

Cyprus – New developments in the Building Regulations

Since the last time we participated the CEBC meeting in Krakow back in 2004, there have been some developments in the area of Building Regulations in Cyprus.

Recently, the Regulations for Electrical-Mechanical Installations were approved and published, as part of the Streets and Buildings Legislation. Until now, the whole issue was handled by the Cyprus Electricity Authority. Now, under the new Regulations, drawings and calculations for the electrical-mechanical installations must be submitted to the competent Authority, as part of the application for a building permit. For the first time, certified auditors are involved in the controlling of works on behalf of the competent Authorities.

Regarding harmonization with the provisions of the Energy Performance Building Directive, 3 Ministries were involved for this task: Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Tourism, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Communication and Works. For the harmonization of the Directive, the Energy Performance Building Law, the Amendment of the Streets and Buildings Law and the Streets and Buildings (Energy Performance Building) Regulations were prepared, in combination – among other- with the development of a methodology for the calculation of the energy performance of buildings and the setting of minimum energy performance requirements for new buildings. Cyprus requested to make use of the additional period of three years for applying fully the provisions of Articles 7, 8 and 9, as provided by the Directive.

Furthermore, regarding construction products, a Twinning Project under the name “Market Surveillance for Construction Products” is under way. The Project will begin next October, and includes a revision of the existing Streets & Buildings Law and Regulations for bringing into line with the Construction Products Directive.

Moreover, work has been done for the implementation of Eurocodes also. The Ministry of Interior, as the competent Authority for the implementation and enforcement of the Streets and Buildings and Construction Products Legislation, appointed the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus as the organization responsible to prepare the revised National Reinforced Concrete Code and the Cyprus Seismic Code. For this task, five Annexes, namely for EN1990, EN1991 parts 1-1 and 1-4, EN1992 part 1-1 and EN1998 part 1, have already been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Interior.

In addition, the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus will prepare the National Annexes for the remaining parts of Eurocodes. The work includes the preparation of the National Annexes, the submission of the National Annexes for public comments, the organization of the training of the engineering community, the coordination of the actions of the governmental departments that are responsible for the adoption and application of Eurocodes, the determination of the relative changes that need to be made in governmental contracts, the participation in the “Eurocodes National Correspondents Committee” as the representative of Cyprus, and the undertaking of the maintenance of Eurocodes.

The Ministry of Interior is also dealing with the issue of the legislative framework for adopting the Eurocodes as the Building Codes of Cyprus. This issue is under discussion. One of the possibilities is to include the Eurocodes in the Streets and Buildings Law, but in this way translation and copyright problems must also be tackled, since if they are included in the law, they will have to be published in the Official Journal of Republic of Cyprus. If they are just referenced in the Law, then they become recommended but not obligatory standards. At the workshop on the Adoption of the Eurocodes in the EU for New Member, Accession and Candidate Countries held last November at JRC in Ispra, Italy, we heard some opinions on this matter – some countries are considering, during the application for a building permit, in the case when other building codes different to Eurocodes are used, the competent Authorities to send all calculations and drawings to another designer office in order to check compliance to the relative Eurocode – and charge the applicant for this; CEBC Members views are welcome for this issue.

Other issues under development are the Fire Regulations and the Streets and Buildings Regulations: access for all. For the Fire Regulations, a draft document has been prepared by the Cyprus Fire Service, and a Technical Committee will be established in order to discuss and forward the matter. For the Streets and Buildings Regulations: access for all, a draft document has been prepared and has been circulated for public comments.

Ministry of Interior
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