

The CE marking in the dimension stone sector: difficulties, contradictions, possible solutions

Piero Primavori

PSC - PRIMAVORI STONE CONSULTING, Milano, Italy (pieprima@gmail.com)

In accordance with the requirements of the CPR 305/11, no stone products (covered by harmonized standards) can be introduced in the EU market, irrespective of their country of origin, unless they are supported with a Declaration of Performance (DoP) and CE certificate (= CE Marking).

The CE marking became compulsory for all stone and marble products as early as 2003, under the legal framework of the CPD 89/106/CE, the EU Directive which, on July 1st, 2013, has been officially replaced by the CPR 305/11.

The CE Marking of construction products has been described as one of the most significant change being faced by the construction industry for a decade.

Nevertheless, after thirteen years from the introduction of the first products standard, serious difficulties for the CE Marking application still exist.

The aim of this contribution is to draw the attention on the effective meaningfulness, applicability and reliability of the CE Marking, on the related aspects for the economic operators (manufacturers, authorized representatives, importers, distributors etc.) and, most of all, for the customers.

The following topics and issues are dealt with:

- Criteria of the mandatory tests;
- Criteria for testing procedures (meaningfulness/reliability/frequency of the TT);
- Non-applicability of the testing methods in particular circumstances;
- Economic aspects for the companies;
- Interpretation of the FPC philosophy;
- Formulation of the finished products standards;
- Traceability criteria of the stone material;
- Threshold-values for the acceptance of a stone material;
- Guarantees for the manufacturers and for the customers;
- Effective precision and reliability of the DoP and related consequences for manufacturers and customers.