651 within CE marking

FEICA, the Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry, is a multinational association representing the European adhesive and sealant industry. Today's membership stands at 15 National Association Members, 25 Direct Company Members and 19 Affiliate Company Members. The European market for adhesives and sealants is currently worth more than 17 billion euros. With the support of its national associations and several direct and affiliated members, FEICA coordinates, represents and advocates the common interests of our industry throughout Europe. In this regard, FEICA works with all relevant stakeholders to create a mutually beneficial economic and legislative environment.

Background

As part of the ongoing revision of the EN 15651 series of standards, the manufacturers of joint sealants have tried to introduce a numbering system (language-independent) for the 'essential characteristics'. The aim of this initiative is to enable a complete and correct CE marking on small packaging (e.g., cartridges, tubular bags, etc.).

Such a proposal was submitted to the responsible European CEN Technical Committee in 2018 (CEN/TC 349). After acceptance by the relevant WG of CEN/TC 349, this proposal has already been integrated into the latest Working Draft (WD) EN 15651-1: 2019.


In the meantime, the industry has realised that the planned amendment of EN 15651 will most probably not be legally introduced in the foreseeable future through citation in the OJEU. The reason for this is that the European Commission has blocked nearly all EN standards submitted for citation in the OJEU and does not implement them because of formal contradictions to the CPR. This has brought the European standardisation activities almost to a standstill. Furthermore, the European Commission has announced that it will now concentrate on the upcoming revision of the CPR and will no longer work on solving the CEN-problems under the current CPR.

Recommendation

Against this background, FEICA has taken the initiative to define and to introduce an appropriate numbering system for the essential characteristics part of EN 15651. If there is not enough space on the packaging of the joint sealant to address the essential characteristics by complete wording, the numbering specified in the Appendix could be used for the CE marking. The use of the proposed numbering (see Annex) makes it possible to apply a language-independent and complete CE marking with low space consumption which can be affixed on most of the small sealant packages. The uncoded information about the performance of the sealant according EN 15651 can be found

in the Declaration of Performance (DoP). In the DoP the essential characteristics are named instead of the number coding.

According to this recommendation the CE marking on a sealant cartridge would look like the following example:

 01234 AnyCo Ltd, PO Box 21, B-1050, Brussels, Belgium 15 DoP-00001 Easy seal EN 15651-1:2012 F-INT 11: E, 13: ≤ 5 mm, 14: ≤ 45 %, 115: ≥ 25 %, 19: ≥ 25 % www.anyco.eu/dop	<p><i>"CE"-symbol</i></p> <p><i>Identification number of the notified test laboratory</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Name and the registered address of the manufacturer, or identifying mark</i> <i>Last two digits of the year in which the marking was first affixed</i> <i>Reference number of the DOP</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Unique identification code of the product-type</i> <i>No. of European standard applied, as referenced in OJEU</i></p> <p><i>Intended use</i></p> <p><i>Essential characteristics (using numbering system)</i></p> <p><i>Website hosting the DoP (if relevant)</i></p>
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Annex

Table Overview of abbreviations for intended uses and numbering for essential characteristics in EN 15651 in detail.

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