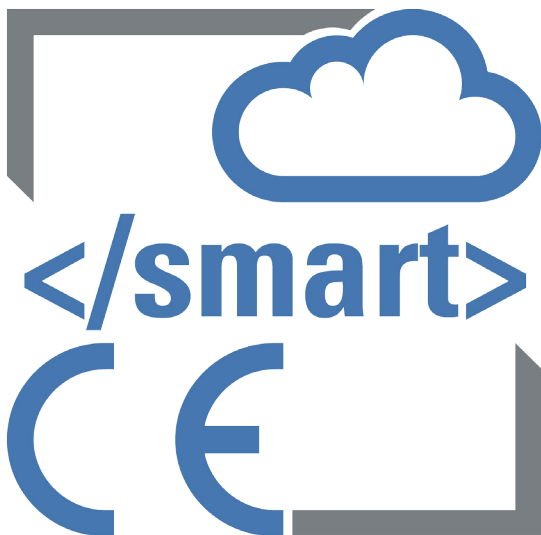




One Big Step Closer to Reducing Burden and Increasing Benefits

More than 10 years of persistent efforts towards the digitalization of harmonized product information, the construction product industry is one big step closer to achieving this important goal.

Throughout the last year, **Construction Products Europe (CPE)** ran a **pilot project together with three of its European sector organisations** (ECSPA, FEICA and TBE), to investigate in detail the feasibility of digitalising the information contained in the Declarations of Performances according to 5 different product standards. Right from the start **CPE chose an open and inclusive approach**, inviting BIM experts to join the competent construction product experts in CPE's Task Group "Digitalisation" for a ride on what **turned out to be a valuable learning curve and experience for all involved parties.**



As a **starting point**, CPE's Technical Manager Oscar Nieto proposed a **lean and simple XML format which predominantly satisfied the regulatory obligations of the CPR.** By listening to and learning from each other as well as with a willingness to compromise, the experts then improved and adapted the format in several development steps. **Finally, a format was presented which not only helps reducing the burden and increasing the benefits of the CE Marking of construction products but is also believed to be compatible with BIM. We call it the Smart CE Marking format.**

But what exactly is Smart CE marking?

Smart CE marking is the link between the physical product and the DoP. It is the **access** to this extensive and valuable

information which is provided in a harmonised digital format. This does **not** require a **data base** and the **link to the information needs to be taken (e.g. scanned) from a physical product.**

This and the answers to [a few other FAQs](#) summarise in a nutshell the reasons to support Smart CE Marking. To learn more about Smart CE marking, we also recommend the [CPE video and information on the Smart CE Marking concept](#).

For Smart CE Marking to be broadly used by manufacturers across all sectors and thus to make it the new standard for CE Marking, **product standards need to** be amended and inter alia **make reference to a document describing and defining the common format**. Such a reference document needs a broader support from experts beyond CPE circles and could be a European standard. However, the drafting process for standards takes years, while the next set of extensive information, on the release of dangerous substances, is very soon to come. Therefore, **CPE discussed with CEN management other alternatives and jointly agreed, that the fastest way forward is a so-called CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA)**, which one day, could result in a standard. Yet, a CWA is the result of one or more workshops and allows delivering the badly needed reference document within few months, rather than years.

With a highly appreciated top-level support from CEN and strong commitment on both sides, CEN and CPE took all procedural measures and coped with intermediate obstacles along that way within the shortest possible time. Finally, a few days ago **CEN officially announced the first meeting of the CEN/WS 'Smart CE marking'**. This kick-off meeting **will be held on 8 December 2017 in Brussels and is open to all**



interested stakeholders. The competent construction **product CEN TCs and WGs are particularly invited and encouraged to send delegates** to the workshops. **For further information and to register, please visit the [CEN website](#).**

It's now the time for companies, big and small, to express their support and need for Smart CE Marking! We need a strong backing from companies **to not leave** the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States **any room for doubts, that the topic is of utmost importance for the industry** to cut burden, add a value to CE marking for contractors and users in order **to get the full political and sufficient financial support** to tackle the tasks ahead. Therefore, we kindly urge our members: **share the information within your networks and encourage companies to [express their support online and to submit their company logos](#) to be added to a joint declaration of support.**

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(If you experience difficulties uploading your logo onto the CPE Google Drive, please [send us an e-mail with your attached logo](#) in which you authorise CPE to exclusively use your logo in support of Smart CE Marking. We will then upload the logo for you)

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