Rules for screed materials according to European standards

REGELN FÜR ESTRICHMÖRTEL NACH EUROPÄISCHER NORMUNG

REGLEMENTATION POUR MORTIERS DE CHAPE SELON LES NORMES EUROPEENNES

Kurt Zeus

SUMMARY

About 8 years ago CEN decided that a standard for screed materials should be set up. Materials meeting this can be traded across borders in Europe. In the middle of the year 2002 a standard for screed materials, DIN EN 13813 (1) will be ready. This standard will contain new regulated screed materials together with new material properties.

After the publication of the European standard for screed materials there is a transition period in which screed materials can be used according to national standards, in Germany DIN 18560-1 (2). The manufacturers and layers of screed materials must however familiarise themselves with the new regulations. The national standards – in Germany DIN 18560-2,3,4 and 7 (3,4,5,6) must be revised by the end of the transition period.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Vor rund 8 Jahren entschied CEN, auch eine Estrichnorm erarbeiten zu lassen, nach deren Festlegungen dieses Produkt über die Grenzen Europas hinweg gehandelt werden kann. Mitte des Jahres 2002 wird eine Norm für Estrichmörtel und Estrichmassen vorliegen, die DIN EN 13813 [1], mit neu geregelten Estrichen und mit einigen neuen Material-Kennwerten.

Zwar gilt nach Erscheinen der europäischen Estrichmörtelnorm eine Übergangsfrist, nach der die Estrichmörtel und Estrichmassen auch noch nach nationalen Regelungen, in Deutschland nach DIN 18560-1 [2], verwendet werden dürfen, jedoch müssen sich die Mörtelhersteller bzw. die Estrichleger mit den

1 Chairman CEN/TC 303 – Screed materials and floor screeds
neuen Festlegungen vertraut machen; die nationalen Anwendungsnormen - in Deutschland die DIN 18 560-2, 3, 4 und 7 - [3, 4, 5, 6] sind bis zum Ende der Übergangsfrist zu überarbeiten.

RESUME


Après la parution de la norme européenne, il y aura une période de transition pendant laquelle les mortiers de chape pourront être utilisés selon les normes nationales, en Allemagne la DIN 18 560 (2). Néanmoins, les fabricants et poseurs de chape devront se familiariser avec les nouvelles réglementations. Les normes d’application nationales, en Allemagne la DIN 18 560-2, 3, 4 et 7 [3, 4, 5, 6] devront être actualisées jusqu’à la fin de la période de transition.

KEYWORDS: European Standard for screed materials

1 INTRODUCTION

In future, construction materials can only be sold in other countries when according to european construction materials guide lines there are standardised rules, so called harmonised technical specifications and the materials fulfil the requirements of these technical specifications so that a CE symbol can be used.

8 years ago CEN decided that the technical standards for screed materials in civil engineering should be harmonised and commissioned Germany to act as co-ordinator of the technical committee No. 303.

From this technical committee 2 working groups (WG) and 5 task groups (TG) were formed. WG1 standardised the terminology, properties and requirements of screed materials. Methods of testing screed materials were regulated by WG2. The 5 task groups for binder cement, calcium sulphate, magnesite, mastic asphalt and resin were consulted by the working groups when specific problems relating to the above mentioned materials occurred.
Half a year ago DIN 13318 (7) was published. In this standard the usual definitions in German English and French used in screed materials are compiled. This proved very useful when language problems and communication difficulties occurred at many meetings.

After the first request for opinions the new screed material standard prEN 13813(1) was sent to Brussels for a final opinion whereby had to be either yes or no. At the most slight editing changes were allowed. It is to be reckoned with that the DIN EN 18313 will be published by the middle of the year 2001. After a transition period of at least half a year all screed materials shall be treated according to the new rules and labelled with the CE symbol. From this time on the regulations in DIN 18560-1 (2) do not apply any more.

2 SCREED SORTS AND THEIR USES

The responsibility of a technical committee and especially its chairman is to see that all tried and tested products even from other european countries find a place in a european standard. As a result nearly all screed sorts and screed properties in DIN 18560-1 (2) are integrated in the new standard.

According to pr EN 13318 (7) a screed is one or more layers of screed mortar placed at the construction site on a base. It can either be bonded to the base or not or laid on a separating layer or on a insulating layer. Its purpose is to fulfil one or more of the following functions

- achieve a certain required height
- used as a base for flooring material
- used directly as a wearing surface

In order to eliminate communication difficulties it was necessary to define the term screed and to declare that in Germany the term screed includes screed mortar, screed materials and the finished product.

