



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# A Guide to the Marketing and Use of Aggregate Concrete Blocks to EN 771-3 in Ireland

for manufacturers, importers, distributors, specifiers,  
designers, builders, certifiers and end users

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Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
[gov.ie/housing](https://www.gov.ie/housing)



# Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 Purpose of the Guidance .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 Construction Products Regulation .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.3 Harmonised European Standards .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.4 National Provisions .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Obligations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1 What information should Economic Operators have available for     aggregate concrete blocks for aggregate concrete blocks placed on the     market?.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.2 What are the obligations for Specifiers, Designers, Builders, Certifiers     and End Users? .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.3 What is the role of the Market Surveillance Authorities? .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.4 Summary of obligations .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. Example Documentation .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3.1 Sample Declaration of Performance .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3.2 Sample CE Marking .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4. Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5. Relevant Terms and Definitions .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6. References to additional information .....</b>	<b>19</b>

# 1. Introduction

**Aggregate Concrete Blocks within the scope of EN 771-3 must have a Declaration of Performance and CE marking since 1 July 2013 in order to comply with the Construction Products Regulation.**



## 1.1 Purpose of the Guidance

This document provides guidance to economic operators (manufacturers, importers and distributors) on the marketing of aggregate concrete blocks to EN 771-3 standard<sup>1</sup> (as a harmonised European standard under the Construction Products Regulation (CPR)). It also outlines the responsibilities of specifiers, designers, builders, certifiers and end users for compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021. It is produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The chain of custody of a construction product is only as strong as its weakest link. It is incumbent on all those involved in the supply chain to adhere to their legal obligations under the CPR.

It is also important that specifiers, designers, builders, certifiers and end users are fully aware and informed of the performance requirements for aggregate concrete blocks regarding their end use in the construction of works or a building.

This guidance aims to facilitate clearer communication within the supply chain regarding the declared performance of essential characteristics, having regard to national provisions in Ireland.

Through clearer communication within the supply chain, specifiers, designers, builders, certifiers and end users should be more informed when specifying and choosing aggregate concrete blocks that are fit for intended use and suitable for the conditions in which they are to be used. Appropriate specifications and choices will help secure compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015 Specification for masonry units Part 3: Aggregate concrete masonry units (Dense and lightweight aggregates)

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/95d00-building-standards/>

## 1.2 Construction Products Regulation

Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 (“the CPR”) sets out rules for the marketing of construction products in the EU, regardless of where the construction products are manufactured e.g. in Ireland, in other EU Member States, Northern Ireland, Great Britain or other third countries.

The CPR is directly applicable in its entirety in Irish law, since 1 July 2013. It is therefore essential that all parties to the construction product supply chain understand its requirements.<sup>3</sup>

Where a construction product covered by a harmonised European standard is being placed on the EU market, the CPR requires the manufacturer to draw up a ‘*Declaration of Performance*’ (DoP) and affix a ‘CE’ marking to the product.

In order to do so, manufacturers must test and declare the performance of their construction products using a common technical language prescribed in the harmonised European standard and take into consideration the national provisions in relation to the intended use or uses of the product, where the manufacturer intends the product to be made available on the market.

## 1.3 Harmonised European Standards

Harmonised European standards provide a technical basis to assess the performance of construction products. They enable manufacturers to draw up the Declaration of Performance as defined in the Construction Products Regulation, and affix the CE marking.

The relevant suite of harmonised European standards facilitating specification of masonry units is the EN 771 (series).

Relevant to this guidance, ‘*I.S. EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015*’<sup>4</sup> (*I.S. EN 771-3*) specifies the characteristics and performance requirements of aggregate concrete masonry units made from dense and lightweight aggregates or a combination of both for which the main intended uses are common, facing or exposed masonry in load bearing or non-load bearing building and civil engineering applications.

