

03/05/2010

WG4 N92 « **Proposal for identifying the Euroclasses in EN 14390 Room Corner Test** »

Pan and Pro Europe – has said during the last CEPMC FWG, the following position and remarks on the document WG4 N92 submitted to enquiry inside the CEPMC Fire Working Group.

<p>Pan and Pro Europe is against any document that enables to determine an Euroclass level based on the EN 14390 standard.</p>

The raisons are the following:

Legally:

- The only existing reference scenario is the ISO 9705 and the interpretation of this test results already exists in the EN 13501-1
- One official way to determine an Euroclass is the EN 13501-1 which covers **all the products** and not the EN 14390 + doc N92 which cover only the **lining products**.

Economically:

- This new classification referential enables to determine a reaction to fire class in two different ways and consequently this approach will create confusion, a distortion of competition and eventually conflicting results : two parallel ways to cover the reaction to fire determination of lining products (SBI and/or EN 14390),
- The ratio of the cost (frame, panel deliveries + test of the EN 14390) is 5 to 6 times the cost of the SBI. SMEs cannot support this cost,
- This new classification referential is useless and can create a big storm on the market for many products,
- Sandwich Panel companies have recently spent a huge amount of money in classifying the reaction to fire of their products according to SBI and EN11925-2 test following the CE Marking requirements. After all this economical effort, any action introducing doubt on the present classification is not acceptable for companies; and even more if

the proposed alternative test is not necessary, much more expensive and does not offer any advantage but only confusion.

Technically:

- The scope seems to cover all types of products, though the EN 14390 covers only the lining products. Consequently it must be written that EN14390 and the associated proposal for classification referential cannot cover thick and/or thermally insulating products but only the lining products (maximum thickness of 5 mm to have no modification of the volume of the chamber),
- The classification is based on an occurrence of flash-over that is not defined clearly enough (minimum duration in the time of the heat release limit must be defined), so not exploitable practically. It is still to lot of discussion and interpretation,
- This document is completely unnecessary because it is simply takes over the definitions already given in the graph of EN 13501-1,
- This document ignores the additional requirements for B, C, D en E classifications, such as the EN ISO 11925-2 preliminary tests, so regulatory the document cannot be acceptable,
- There is no serious new background, the round robin tests referred to are very old and were at that time not necessarily done according to the correct mounting and fixing regulations of products and SBI standard (since not all existing at that time),
- The-claimed correlation between SMOGRA and FIGRA indexes is very much under discussion also among many WG4 experts.