As well as screeds made of standardised cement binder, calcium sulphate, magnesite and mastic asphalt as mentioned in DIN 18560-1 (2) the pr EN 13813 includes synthetic resin screeds even though synthetic resin binder alone will not be standardised in future. According to the type of binder and the initial letters in English screeds are characterised as follows,
CT  cementitious screeds
CA  calcium sulfate screeds
MA  magnesite screeds
AS  mastic asphalt screeds
SR  synthetic resin screeds

The regulated requirements in pr EN 13813 apply only to screed materials used for floor construction indoors. Additional properties possibly required for the use of screeds outdoors are not included in the new standard. It is stated specifically that the application of the new standard applies only to the properties of the products which can be traded and not the manufacture of the screed materials themselves. It is also stated quite clearly that this standard applies to screed materials mixed on site by the same contractor. That is the screed layer who mixes and places it. In future it must be taken into consideration that the requirements of pr EN 1504-2 (8) should be heeded when cementitious and synthetic resin mortars are used for protective layers or repair of concrete components. According to the new standard screed mixtures cannot be used for load carrying components of structural systems.

3  ESSENTIAL PROPERTIES AND REQUIREMENTS

At the beginning of 1996 the european commission issued a so called mandate for the construction products for floors. In this mandate the essential properties

for which the responsible technical committee had to name minimum requirements were listed. The section for screed materials were included in this mandate in January 1999. The following properties were to be dealt with

- reaction to fire
- corrosion enhancing components
- harmful components
- water vapour- and water permeability
- resistance to mechanical use
- impact sound insulation, sound absorption
- thermal insulation

In the following then general valid regulated properties in pr EN 13813 are described. Afterwards requirements for the individual screed mortar types mentioned in pr EN 13813 (annex Z) will be gone into.
3.1 Materials

Only such binders, aggregates, admixtures, additives and water may be used in the production screed mortars that guarantee the properties that the manufacturer has named. If there are European standards for the source materials and the materials fulfil the requirements of these standards then it can be assumed that the usefulness of the screed mortar is guaranteed. Therefore the manufacturer can in addition to source materials which fulfil European or national standards also use materials which are not standardised, providing he can guarantee that the required properties such as strength, wear resistance and shrinkage limits can with certainty be achieved when the screed mortar is produced at the construction site.

3.2 Usual properties and classes

When describing a screed mortar with property values one must differentiate between those that must always be reported and those quoted when relevant.

The values always required (N = normative) and those when relevant (O = optional) are compiled dependent on mortar type and usage in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screed materials based on:</th>
<th>compressive strength N</th>
<th>flexural strength N</th>
<th>wear resistance to rolling wheel</th>
<th>wear resistance to indentation</th>
<th>surface hardness</th>
<th>resistance to rolling wheel with floor covering</th>
<th>setting time</th>
<th>shrinkage and swelling</th>
<th>consistency</th>
<th>pH value</th>
<th>modulus of elasticity</th>
<th>impact resistance</th>
<th>bond strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cement</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N* (one of three)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium sulfate</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesite</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastic asphalt</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthetic resin</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N* (one of two)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = N Normative            O = O Optional, where relevant  - = not relevant

* only for screed material intended for wearing surfaces
According to table 1 compressive and flexural strength after pr EN 13892-1 and –2 (9,10) must always be declared for cementitious-, calcium sulphate- and magnesite screed materials. For thicker layers of synthetic resin screed material it may be declared. If the surface of cementitious- or synthetic resin screeds are to be used directly the the wear resistance must be declared. With cementitious screed there is a choice of 3 test methods and with synthetic resin screed 2 test methods.

In Germany the abrasion test after Böhme according to pr EN 13892-3 (11) has been found to be the best in order to describe the surface strength of cementitious screeds with hard aggregates subject to impact, rolling and abrasive use. However for cementitious screeds with a high content of synthetic resin the BCA testing machine after pr EN 13892-4 (12) or the rolling wheel testing machine after pr EN 13892-5 (13) appear to be better.

For all mechanical values several classes have been established. The user can select the appropriate class according to the planned usage. The mortar manufacturer or layer can classify his work according to the results of a suitability test and mark it accordingly.

The suggested classes for the individual values are compiled in tables 2 to 8. The abbreviations used to describe the values are also given.