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<sup>3</sup> Refer to the website of the European Commission for further information at the following link: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/construction-products-regulation-cpr\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/construction-products-regulation-cpr_en)

An Information Note is also available on the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7069d-construction-products-regulation-cpr/>

<sup>4</sup> EN 771-3: 2011+A1:2015 Specification for masonry units Part 3: Aggregate concrete masonry units (Dense and lightweight aggregates) may be purchased from [www.standards.ie](http://www.standards.ie)



## 1.4 National Provisions

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) has produced additional guidance to some harmonised European standards, under the CPR, in the form of Standard Recommendations (S.R.s) which set out appropriate minimum performance levels for specific intended uses of certain construction products in Ireland.<sup>5</sup> These are Ireland's National Provisions, as referenced in Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) to the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021.<sup>6</sup>

*S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018/AC:2019 Recommendations for the design of masonry structures in Ireland to Eurocode 6' (S.R. 325), includes amongst other things, recommendations relevant to EN 771-3, as follows:*

- Category I aggregate concrete blocks are required for use in buildings. This requires independent third party oversight of factory production control by a Notified Body<sup>7</sup> (a designated body that carries out third-party tasks).
- Aggregate concrete blocks, intended to be used in elements subject to structural requirements, are required to meet the prescribed performances requirements set out in S.R. 325, including density, compressive strength and moisture movement.
- The specification for aggregate concrete blocks and mortar classes required to achieve appropriate durability for finished work in Ireland are set out in S.R. 325.
- Aggregate concrete blocks are required to be made with aggregate conforming to 'I.S. EN 12620+A1:2008 - Aggregates for concrete' and 'S.R. 16:2016 Guidance on the use of I.S. EN 12620:2002+A1:2008 - Aggregates for concrete'.

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<sup>5</sup> Refer to the website of the National Standards Authority of Ireland for the full list of guidance available on harmonised European standards falling under remit of Construction Products Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 at the following link:  
[https://www.nsai.ie/images/uploads/standards/National\\_Guidance\\_to\\_Harmonised\\_Standards\\_falling\\_under\\_the\\_CPR\\_\(EU\)\\_No.\\_3052011\\_.pdf](https://www.nsai.ie/images/uploads/standards/National_Guidance_to_Harmonised_Standards_falling_under_the_CPR_(EU)_No._3052011_.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) to the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021 also provide additional guidance on performance requirements for construction products. Refer to the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the following link:  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/d9729-technical-guidance-documents/>

<sup>7</sup> Notified bodies are the only recognised third party carrying out the assessment of performance of construction products. Check the NANDO-CPR database for factory production control certification bodies (AVCP System 2+), accredited to EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015 at the following link:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=cp.nb\\_hs&hs\\_id=155203&cpr=Y](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=cp.nb_hs&hs_id=155203&cpr=Y)

In summary, the manufacturer of aggregate concrete blocks is responsible for compliance with the CPR and in particular for the Declaration of Performance/CE marking of the construction product he or she is placing on the market, having full knowledge of the raw material, implementation of a factory production control system (certified by a notified body), and having regard to the end product's suitability for use in construction works in accordance with the relevant S.R.s published by the NSAI and other performance criteria specified in Technical Guidance Documents to the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021.

## 2. Obligations

### 2.1 What information should Economic Operators have available for aggregate concrete blocks for aggregate concrete blocks placed on the market?

Economic operators (Manufacturers, Importers and Distributors) must have the information listed in Table 1 relevant to the aggregate concrete blocks they place on the market.

<b>Table 1 Information requirements relevant to the responsibility of each economic operator</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Importer</b>	<b>Distributor</b>
<b>1.</b>	A copy of the CE Mark.	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>2.</b>	A valid Declaration of Performance (DoP).	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>3.</b>	Test reports to support the declared performance of essential characteristics included on the Declaration of Performance.	<b>Y</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>4.</b>	Records to confirm that the constituent aggregate conforms to ' <i>EN 12620:2002+A1:2008 - Aggregates for concrete</i> '.	<b>Y</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>5.</b>	Records to confirm that the national provisions set out in ' <i>S.R. 16:2016 Guidance on the use of I.S. EN 12620+A1:2008 – Aggregates for Concrete</i> ' have been adhered to.	<b>Y</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>6.</b>	Certificate of Conformity of the Factory Production Control (FPC) in place for Category I blocks (AVCP System 2+).	<b>Y</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>7.</b>	The instructions and safety information relating to the product.	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>8.</b>	The means by which products within the scope of EN 771-3 are placed, or made available, on the market can be identified and traced throughout the supply chain.	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>



