

DRAFT Report to ERMCO ETC WG1 Specification by durability

Summary

As Chair of ERMCO ETC WG1 *Specification by durability* I have been monitoring developments with CEN TC104/SC1/WG1 *Exposure Resistance Classes (RC)* and CEN TC250/SC2/WG1/TG10 *Durability* and circulating appropriate papers to ERMCO ETC WG1 members. From ERMCO comments received to date then there appears to be little support or resistance to the development of "Exposure Resistance Classes". From this the ERMCO position appears to be that we monitor developments until an aspect that requires ERMCO support or resistance emerges.

Below is a short list of potential opportunities and threats, very brief summaries of developments within the relevant Working/Task Groups and an outline of the UK position.

A view of opportunities and threats

Opportunities	Threats
Performance specification could help minimise resource use, improve sustainability credentials and increase profitability.	Performance specification could lead to the ready-mixed concrete industry paying for increased testing, where the client may also specify limiting proportions as well as performance criteria.
Increase added value, e.g. 'Concrete for a guaranteed service life of...' should attract a premium.	The ready-mixed concrete industry may be held responsible for durability failures, even where these may be attributable to execution rather than materials failure.

CEN TC104/SC1/WG1 'Exposure Resistance Classes (RC)'

This Working Group met on 14 December 2015 in Berlin where most of the meeting was spent reviewing the process and proposals developed by the TC250/2 & TC104/SC1 Joint Working Group. It met again on 17 March 2016 in Berlin where the main topic discussed was the proposed research programme.

CEN TC250/SC2/WG1/TG10 – Durability

First meeting held on 31 March 2016 in Berlin, where the venue had to be re-arranged at short notice due to the difficulty in travelling to Paris. At this meeting Udo Wiens, Chairman of **CEN TC104/SC1/WG1**, is reported as saying that: *WG1 is focusing on the proposal for a research program directed at establishing supporting material that can be used in implementing the concept. There are a number of issues where improved testing procedures and improved knowledge will be helpful when outlining systems for both factory production control and conformity control as well as necessary margins for various production conditions.*

CEN TC250/SC2/WG1/TG10 is programmed to meet on 27 May 2016.

ERMCO ETC WG1 Specification by durability

Teleconference on 9 December 2015. Agreed that *'ERMCO accepts the concept of specification by performance, and the need for durability classes. But, conformity should be by the normal EN 206 Clause 8 procedures, after acceptance of type testing. And, ERMCO believes limiting values for durability should remain a national not a European harmonised decision.'*

Subsequent teleconference set for the 11 February 2016 was postponed as there did not appear to be sufficient material to discuss.

UK View

The UK shadow committee to TC104/SC1 in close liaison with the UK shadow committee to TC250/SC2 has established a UK view, where this is attached as document B_517_16_0014 *DRAFT UK Proposal for performance specification clauses for EN 206*. The UK sent this paper to the Chair and Secretariat of CEN TC104/SC1/WG1 for circulation, but the Chair (Udo Wiens) stated that the proposal is too controversial and only a heavily edited version has been circulated as paper CEN-TC104-SC1-WG1_N0037 *DRAFT UK view on performance specifi...*

Note: The UK ready-mixed concrete industry is becoming nervous about discussions referring to *'...systems for both factory production control and conformity control as well as necessary margins for various production conditions.'* In the UK there is only limited experience with performance specification for initial type testing only, and then only for the very large infrastructure projects.