The ETA
independent
officially
recognised
European
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DIBt  European Technical Assessment (ETA)
The ETA route to CE marking – tailored and high standard

- CE marking for construction products even without a harmonised standard
- Recognised across Europe, respected throughout the world
- Tailored to your needs and your construction product
- Clear procedures, short processing times
- Independent and transparent

Gain the confidence of your trade partners, the planners, contractors and building users, through an independent assessment by DIBt!
European Technical Assessment

What is an ETA?

The European Technical Assessment (ETA) provides an independent Europe-wide procedure for assessing the essential performance characteristics of a construction product. The legal basis of the ETA procedure is Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 (Construction Products Regulation).

A high-quality assessment

What are the advantages of an ETA?

The ETA procedure offers manufacturers and users numerous advantages:

- **Europe-wide recognition**: The ETA procedure follows clear rules set out in the Construction Products Regulation. The ETA is thus recognised throughout the EU and beyond in all countries participating in the ETA procedure.

- **Objectivity and independence**: The ETA provides the reliability and credibility of an objective technical assessment. ETAs may only be issued by independent Technical Assessment Bodies (TABs) designated by the Member States. Thus, the ETA helps enhance market transparency and build trust. DIBt is the only TAB designated by Germany.

- **Short processing times**: The participants in the ETA procedure work effectively together. This ensures short processing times. The timeframe for preparing a European Assessment Document, which as a harmonised technical specification forms the basis for the ETA, is specified in the Construction Products Regulation.

- **Trust through continuous monitoring**: The ETA procedure is coupled to a 'system of assessment and verification of constancy of performance' of the assessed construction product. These systems comprise at least regular factory production control by the manufacturer. Depending on the safety implications of the product, further measures apply and the manufacturer may have to contract an independent third-party body.

- **CE marking**: The ETA procedure allows manufacturers to affix the CE marking to construction products for which no harmonised standard exists. With the ETA, the product can thus be traded freely in the European market. If a harmonised standard already exists, the ETA makes it possible to include additional essential characteristics in the CE marking which are not covered by the standard or for which the standard does not provide a suitable assessment method.
Diverse application possibilities

What does the ETA offer?

The Construction Products Regulation distinguishes two application cases:

- **ETA in the absence of a harmonised standard:**
  The ETA offers manufacturers an alternative route to CE marking if no harmonised standard exists for the construction product.

- **ETA in the event of an incomplete harmonised standard:**
  The ETA allows the manufacturer to have essential product characteristics assessed which are not covered by the harmonised standard or for which the assessment method provided in the harmonised standard is not suitable.

When is it worthwhile to obtain an ETA?

In practice, the ETA can be used very flexibly both for covering specific characteristics or for complete technical assessment of a construction product.

**Examples of use:**

- There is no harmonised standard for your construction product, but you wish to market it throughout Europe. As a basis for CE marking, the ETA offers you unrestricted access to the European market.

- Your customers demand reliable information on performance characteristics not covered by the harmonised standard. You can supply this with an independent source via the ETA. The ETA is thus an argument in favour of your product and helps ensure its success on the market.

- Your product has performance characteristics which you would like to emphasise, but which are not covered by the harmonised standard. The ETA can be tailored to your product.

- You wish to rely on an established, internationally recognised assessment for launching your product in global markets.
The ETA route to CE marking – tailored and high standard

DIBt-approved bracket heads and ETA-assessed anchor channels are used for fastening the decorative clinker façade. The brackets take the dead weight of the faced brickwork and transfer it to the support structure via the anchor channels. The safety of the façade depends on the performance of the brackets and anchors and their professional installation. The use of state-of-the-art materials with low thermal conductivity reduces thermal bridges and supports the climate function of the façade.
Procedure for issuing a European Technical Assessment

Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AVCP</td>
<td>Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance</td>
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<td>EAD</td>
<td>European Assessment Document</td>
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<td>EOTA</td>
<td>European Organisation for Technical Assessment</td>
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<td>ETA</td>
<td>European Technical Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>hEN</td>
<td>harmonised European standard</td>
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MANUFACTURER

- Submission ETA application form
- Declaration of performance & CE marking in accordance with hEN
- Observation on EAD

EOTA/WORKING GROUP

- Confirmation of receipt to manufacturer
- Yes
- No
- Product fully covered by hEN?
- Yes
- No
- Product fully covered by ETA?
- Yes
- No
- Test plan in accordance with ETA
- Assessment of the results
- Draft ETA

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- ETA for comment
- ETA for comment
- ETA development
- Decision on AVCP procedure according to proposal, if necessary
- Completion of ETA
- ETA for comment

Contract on EAD development & confidentiality agreement
- EAD for comment
- EAD development
- Completion of EAD
- Observations on EAD

Contracting a test lab to carry out the necessary tests

Declaration of performance & CE marking in accordance with ETA
ETA – how it works

What are the prerequisites?

