

Designing in accordance with Eurocode 5 from July 2012 onwards – a piece of cake for BeA!

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Woodmansey, 20 February 2012. Joh. Friedrich Behrens AG (BeA) is expanding its role as a market leader in fastening technology. The German firm couldn't be better prepared for 2012, because it already meets the requirements of Eurocode 5 and CE marking.

As long ago as 1975 the European Commission agreed an action programme aimed at eliminating barriers to trade in the construction industry. Scientists and engineers, users and practitioners then developed a ten-part Eurocode package. The standards it contains are intended to provide a unified basis for verification and designing for mechanical strength and stability in the building trade. Designing for safety in the event of fire, for example (in accordance with construction product directives) is also regulated in them. A unified contractual basis for engineering and construction services has thus been created.

The fifth part of this Eurocode package, EC5, deals with the design and construction of timber buildings and civil engineering works. It sets out the requirements for the fitness for purpose, carrying capacity, durability and fire resistance of load-bearing structures made of timber or timber-based materials. In addition to the individual Eurocodes, Member States can append a National Annex (NA) for their own country.

In June 2013 Eurocode 5 will be introduced into the UK as a European construction standard. With effect from this date the "old" national BS 5268 standard (Structural use of Timber) will therefore no longer be applicable. From that point onwards this means that we will have to adapt to a number of changes.

What is likely to be hardest to get used to is the fact that the material characteristics needed for design will no longer be in the design standard itself, but will instead be set out in the relevant product standards, of which there are many. This means that in future a whole package of standards will be needed. One of the most important product standards is likely to be EN 14592. This lays down the "Requirements for Dowel-Type Fasteners" or, to put it another way, it specifies the characteristics of nails, staples, screws, dowels and nuts as well as bolts.

BeA is well prepared for Eurocode 5 and the CE markings required under EN 14592, and is thus providing exemplary support to its customers. John Mercer, is BeA's expert on the Eurocode, and worked on it in a number of bodies, such as the Construction Standards Committee.

Press Release

The company is continuing to make information on characteristics in accordance with EN 14592 available on its website so that these values can be used in the construction planning phase. The fasteners available from BeA Fastening Systems Ltd that are used in building load-bearing structures therefore have the characteristics specified in Eurocode 5. This means that for all EU countries BeA already meets the requirements of Regulation (EU) no. 305/2011, which will become mandatory all over Europe with effect from 1 July 2013.

Download from www.Bea-Group.com

Joh. Friedrich Behrens AG

The company Joh. Friedrich Behrens was founded in 1910. In the 100 years of its existence, it has developed into a global group with a total turnover of over 80 million euros, achieving market leadership throughout Europe in the fastening technology field. The BeA trademark stands for top-of-the range products in the fastening technology field. BeA compressed air nail guns and fasteners are characterised by top quality and reliability. In order to maintain these high standards in the future, we are constantly optimising and expanding our product range. By using innovative technologies, BeA sets the standards in fastening technology. BeA products are marketed by subsidiaries and associated companies in Europe and America. At the same time well-established agencies in over 40 other countries contribute to the global success of the BeA Group.

One of the BeA Group's key strengths is its distinctive service philosophy. With some 65 field sales and customer service staff, the BeA Group is ready to provide its demanding customers with specialist support. The Group employs a total of some 390 staff, about 15 of them trainees.

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