

Road and bridge construction work

Country:	Spain
Level:	National
Topics addressed:	Legislation

Summary:

The objective of this case is to show how national and European standards are referenced in national legislation, specifically in road and bridge construction works (PG-3). This legislation introduces references to standards to specify characteristics or performances to be met by the different materials and products introduced in civil works.

Background:

In the construction of roads and bridges, hundreds of different materials and products are involved, and the industry offers hundreds of solutions, qualities and suppliers. It is necessary to establish a minimum set of performance characteristics and requirements for them in order to ensure the quality and safety of the constructions, materials and products.

Strategy:

The Spanish legislation for road and bridge works includes thousands of standards related to road and bridge materials and products. It is not possible to reference only a few. By referencing standards, national legislation intends to ensure that the materials and products used in road and bridge works meet minimum performance requirements, and that recognized test methods to assess these requirements are followed, independently of the supplier/manufacturer of the material or product.

Results and Impact:

The reference to standards allows:

- national administration to simplify the legal text
- national administration to establish a set of common requirements and characteristics for different materials, products and works
- contractors to have clear performances to meet and recognized assessment methods for the materials and products used
- testing laboratories to have recognized test methods to follow when assessing performances of the materials and products

Challenges and lessons learned:

Since the first edition of the PG-3, materials and products have technologically evolved, and new European standards have raised. It has been then necessary to update the text according new nomenclatures and tests.

New policy safety concepts have also raised, for example for motorcyclist, which has resulted in new chapters and referenced standards.

During this time, several harmonised European standards have been published, which has led to the cancellation of national standards and the inclusion of the European standards.

Potential for Replication:

Materials and products for road and bridges are usually the same across countries, as the need to establish quality and safety requirements. For these reasons, this experience would be replicable in other places if not yet.

Contact Name: Daniel Masso

Organization: UNE