

General	
<p>I am a manufacturer of floor coverings with CE marking according to DIN EN 14041 (resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings), of coatings according to DIN EN 13813 (synthetic resin coatings and screeds), of parquets and wood flooring according to DIN EN 14342, of agglomerated stones according to DIN EN 15285, or of surfaces for sports areas according to DIN EN 14904 and I have heard that, in Germany, I need a <i>bauaufsichtliche Zulassung</i> ('national technical approval') for that. Is that so?</p>	<p>Yes, that is correct if this covering is used in habitable rooms.</p>
<p>Does the subject to approval only apply to the use of the floor coverings in habitable rooms of public buildings?</p>	<p>No, the subject to approval generally applies to the use of floor coverings in habitable rooms.</p>
<p>Why do I need an approval though my product already corresponds to a harmonized standard and bears the CE marking?</p>	<p>In a number of harmonized standards which were prepared under a mandate of the Construction Products Directive, the Essential Requirement N° 3 "Hygiene, health and the environment" has until now not or only incompletely been considered.</p> <p>The shortcoming which was recognized also by the European Commission shall, according to the Commission's plans, be eliminated in the future by necessary modifications and amendments in the European set of rules.</p> <p>Until then, an <i>allgemeine bauaufsichtliche Zulassung</i> ('national technical approval') by DIBt is still necessary in Germany for the construction products concerned in addition to the CE marking for reasons of health protection in order to use them in habitable rooms.</p> <p>This has been published by DIBt by including the standards in the <i>Bauregelliste</i> ('Construction Products List') B Part 1.</p>
<p>What other products in the field of floor covering do also need an <i>allgemeine bauaufsichtliche Zulassung</i> ('national technical approval') for reasons of health protection?</p>	<p>An <i>allgemeine bauaufsichtliche Zulassung</i> ('national technical approval') is also required for adhesives for parquets and surface coverings. As of 1 January 2012 the subject of approval for underlay for floor coverings according to DIN EN 14342 (wood flooring) as well as for underlay, adhesives and surface coverings for floor coverings according to DIN EN 14041 will enter into force.</p>

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What is a habitable room?	<p>According to section 2, sub-section 2 of the <i>Musterbauordnung</i> ('Model Building Code') habitable rooms are rooms which are appropriate and meant not only for a temporary stay of humans.</p> <p>Habitable rooms normally apply to:</p> <p>Living rooms, bedders, domestic utility rooms, kitchens, children's rooms, studies, guest rooms, workrooms, hobby rooms as well as offices and showrooms, staff rooms, classrooms in schools, kindergartens and universities, sports halls, meeting rooms, restaurants, treatment rooms, hospital and waiting rooms in hospitals, medical practices, or nursing homes, etc. (the list is not exhaustive).</p> <p>The relevant <i>Landesbauordnung</i> ('Building Regulation of the Land') shall apply.</p>
What is the legal basis for the obligation of an additional national approval?	<p>The <i>Bauregelliste</i> ('Construction Products List') states the technical regulations introduced in the field of construction by the highest construction supervision authorities of the Laender for construction products and types of construction, published by DIBt. The <i>Bauregelliste</i> ('Construction Products List'), which is also notified at the European Commission has the character of a statutory instrument. The requirements concerning the applicability of certain construction products published there are thus legally binding.</p>
Can I obtain a combined approval for similar products or do I have to file a separate application for each product?	<p>Products which are similar in set-up and formulation can be regulated together in one approval. Whether this is the case will be decided by DIBt on the basis of the application documents submitted.</p>
How much does an approval cost?	<p>The costs vary according to the subject group, number of products and work input. Normally, together with the confirmation of application, you will receive a statement of the estimated costs or a request for advance payment of the approval respectively.</p>
How long is the period of validity of an approval?	<p>Normally, the period of validity of an approval is five years. Under certain conditions, however, approvals with shorter terms will also be granted.</p>

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<p>What is the process of an approval procedure for obtaining an <i>allgemeine bauaufsichtliche Zulassung</i> ('national technical approval')?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant applies for an approval. • DIBt confirms the application and informs on the documents, verifications and data to be submitted concerning the product (e.g. technical data, formulations). • The applicant submits the data to DIBt. • Provided all data are available DIBt will prepare a test programme for the product with regards to the use (possibly with the assistance of an expert committee). • The applicant assigns a testing laboratory to test his product according to DIBt's specifications. • DIBt assess the results of the test(s) (possibly with the assistance of an expert committee). • Provided the construction product has passed the test requirements and all documents are complete and faultless, DIBt will grant the <i>allgemeine bauaufsichtliche Zulassung</i> ('national technical approval').
<p>What can I do to speed up the approval procedure?</p>	<p>Kindly submit your documents as promptly and complete as possible and not in several consignments so that we have all information required in order to prepare the test programme. In particular the formulations have to be indicated completely and clearly on our material data sheet. Time-consuming and the approval procedure delaying inquiries can thus be avoided.</p> <p>Please involve a testing laboratory only after we have informed you of the test programme and the list of expert bodies. It is possible that tests, which were carried out without DIBt's prior consent, will not be recognized, if they do not represent the "worst case". The consequence could either be the carrying out of an additional test or a limitation of the approval.</p>
<p>Do adhesives for skirtings require an approval?</p>	<p>No.</p>