The ETA procedure is open to construction product manufacturers in all product areas, irrespective of whether or in which manner the products are nationally regulated.

Prerequisites:

- The product is a construction product within the meaning of the Construction Products Regulation, i.e. it is intended for permanent incorporation in construction works and its performance is relevant in relation to the fulfilment of the basic requirements for construction works.
- The product and its intended use are not or not fully covered by a harmonised standard.

What is the applicable legal basis?

- Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 (Construction Products Regulation)
- Act implementing Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of constructions products and transposing and implementing other legal acts of the European Union in relation to construction products (German Construction Products Act – BauPG)
- Currently valid versions of the Building Codes of the federal states and associated provisions

What happens during the ETA procedure?

After receiving the application form, we first check whether your construction product meets the requirements for issuing an ETA (see above). Then we check whether the submitted documents are complete and request any missing information.

For more complex products or first-time applications, you may find a face-to-face meeting helpful. You are welcome to come to DIBt for this purpose. In this way, any outstanding issues can be clarified.

We can also jointly discuss possibilities of replacing tests with calculations before you submit your application. As soon as your technical file is complete, you receive an official confirmation of application from us. This marks the start of the actual procedure.
A technical specification – called European Assessment Document (EAD) – may need to be developed at this point to serve as the basis for the ETA (see information box). The European Technical Approval Guidelines in accordance with the former Construction Products Directive – known to many manufacturers under the name ‘ETAG’ – may be used as EADs pursuant to the transitional provisions.

With the EAD available, we begin preparing the ETA. For this, we first discuss the details of the test plan with you, which is based on the European Assessment Document. Since we do not offer testing services ourselves, you can choose from a number of different providers.

On the basis of the submitted test reports, we then assess your product and prepare your ETA. You will be involved in all steps of the ETA (and, if applicable, the EAD) preparation process and are welcome to contribute your ideas and express your wishes at any time.

**European Assessment Documents – the basis for issuing an ETA**

European Assessment Documents (EADs) are the harmonised technical specifications on which the ETAs are based. The EADs are prepared by the European Organisation for Technical Assessment (EOTA). If, when reviewing your application, we find that a new EAD must be prepared or an existing EAD must be amended for the preparation of your ETA, we will inform EOTA of this.

A working group will then be formed in EOTA to network all Technical Assessment Bodies wishing to participate in the preparation or revision of the EAD. If there is not yet a Commission decision regarding the applicable system of assessment and verification of constancy of performance of the construction product (AVCP system), this will likewise be requested at this point. The EADs benefit from the technical and regulatory expertise of experienced assessment specialists. Furthermore, the deadlines for the EAD procedure are clearly stipulated in the Construction Products Regulation, allowing for rapid development of high-quality technical specifications. EADs constitute harmonised specifications and thus entitle you to affix the CE marking. However, there is no obligation for all manufacturers to use these harmonised technical specifications after a certain transitional period (coexistence period) as is the case with harmonised European standards.
| **EOTA** | European Organisation for Technical Assessment (EOTA) | Organisation of Technical Assessment Bodies established under the Construction Products Regulation. EOTA develops European Assessment Documents and coordinates the issuing of European Technical Assessments. |
| **ETA** | European Technical Assessment | Documented assessment of the performance of a construction product that is not (or not fully) covered by a harmonised standard in relation to its essential characteristics. The ETA serves as the basis for CE marking of the construction product. |
| **EAD** | European Assessment Document | Harmonised technical specification developed by EOTA as the basis for European Technical Assessments. |
| **ETAG** | European Technical Approval Guideline | Basis for granting European technical approvals pursuant to the former Construction Products Directive. In accordance with the transitional provisions, ETAGs may continue to be used as EADs under the Construction Products Regulation. |
| **TAB** | Technical Assessment Body | Body designated by the Member States in consideration of the applicable requirements and entitled to issue European Technical Assessments. |
| **AVCP** | Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance | Prerequisite for drawing up a declaration of performance. Within the framework of the systems of assessment and verification of constancy of performance of the construction product, the performance of the construction product is verified and the production in the factory is monitored, if necessary with the involvement of independent third-party bodies. |
| **BWR** | Basic Works Requirement | The Construction Products Regulation names seven basic requirements for construction works: mechanical resistance and stability; safety in case of fire; hygiene, health and the environment; safety and accessibility in use; protection against noise; energy economy and heat retention; and sustainable use of natural resources. |
| **Essential characteristic** | | An essential characteristic is a characteristic of a construction product which is relevant to the fulfilment of the basic requirements for construction works. |
What information does the ETA contain?

The ETA first describes the construction product and its intended use. Then the essential characteristics are listed and the performance determined is recorded. Finally the applicable system of assessment and verification of constancy of performance (AVCP system) for the product is stated. As the manufacturer, you can influence which essential characteristics will feature in the ETA, in particular if a new EAD needs to be developed (‘first-mover advantage’). However, you should ensure that the declared characteristics and performance are sufficient for meeting the construction works requirements in the Member States in which you wish to market your product. We would be pleased to advise you.