## 2.2 What are the obligations for Specifiers, Designers, Builders, Certifiers and End Users?

Whilst the CPR concerns itself with the conditions which apply when placing a construction product on the market, specifiers, designers, builders, certifiers and end users should:

- when drawing up specifications for aggregate concrete blocks, refer to the harmonised European standard (EN 771-3), and specifically to the requirements of individual characteristics for the particular end use (Refer to S.R. 325 / TGDs),
- when choosing aggregate concrete blocks most suitable for their intended use in construction works, ensure the aggregate concrete blocks are Category I (requires AVCP 2+) and are procured from a compliant economic operator. Check the website of the notified body for a list of certified manufacturers e.g. <https://www.nsai.ie/certification/search-for-a-certified-company/>
- review the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance (Refer to 3.1 for sample DoP),
- check Standard Recommendations e.g. S.R. 325, S.R. 16 and Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) which give guidance on appropriate minimum performance levels for specific intended uses of the product in Ireland (S.R.s are available for purchase on [www.standards.ie](http://www.standards.ie)),
- ensure all works should be carried out using *“proper materials...which are fit for the use for which they are intended and for the conditions in which they are to be used”* to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021.<sup>8</sup>



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<sup>8</sup> Refer to the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/95d00-building-standards/>

## 2.3 What is the role of the Market Surveillance Authorities?

While the CPR came into force and has direct legal application across the entire European Union since 1 July 2013, each Member State is responsible for regulating for its own market surveillance activities in accordance with the specific requirements of the CPR and the broader overarching requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020.<sup>9</sup> Market surveillance activity should enable non-compliant products to be identified and kept or taken off the market with unscrupulous and/or criminal economic operators prosecuted and penalised for their actions.

The National Building Control & Market Surveillance Office (NBC&MSO), under Dublin City Council, has been appointed as competent authority for the carrying out of market surveillance functions for all construction products within the scope of the CPR in the State (Refer to [Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 2020 \(Construction Products – Market Surveillance\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. No. 682 of 2020\)](#)).

The service delivered by NBC&MSO is complementary to the existing role of the 31 building control authorities as market surveillance authorities<sup>10</sup> but also provides for a co-ordinated approach. Building control officers are appointed as authorised officers. [European Union \(Construction Products\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. No.225 of 2013\)](#) set out the specific powers of an authorised officer. Building control authorities liaise with the NBC&MSO to support compliance with the CPR and to determine appropriate action on enforcement matters, as they arise.

NBC&MSO and building control authorities have powers to obtain access to premises to examine, test or inspect products, request documentation regarding the performance of a product, take samples of the product, request the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to prohibit or restrict the use of a product, and prosecute offences.

