

Update to EN14915 standard: NL & BE**11th July 2024**

We are writing to update you in advance of an amendment to the EN14915 standard which comes into effect on August 20th 2024. This EN14915 update affects the standards approach to fire classification of modified and all coated wood types for use as timber cladding.

Prior to 20th August most wood types with closed cladding design systems are deemed as Class D through 'classification without further testing' in EN14915. National building code determines which classification from A (best and incombustible) to F are required on different building types and areas of building types. A summary of the building code for your country is provided at the end of this update.

From 20th August, testing by the SBI (EN13823) and small flame (EN11925-2) test methods are required for classification of modified wood, preservative treated wood and coated wood cladding. Accoya can achieve a Class D but not in all test set ups. Accoya boards (of a standard density spread around average) failed to achieve a class D (by 5%) and was rated as class E* when tested in a common tongue and groove profile, with 19mm thickness, installed over a ventilated 40mm cavity.

This position does not affect American fire classification run by a different method, ASTM E84 in which Accoya achieves Class C, the same classification as traditional wood cladding products.

Where necessary Class D Accoya performance can be achieved through one of the following approaches:

- Use of 22mm or thicker boards with squared edges*
- Charred finish on 19mm boards*
- Application of intumescent coatings: Anker Stuy translucent and Teknos Teknosafe opaque. Both currently in test and anticipated to pass
- Profiling to 15 or 19mm and subsequent treatment with Burnblock. A contract service or product sale offered by our Norwegian distributor, Woodlink www.woodlink.no. Woodlink have the full SBI classification report for this system installed as a ventilated cladding system*

Class E is suitable for a range of applications across European Building Codes. A summary of the BE and NL code positions is provided on page 2. In summary:

Belgium, Class E permitted for:

- Single family houses and industrial buildings
- Other buildings when the material comprises no more than 5% of the building surface

The Netherlands, Class E permitted for:

- The material comprises no more than 5% of the building

Class B (EN13501) requirements can be achieved for Accoya with treatment by Woodsafe and Burnblock.

Ultimately the cladding manufacturer is responsible for classification of a timber cladding system or, if no system is used, the design team is responsible if they have specified the use of timber for any part of the cladding. In addition, the wider building design team is responsible for building code review. We are available to help answer queries on Accoya classification.

John Alexander
Group Commercial Director

**Test reports attached to email and available on request.*

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Building Code Summary.

Please check current local code directly for compliance decisions.

Region	Country	Building Height	Type	Location on the façade	Minimum Euroclass	Condition
Besluit van 3 juli 2018, houdende regels over bouwwerken in de fysieke leefomgeving (Besluit bouwwerken leefomgeving) (Bbl)						
	NL	≤ 13m	All buildings with a floor above 5m	≤ 2,5m	B	-
					C	Next to extra protected escape route
			All other buildings	Anywhere	D	-
					C	Next to extra protected escape route
		> 13m	All buildings	5% surface	F	-
			All buildings	Anywhere	B	-
WTCB – Brandveiligheid van gevels van gebouwen met meerdere verdiepingen, juli 2017						
Algemene Directie Veiligheid en Preventie – De klassering van industriegebouwen Toelichtingen bij-lage 6:						
BENELUX	Brandpreventievoorschriften voor industriegebouwen, 2011					
	BE	All	Single family houses	Anywhere	F	-
			Industrial buildings			
		< 10m	All buildings	Anywhere	D	Self-reliant: Able to exit building in case of emergency without assistance.
					C	Not able to exit building in case of emergency without assistance
		10-25m			B	
		> 25m			A2	-
	All		5% surface	F		