### Table 2. Compressive strength classes for screed materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>C5</th>
<th>C7</th>
<th>C12</th>
<th>C16</th>
<th>C20</th>
<th>C25</th>
<th>C30</th>
<th>C35</th>
<th>C40</th>
<th>C50</th>
<th>C60</th>
<th>C70</th>
<th>C80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compressive strength in N/mm²</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) C for Compressive strength

### Table 3. Flexural strength classes for screed materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>F1</th>
<th>F2</th>
<th>F3</th>
<th>F4</th>
<th>F5</th>
<th>F6</th>
<th>F7</th>
<th>F10</th>
<th>F15</th>
<th>F20</th>
<th>F30</th>
<th>F40</th>
<th>F50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flexural strength in N/mm²</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) F for Flexural strength

### Table 4. Wear resistance Böhme classes for cementitious and other screed materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>A22</th>
<th>A15</th>
<th>A12</th>
<th>A9</th>
<th>A6</th>
<th>A3</th>
<th>A1,5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abrasion quantity in cm³/50 cm²</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) A for Abrasion
**Table 5. Wear resistance BCA classes for cementitious and other screed materials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>AR6</th>
<th>AR4</th>
<th>AR2</th>
<th>AR1</th>
<th>AR0.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max. wear depth in µm</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) AR for Abrasion Resistance

**Table 6. Wear resistance to rolling wheel classes for cementitious and other screed materials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>RWA300</th>
<th>RWA100</th>
<th>RWA20</th>
<th>RWA10</th>
<th>RWA1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abrasion quantity in cm³</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) RWA for Rolling Wheel Abrasion

In test abrasion according to Böhme the surface of the screed is pressed on to a rotating steel plate. Between the screed and the steel plate is an abrasive sand. In the other two test the abrasion is produced by steel wheels or ball bearings under a defined load. In all cases the volume resp. Abrasion depth is used to judge the abrasion resistance.

**Table 7. Surface hardness for mangnesite and other screed materials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>SH30</th>
<th>SH40</th>
<th>SH50</th>
<th>SH70</th>
<th>SH100</th>
<th>SH150</th>
<th>SH200</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface hardness in N/mm²</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) SH for Surface Hardness

The surface hardness as tested after pr EN 13892-6 (14) is a value together with the compressive strength which has proofed itself over time as a good property for classifying magnesi te screeds use directly. It can also be used to describe other screeds with aggregates whose largest grain is < 4mm

**Table 8a. Hardness classes for mastic asphalt; on cubes – Load applied 525 N - Indentation in units of 0,1 mm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test conditions</th>
<th>IC10</th>
<th>IC15</th>
<th>IC40</th>
<th>IC100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 ± 1 °C, 100 mm², 5 h</td>
<td>&lt; 10</td>
<td>&lt; 15</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 ± 1 °C, 100 mm², 2 h</td>
<td>&lt; 20</td>
<td>&lt; 40</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 ± 1 °C, 500 mm², 0,5 h</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>&lt; 15 - 40</td>
<td>&gt; 40 - 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) IC for Indentation Cubes
Table 8b. Hardness classes for mastic asphalt; on plates – Load applied 525 N
– Indentation in units of 0,1 mm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test conditions</th>
<th>IP10</th>
<th>IP12</th>
<th>IP30</th>
<th>IP70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 ± 1 °C, 100 mm², 31 minutes</td>
<td>≤ 10</td>
<td>≤ 12</td>
<td>10 - 30</td>
<td>≤ 70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8c. Hardness classes for mastic asphalt; on plates – Load applied 317 N
– Indentation in units of 0,1 mm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test conditions</th>
<th>IPI</th>
<th>IPII</th>
<th>IPIII</th>
<th>IPIV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45 °C, 31,7 mm², 1 minutes</td>
<td>≤ 11</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 °C, 31,7 mm², 1 minutes</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>≤ 9</td>
<td>≤ 8</td>
<td>≤ 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9. Bond strength classes for cementitious, calcium sulfate, magnesite and synthetic resin screed material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>B0,2</th>
<th>B0,5</th>
<th>B1,0</th>
<th>B1,5</th>
<th>B2,0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bond strength in N/mm²</td>
<td>0,2</td>
<td>0,5</td>
<td>1,0</td>
<td>1,5</td>
<td>2,0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The hardness classes of mastic asphalt determined according to pr EN 12697-20 (15) or pr EN 12697-21 (16) can be determined on either cubes IC (IC for indentation cubes) or plates IP (IP for indentation plates).

