



Think Concrete, Go Precast

POSITION PAPER

3 March 2010

CEN/TC 178 – Paving units
Revision of EN 1338 “Concrete paving blocks – Requirements and test methods”
Introduction of a test of slip/skid resistance for unpolished products
Proposal for a **negative vote** on the UAP procedure

The revision of EN 1338 “Concrete paving blocks – Requirements and test methods” has now entered the final stage, as the UAP¹ procedure has been launched on 13 February 2010.

The BIBM Technical Commission has however found a possible threat for our industry linked to the acceptance of the revised version of EN 1338. In chapter 5.3.5 dealing with slip/skid resistance, the proposed change introduces the **need for a test of slip/skid resistance for unpolished products**

EN 1338:2003	prEN 1338:2010
Concrete paving blocks have satisfactory slip/skid resistance provided that their whole upper surface has not been ground and/or polished to produce a very smooth surface	<i>Reference to CEN TS 12633 "Method of determination of unpolished and polished slip/skid resistance value" also for unpolished products</i>

On this issue, BIBM regrets that

- The industry was satisfied about the present situation, where unpolished products are not submitted to slip/skid resistance tests
- The change has been introduced without the necessary consultation of CEN/TC 178/WG1 “Precast Concrete Products” experts
- Formal remarks from national standardisation bodies has not been taken into account

For the above mentioned reasons, BIBM suggests the national mirror committees to CEN/TC 178 to **vote negatively** to the UAP procedure on the revision of EN 1338, as launched on 12 February 2010 (deadline 12 July 2010).

A similar provision is likely to be introduced into EN 1339 "Flags" and EN 1340 "Kerbs".

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BIBM is the European organisation representing the Precast Concrete industry, involved in the supply of sustainable solutions for the built environment. The sector employs more than 210.000 people in 8.000 production plants around Europe, generating more than 35 billion Euros of turnover.

¹ The Unique Acceptance Procedure (UAP) combines the CEN enquiry and formal vote; it is only applied if it is reasonable to suppose that the document is acceptable at European level in order to prevent further delays.