

CE Marking of Geotextiles

A Brief Summary of the New European Standards

Introduction

As from 1st October 2002 it will be a mandatory requirement for geotextiles supplied to public works to be CE marked.

These new requirements have been introduced to standardise test methods throughout Europe and provide a consistent framework for the specification of geotextiles based on their application.

The Requirements

Geotextile applications have been divided into 10 categories as follows:

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| EN 13249: Roads and other trafficked areas | EN 13254: Reservoirs and dams |
| EN 13250: Railways | EN 13255: Canals |
| EN 13251: Earthworks, foundations and retaining walls | EN 13256: Tunnels and underground structures |
| EN 13252: Drainage systems | EN 13257: Solid waste disposals |
| EN 13253: Erosion control works | EN 13265: Liquid waste containment |

For each application one or more of 5 geotextile functions are defined (Filtration (F), Drainage (D), Reinforcement (R), Separation (S) and Protection (P)), and for each of the relevant functions certain specification properties are required (Using approved test standards).

[A more detailed brief guide is available on request]

Geotextile CE Marking Documents and Labelling

For each geotextile grade an “**Accompanying CE Marking Document**” must be supplied with each delivery. Amongst other CE marking required information this document will state the intended geotextile applications/functions and nominal values, together with tolerance values, for each appropriate specification property.

“**Product Packaging**” is limited to a strict minimum of the CE mark, the reference number of the approved body and the name of the product.

In addition, the manufacturer’s factory production control must be certified by an external approved body, for which the manufacturer must provide a “**Declaration of Conformity**”.

Implications for Distributors

From the 1st of October, for public works, distributors must be able to supply the client with the CE Marking Documents mentioned above.

Conclusions

The standards do not specify minimum requirements for specification values, as these are related to the construction the geotextile is used in. However, they do provide a more consistent and relevant method of specifying geotextiles based on the intended applications.

Although the CE Marking is not an assurance of product quality the independent certification of factory production procedures ensures that manufacturing meets approved standards, which correspond to the requirements of an ISO 9001 or ISO 9002 system.

Hy-Tex (UK) Limited’s geotextile manufacturer, Lys-Fabrics, has successfully met all the above requirements.

NOTE: The information above has been compiled from independent documents for you own validation. Hy-Tex accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information.