The logic behind the ETA procedure is different than the logic behind the national verifications of fitness for use (abZ, abP and ZiE) in Germany. Whereas the national verifications of fitness for use confirm that the construction product or construction technique meets all national regulatory requirements for the described intended use(s), the ETA is based on a common European declaration of the essential characteristics and performance of a product. This allows the user to easily determine whether the product can be used in the specific installation situation in accordance with the regulatory requirements applicable in the destination country. Give your customer a good reason to select your product – we’ll help you!

How long does it take to prepare an ETA and how long is it valid?

The processing time for an ETA depends on the complexity of the product and the testing requirements, but is normally in the range of a few months. The Construction Products Regulation allots nine months for the EAD procedure.

Please note that the specified periods only begin when the technical file is complete. By providing complete information about the product, you can contribute to the rapid and delay-free processing of your application.

European Technical Assessments are valid for an unlimited duration provided that the products themselves are not modified and there are no relevant changes in the referenced standards, assessment methods or new technical findings.
How much does an ETA cost?

The costs for issuing a European Technical Assessment vary from case to case. We consider the complexity of the product (workload involved) as well as the economic benefit that you as a manufacturer can realise with the product. If you have already applied for a national technical approval with DIBt, you can use these costs as a guideline. We would be pleased to provide you with an individual cost estimate. Please send us your completed application form for this.

How and where can I apply for an ETA?

You can download the application form from the DIBt website at www.dibt.de.

If you already have a contact at DIBt, please send it directly to him or her.

In all other cases, send it to dibt@dibt.de or to the address below:

Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik
Kolonnenstraße 30 B
10829 Berlin
Germany
Making safe building visible

- Rely on 48 years of experience!
- Benefit from the expert knowledge of our 220 employees as well as 520 honorary experts from administration, science and industry.
- Make use of the wealth of product-specific knowledge, which our specialised sections can provide!
- Take away new ideas for product development!
- Use your ETA as a basis for approval and assessment procedures in countries outside Europe!
- Profit from the added value of the 'DIBt' brand.
Partner DIBt – since 1968

- As the approval body for innovative, unregulated construction products on the national level, DIBt has long-standing experience in the assessment of construction products.
- DIBt is a European leader in the preparation of European Technical Assessments and European Assessment Documents.
- DIBt is the only Technical Assessment Body in Germany designated pursuant to the Construction Products Act.
- DIBt is designated as a Technical Assessment Body for all construction products pursuant to the Construction Products Regulation.
- Individual customer support and a cooperative approach are part of what defines us.
- You would rather use calculations than tests? We can help you. DIBt does not offer testing services itself and can hence provide impartial advice.
- Theory and applied research – our staff are always on the leading edge. The assessment process often results in new ideas for improving and further developing your product.
- DIBt is networked with the relevant national, European and international technical committees and institutions. We would be pleased to examine the possibilities for cooperation with approval bodies outside Europe with you.
- DIBt is known beyond Europe’s borders for its high-quality technical assessments and approvals.

DIBt – construction products assessed in Germany, made for the world!

Your guarantees

- To protect your data, we have installed an information security system conforming to the requirements of the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI).
- As a public institution, we act independently of private interests.
Milestones

1968
The Institut für Bautechnik (IfBt) is established as a public institution on the basis of an agreement between the federal states and the Federation.

1991
IfBt is designated as the sole German approval body for European construction products within the framework of the implementation of the Construction Products Directive. Participation in EOTA begins.

1993
The Institute is renamed ‘Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik (DIBt)’. The Institute’s responsibilities are extended to include the granting of European technical approvals.

1998
DIBt grants the first European technical approval in Europe.

2000
DIBt joins the European Union of Agrément in Construction (UEAtc) with the consent of the federal states.

2007
As a Structural Safety Control Authority, DIBt is now permitted to grant structural design approvals.

2008
The federal states entrust DIBt with the coordination of market surveillance of harmonised construction products in Germany. Starting in 2014, DIBt assumes further tasks as the ‘joint market surveillance authority of the federal states’.

2010
DIBt joins the World Federation of Technical Assessment Organisations (WFTAO).

2012
DIBt is designated as the sole Technical Assessment Body in Germany and as the notifying authority under the new EU Construction Products Regulation.

2016
Cable net structures are widely used in construction as safety and design elements: for example, as horizontal or vertical fall protection on balconies, viewing platforms or in amusement and climbing parks. In zoos, they are used to fence off animal enclosures or free-flight aviaries. The greening of façades with see-through cable net structures to protect against summer heat is a real head-turner. With a European Technical Assessment from DIBt, the systems can be freely traded and marketed across Europe.
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