

Guidance Note 2022.02.15
EN1090 Fabrication and Assembly - UKCA Marking of Sign Structures

(This replaces Guidance Note 2015.04.01)

- Sign buyers need to be aware that the approved documents listed in Building Regulations are now Eurocodes. These regulations come under criminal law and will carry greater penalties for non-compliance.
- The Structural Eurocodes are a set of harmonised European standards for the design of buildings and civil engineering structures. The 58 parts of Eurocodes deal with 10 specific Eurocodes covering basis of design, actions, concrete, steel, aluminium, composites, timber, masonry, geotechnical design and earthquake resistance. The scope of EN1090 applies to structural steel and aluminium components that form part of structure and bear a load. A declaration of performance must be drawn up to demonstrate compliance with EN1090.
- The scope includes rail lines, beams and masts along with a long list of similar uses. It includes balcony balustrades and staircases. In the latter instance it is clear that whilst, say, an external staircase is not likely to form an integral structural support for the building it is attached to, it is still required to be a safe structure in its own right (as a load bearing fixed item).
- Therefore it would seem logical that while signs that are fixed to a structure may not contribute to the strength of the structure they themselves will be required to meet the structural safety standard as a staircase must. These items are referred to as "Construction Products".
- Advice taken from the Official Journal of the European Union informs that:
"A manufacturer may refrain from drawing up a declaration of performance when placing a construction product covered by a harmonised standard on the market where the construction product is individually manufactured or custom made in a non-series process in response to a specific order, and installed in a single identified construction work, by a manufacturer who is responsible for the safe incorporation of the product into the construction works, in compliance with the applicable national rules and under the responsibility of those responsible for the safe execution of the construction works designated under the applicable national rules".

- The derogation from drawing up a declaration of performance goes on to include where the construction product is manufactured on site for its incorporation in the respective construction works and/or where the construction product is manufactured in a traditional manner or in a manner appropriate to heritage conservation and in a non-industrial process for adequately renovating construction works officially protected as part of a designed environment or because of their special architectural or historic merit. Both must be in compliance with national rules.
- The advice from the Technical Committee of the ISA-UK is therefore as follows:
 1. Where a sign is designed and constructed in a totally unique and one off fashion for single use, UKCA marking is not required.
 2. Where a sign is designed and constructed to be made in single units or in series processes and to be used in more than one instance – no matter how long the time scale is between installations - because the sign is not unique and not a one off, each and every sign will need to comply with EN1090.

The Approved Documents may be downloaded free of charge from:
www.planningportal.gov.uk/buildingregulations/approveddocuments

EN1090 is based on Eurocode compliance and details the new European legislation for the fabrication and assembly of steel and aluminium civil engineering structures.

It came into effect on 1st July 2014.

EN1090 comprises three parts;

- EN1090-1: Requirements for conformity assessment for structural components (CE-Marking)
- EN1090-2: Technical requirements for the execution of steel structures
- EN1090-3: Technical requirements for the execution of aluminium structures

Note:

UKCA marking came into effect on 1st January 2021 with a transition period through to 1st January 2023 in most cases.

The UKCA mark is applicable to eligible products placed on the in England, Wales & Scotland.

For Northern Ireland the UKNI or CE accreditation is required whilst for Europe the CE accreditation will continue.

Useful reference:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-UKCA-marking>

ISA-UK Members are kept informed of the legislation and other requirements necessary to help keep them and their clients from falling foul of their obligations.