



Notification Number: 1996/438/F

Draft Order amending the Order of 21 April 1983 on determining the degree of fire-resistance of construction elements and specific test conditions for smoke extractors.

Date received : 05/11/1996
End of Standstill : Closed
Invocation of the Emergency Procedure : Yes

Message

REP PERMANENTE ROYAUME UNI
REP PERMANENTE IRLANDE
REP PERMANENTE GRECE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY
ATT. MR. Z.P. MAVROUKAS
HELLINIKOS ORG. TYPOPISOES
ATT. MR. MELAGRAKIS
DGS INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM
DEPT. OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, QUALITY AND EDUCATION DIVISION,
ATT. MRS. B. O'GRADY
INST INDUST RESEARCH.
ATT. MR. J. NULTY
KOMMERSKOLLEGIUM
ATT. MS. KERSTIN CARLSSON
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
ATT. MS. TOLONEN
EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY
EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION
ATT. MS. BAKKE-D'ALOYA
TELEX 002



COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (96) D/51991/2
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001
NOTIFICATION 96/0438/F

- 3B1 : 9601991.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 002 IND- 96 0438 F-- EN ----- 961105 --- ---

2. Member State

France

3. Department Responsible

Delegue Interministeriel aux normes
22, rue Monge 75005 PARIS

3. Originating Department

Ministere de l'interieur
Direction de la securite civile
1, Place Beauvau 75800 PAIRS

4. Notification Number

96/438/F

5. Title

Draft Order amending the Order of 21 April 1983 on
determining the degree of fire-resistance of construction
elements and specific test conditions for smoke extractors.

6. Products Concerned

Construction materials for high-rise buildings, public
establishments and housing.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

Amendment of the provisions of the Order of 21 April 1983 on
the definition of qualitative fire-resistance categories:

Section a article 11 of the Order,

removing the reference to statements on asbestos.

Keywords: safety, fire behaviour, test methods,
classification of construction elements.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Article R 121-5 of the Construction and Housing Code
stipulates that the Minister for the Interior lay down, by



Order, conditions for testing and classification of construction materials with regard to their fire-resistance. The fire safety regulations in public establishments, high-rise buildings and housing make reference to these categories of materials and construction elements to avoid outbreak of fire and its rapid spread.

The aim of the draft Order is to remove all references to the word asbestos and thus to withdraw all materials containing asbestos necessitating fire-resistance tests. In this regard it should be remembered that some months ago the French government announced a ban, from 1 January 1997, on the manufacture, sale, import and transfer in any manner of different types of asbestos or any material or product containing asbestos. Originally this prohibition was to take effect on 1 January 1998.

The amendments contained in the draft Order follow studies made in recent months by official laboratories approved by the Ministry of the Interior to carry out tests with a view to replacing asbestos with other materials with similar features. In this way replacement products have been found.

Furthermore, it should be noted that article GN 14 of the amended Order of 25 June 1980 on approval of the general provisions of the fire and emergency safety regulations in public establishments envisages that tests carried out by the laboratories of other EU Member States offering the independence and competence of the test laboratories provided for in the NFEN 45 000 series of standards and approved by the Minister for the Interior shall be recognised as equivalent to tests carried out by the French laboratories designated in these regulations.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

* Construction and Housing Code - Volume 1 Title 2 Chapter 1.

Fire protection, classification of materials.

* Order of 21 April 1983 on determination of the fire-resistance of construction elements and specific test conditions for smoke extractors.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

Yes

12. Grounds for the Emergency

This Order shall enter into force on 1 January 1997. It has been decided to use replacement products for asbestos from this date and to not take account of the different products containing asbestos and in stock in the laboratories.

13. Confidentiality

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14. Fiscal measures

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D. WILLIAMSON
COMEUR
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