

As the representative organization of small and medium enterprises in European timber construction sector the association Timber Construction Europe requests for an applicable Eurocode 5 and in particular, an applicable “Execution” part for structural engineers and manufacturers.

The draft on "execution of timber structures" has continually been developed in the last 3 years. But important steps towards harmonization among the member states and application still need to be taken.

The main focus of the current draft is on documentation of production and erection specifications. This makes the responsibility for defects traceable, but it does not really help to avoid defects. The system presented in the current draft causes unnecessary effort for SMEs and burdens them with additional costs for measures without being helpful in order to ensure what is built is what the designer intended in accordance with the Eurocode 5.

Therefore, the knowledge of different educational qualifications levels of European construction workers must be taken into account. In many central European countries, the appropriate professional qualification leads to a reasonable level of competence of timber construction companies and to an applicable documentation level.

Furthermore, passages regarding documentation and responsibilities mentioned in the current draft contradict national construction contract law and, in part, national requirements.

In order to get a final draft that is accepted throughout Europe, the following principles should be applied:

- The draft on "execution of timber structures" must not regulate anything that is already regulated in the CPR, the product standards or in national legal provisions.
- In principle, safety relevant information and requirements must remain under national sovereignty. Therefore, information in the execution draft should be defined in an orienting and recommending manner.
- The draft on "execution of timber structures" should provide guidance and assistance for a safe execution according to the design.
- The draft on "execution of timber structures" should not anticipate any allocation of responsibilities concerning the documentation of compliance with tolerances and analogous requirements. Furthermore, it must not run the risk of violating national contract law.
- A clear differentiation should be made with regard to the verifiability and the timing of the verification of the required tolerances. Some specifications are only indications for the execution and cannot be checked in the final state.