

New update to the M1 testing protocol

The M1 classification criteria and testing protocol went through a renewal process last spring and the updated versions were released on 5. July 2017. The standard EN 16516 "Construction products – Assessment of release of dangerous substances – Determination of emissions into indoor air" was published in October 2017. The reference to the testing standard was therefore updated to include the new final EN-standard and reference to the preliminary version of the document (prEN 16516) was removed from the testing protocol.

Building Information Foundation takes part in the development work of the emission testing standards applied in the construction material testing

The testing standards, which the M1-testing protocol is based on are under revision in the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). The odour testing standard: "*ISO 16000-28:2012 Indoor air – Part 28: Determination of odour emissions from building products using test chambers*" and the standard for VOC analysis: "*ISO 16000-6:2011 Indoor air Part 6: Determination of volatile organic compounds in indoor and test chamber air by active sampling on Tenax TA sorbent, thermal desorption and gas chromatography using MS or MS-FID*" will be renewed. From Finland Dr. Arja Valtanen will be participating in the revision process of both of these standards.

Presentation about M1-classification system on 7. November 2017 in Cologne, Germany

In November there is a chance to hear the latest news about M1-classification in Cologne, Germany. Dr. Arja Valtanen gives a presentation in a seminar hosted by the Eco-Institute. The presentation is held in German language with the title:

"Die M1 Zertifizierung aus Finnland: Eine wachsende Bedeutung in Skandinavien und ganz Europa für emissionsarme Bauprodukte und Möbel" which translates to: "The M1-classification from Finland: A growing demand for low-emitting construction materials and furniture in Scandinavian countries and whole Europe." The seminar takes place on 7. November 2017 in the Dorint Hotel an der Messe Köln. It is possible to register for the seminar on the web-page of Eco-Institute <http://www.eco-institut.de/de/2017/06/eco-institut-seminar-produktqualitaet-fuer-die-zukunft-2017/>.

A growing demand for environmental product declarations e.g. EPDs in the future

The European commission has in autumn 2017 filed a proposal for a set of indicators used in voluntary environmental assessment of buildings. These Levels-indicators consist of six categories: carbon footprint, resource efficient material cycles, water use efficiency, healthy and comfortable spaces, adjustment to climate change, life cycle costs and value.

Levels and other environmental classification systems, like RTS- green leadership tool increase the demand for EPDs. The RTS-EPDs published by The Building Information Foundation can be found from the web-page epd.rts.fi. The Ministry of the Environment, GBC Finland and the Building Information Foundation initiate the Levels testing in Finland early 2018.

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