



Tackling Dangerous Substances in Precast Concrete

The aim of this project was to demonstrate that concrete (and precast concrete) doesn't emit dangerous substances in general, therefore their use should apply without further testing.

The tendency of more stringent European and/or national regulation would mean the increase of tests to assess the presence of dangerous substances in each and every precast concrete plant, possibly for different products, which would lead to increased costs for the industry. The increased cost would seriously diminish the competitiveness of the concrete sector vis-a-vis other materials, while in the lack of actual hazardous substances, the unnecessary test would not lead to a safer and healthier building environment.

The "Dossier without further Testing" also provides manufacturers with assessment tools to evaluate their products with the minimum possible testing. By proving that concrete doesn't emit hazardous components, concrete plants will be exempted from unnecessary testing and at the same time, it will prove that concrete is a safe, non-hazardous material.

The project started in the framework of the European Concrete Platform, which ensures a coordinated, common industry response and also a coordinated presence at CEN level (CEN TC 104/WG 14 and EN TC 229/WG 4/AhG Dangerous Substances).

According to the findings of the "Dossier without further Testing" prepared by Mr Van der Sloot, "concrete shows consistently low emission of regulated substances with respect to release of regulated dangerous substances into soil, surface water and groundwater and into indoor air".

Furthermore, the study found that compared with the most stringent national regulations, concrete doesn't exceed the "limit values for release (inorganic substances) and content (organic substances) to soil, surface water and groundwater. With respect to indoor air, none of the investigated concretes exceeds limit values."