For thin screed layers such as synthetic resin mortars or cementitious mortars with small diameter aggregate modified with synthetic resin other values are important for the durability. They are for example bond strength and impact resistance. For synthetic screeds classes of these values always have to be declared.

Table 9. Bond strength classes for cementitious, calcium sulfate, magnesite and synthetic resin screed material

The bond strength is determined after pr EN 13892-8 (17). The impact resistance IR is determined on a layer of synthetic resin mortar applied to a defined concrete plate according to EN ISO 6272 (18) and is quoted in Nm.

The values for the wearing resistance to rolling wheels, the time for laying, shrinkage and swelling, consistency and flexural modulus according to the latest European testing method standards can optionally be quoted by mortar manufacturers for screeds with coverings.
3.3 **Special product properties**

Values for the following material properties must be declared by the mortar manufacturer if there are legal requirements. The properties for there are different or unified requirements in european countries at present include:

- electrical resistance
- chemical resistance
- reaction to fire
- release of corrosive substances
- or corrosiveness of screed materials
- water vapour- and water permeability
- thermal resistance, impact sound insulation and sound absorption

Whereas in pr EN 13813 only values and test methods used to describe the special material properties are mentioned threshold values which are to be kept in all european countries are laid down in appendix Z of pr EN 13813. Only when these threshold values are achieved resp. after checking whether a threshold value is necessary may the CE symbol be used.

4 **DESCRIPTION OF SCREED MATERIALS**

Screed materials according to this standard have been described by the binder and the guaranteed classes and properties by the manufacturer. Planers and users of screed materials also have to use these descriptions.

Cementitious screed material not used for wearing surfaces in strength classes C20 and F4

**EN 13813 CT-C20-F4**

Magnesiste screed material in strength classes C50 and F10 and surface hardness SH150

**EN 13813 MA-C50-F10-SH150**

Calcium sulfate screed material in strength classes C20 and F4

**EN 13813 CA-C20-F4**

Mastic asphalt material according to resistance to indentation class IC10

**EN 13813 AS-IC10**
or Synthetic screed material according to bond strength class B2,0, wear resistance class AR1 and impact resistance IR4

**EN 13813 SR-B2,0-AR1-IR4**

If materials such as hard aggregates, polymers, fibres, etc. are used to achieve special properties, these materials may be mentioned in the designation.

Cementitious screed material modified by polymer according to compressive strength class C40, flexural strength class F10 and bonding strength class B1,5

**EN 13813 Polymer-modified CT-C40-F10-B1,5**

Cementitious screed material with hard aggregates according to compressive strength class C60, flexural strength class F10 and wear resistance "Böhme" class A1,5

**EN 13813 Hard aggregates CT-C60-F10-A1,5**

5 **CONFORMITY**

The manufacturers and layers of screed materials have to prove the declared material properties through

- initial type test
- production control

The initial type test shall show before the use of the screed materials that with the source materials the properties guaranteed by the manufacturer can be achieved.

Initial type tests always have to be carried out when the source materials or the manufacturing process is changed. Production control includes

- control of manufacturing process
- testing of the screed materials

The control of the manufacturing process shall be carried out according to the principles of EN ISO 9000 and includes

- regular checking of machines and equipment used in the manufacture of the screed materials
- control of the source materials
- checking the manufacturing process

The testing of the screed materials shall be carried out according to the type of screed material and meaningfulness of the test results taking previous result into consideration.

Testing shall always be carried out
- about every 1000m² laid
- when a new section or site is started
- according to the rules in section 9 of pr EN 13813

Only screed materials for which the material properties are proved according to these rules may be describe according to pr EN 13813 as shown above. The conformity or correspondence can be established

through regular controls sing statistical evaluation of the results
or through individual results with a sufficiently high safety factor above the guaranteed value.

By correspondence using individual results the values for example with compressive and flexural strength should be at least 10% higher than the quoted properties.

REFERENCES

[1] pr EN 13813: Screed material and floor screeds – screed materials – Properties and requirements
[2] DIN 18560-1: Floor screeds in building constructions – General requirements, production, testing
[5] DIN 18560-4: Floor screeds in building constructions – Floor screeds on separating layer

[7] DIN EN 13318: Screed materials and floor screeds – Definitions


