



SP and SITAC offer P-marking of all construction products

Major changes for the construction industry

With the incorporation of the Construction Products Directive into Swedish legislation, we can no longer type-approve products that can be CE-marked. The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning's regulations mean not only that type approval and manufacturing inspection approval for a given product cannot be granted, but that they are no longer valid when a harmonised standard or European Technical Approval guideline is available. This marks the end of a well-established and popular system for showing that products meet the requirements of Swedish regulations, particularly in respect of the Building Regulations (BBR) and the Design Regulations (BKR). The purpose of CE-marking construction products is to standardise the way in which product properties are presented, and to provide confirmation that the products have the stated properties. The developer of a building must decide if the level of the declared properties is sufficient for the intended use, and whether all the properties relevant for the intended use have been stated.

P-marking is the answer

Suppliers and purchasers continue to need reliable documentation that shows whether products meet the Building Regulations requirements when used in a particular manner or for a particular purpose. The answer to this is provided through P-marking, a certi-

ificate that gives reliable information corresponding with the former systems. However, there is no need to wait for the fork-symbol marking scheme or type approval to cease. A successful application for a type approval, will already today be awarded a P-marking certificate, making it possible for the holder of the certificate to use the symbol he prefers.

What are the rules and requirements?

The requirements are always at least those specified in legislation, i.e. the same as those for type approval and fork symbol marking. In some cases, where the market wants or needs them, more stringent or additional requirements may apply. Even if such more stringent requirements are not needed, it is possible to declare additional values in the certificate over and above those specified in the regulations.

The P-marking requirements are decided by SP/Sitac, and are available for downloading from the respective web sites.

A quality symbol

The P-symbol is SP's quality symbol. It has been used to indicate quality in various product areas for many years, but is now being extended to a wider range. Quality is ensured through regular surveillance inspections of manufacturing processes and of products on the market.



The P-symbol: a complement to the CE-symbol

CE-marking is applied by manufacturers, supported by the relevant documentation. In some cases, this also requires testing, inspection or certification by a Notified Body. The result of the CE-marking process is a declaration, issued by the manufacturer or importer, of the values of certain properties. P-marking complements CE-marking by linking the results to Swedish legislation and/or requirements, by providing means for declaring values and properties and quality assured through an independent third party production control. Lists of P-marked products are available on SP's and SITAC's web sites (www.sp.se and www.sitac.se).

What will happen to P-marks issued earlier?

The P-marking rules will be progressively modified to bring them into line with the new regulations format. For example, references to BBR/BKR will be added. Transitional periods will be allowed for those cases where renewed testing is needed.

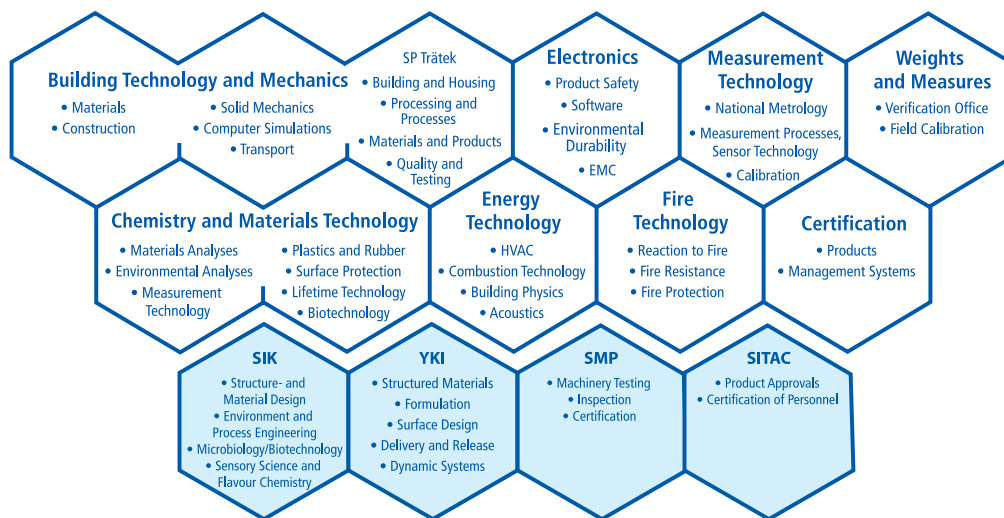
What will happen to old fork-mark approval symbols?

Existing approvals under the fork-marking scheme will continue to apply, subject to the usual reviews/extensions, until CE-marking become available for the product concerned and the transitional period has expired.



SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden develops and transfers technology for improving competitiveness and quality in industry, and for safety, conservation of resources and good environment in society as a whole. With Swedens widest and most sophisticated range of equipment and expertise for technical investigation, measurement, testing and certification, we perform research and development in close liaison with universities, institutes of technology and international partners.

SP is a EU-notified body and accredited test laboratory. Our headquarters are in Borås, in the west part of Sweden.



SP is organised into eight technology units and four subsidiaries

CE-marking of construction products through SP is carried out in conjunction with SITAC, which is a subsidiary company of SP.

SITAC certifies products and individuals in the construction, building services systems and civil engineering sectors. SITAC is the Swedish representative in EOTA, the European Organisation for Technical Approval.



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