

Certification and approval of HRC-products within Europe

The European Union has established rules to ensure the free movement of goods, including building products. This also considers the responsibility of its member states for public safety, including safety of buildings and structures. To achieve this, two basic requirements must be fulfilled:

- Fabrication control of the product – proven via certification by a notified technical body
- Adequate performance for the specific use – proven by the certification; if necessary, supplied with additional performance documentation (results of independent testing)

The broadest framework for the combination of the free movement of goods and the need for national safety levels is provided by EU-regulation No. 764/2008 (9th July 2008). This regulation is valid for products which are not covered by harmonized regulations. Its basic idea is the mutual recognition of national technical documents, This means that a product, which is approved and certified in country A, is to be allowed in country B, as long as the applicable technical requirements of county B are fulfilled. *Technical requirement* in this meaning are for instance the tensile strength or the development of a certain elongation. A “prior authorisation”, like an approval by a certain national body is not a technical requirement.

A more specific framework for mutual recognition is EU regulation No. 305/2011 (9 March 2011). This regulation is valid for products which are covered by a harmonized technical regulation – harmonized European standards or European Technical Assessments. The visual sign for products covered by this regulation is the CE-mark.

Below is a general overview and the application for HRC-products:

	Construction products	
	Covered by harmonised regulation	Not covered by harmonised regulation
Applicable EU-regulation	No. 305/2011 (9 March 2011) “Construction Products Regulation”	No. 764/2008 (9th July 2008) “free movement of goods”
Harmonised technical rules	European Standard (hEN) European Technical Assessment (ETA) → both lead to CE-marking	None
National rules	Not allowed, only project-based specification of required performance	Technical rules defined in national standards, certification schemes or given by competent authorities (like road- and rail authorities)
How it works...	Product performance is specified by reference to performance levels or -classes given in the harmonised technical rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products must have an approval in an EU/EFTA-member state. • Product performance is checked against the requirements. Test results can be used as evidence for performance not included in the product approval.
HRC products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No harmonised European standard exists for HRC-products • HRC 100 Series T-headed bars are covered by ETA-08/0035 (CE-marking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRC 200: certified by Kontrollrådet acc. ISO 15698 • HRC 400: certified by Kontrollrådet acc. ISO 15835 and certified by UK Cares acc. TA1 B&C • HRC 700: Technical Approval by SINTEF
Conclusion:		
HRC-products may be used in the European member countries based on harmonised technical rules or the principle of mutual recognition of national technical documentation. The basis is always that the technical performance specified for the specific project/structure is fulfilled.		