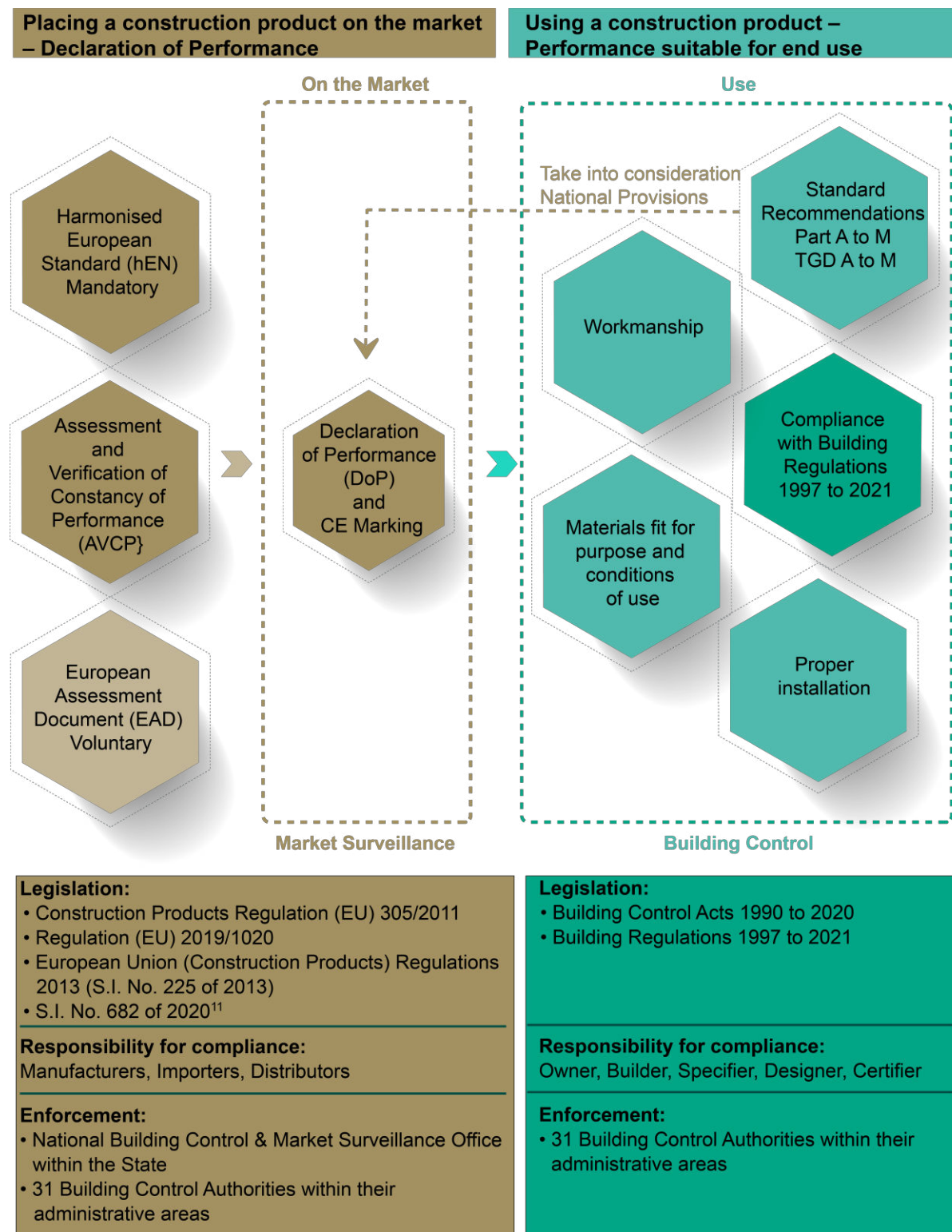
NBC&MSO may be contacted at: [support@nbco.gov.ie](mailto:support@nbco.gov.ie)

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<sup>9</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations \(EC\) No 765/2008 and \(EU\) No 305/2011](#)

<sup>10</sup> Building control authorities (local authorities) are designated as market surveillance authorities for construction products that fall within the scope of the CPR, within their administrative areas.

## 2.4 Summary of obligations



## Sample Declaration of Performance and CE Marking

A sample Declaration of Performance (in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 574/2014) and CE Marking are provided on the following page to illustrate the minimum information to be provided for a common masonry unit to EN 71-3:2011+A1:2015, having regard to the national provisions that exist in Ireland e.g. S.R. 325 and Technical Guidance Documents.

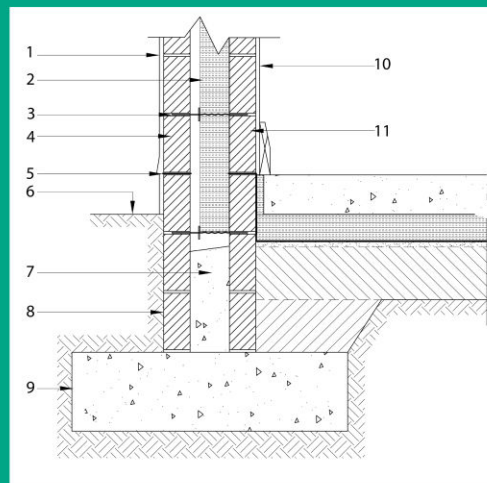
Adherence to this sample Declaration of Performance will facilitate clearer communication of the performance characteristics of the aggregate concrete block. This will help inform specifiers, designers, builders, certifiers and end users when choosing aggregate concrete blocks that are fit for the use intended and the suitable for the conditions in which they are to be used to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021.



## Typical Cavity Wall Construction

The walls should be properly bonded and solidly put together in a workmanlike manner, using proper materials *'fit for the use intended and the suitable for the conditions in which they are to be used'* (Part D Materials and Workmanship), and comply with the relevant provisions of:

- Part A/TGD A (Structure), including provisions of I.S. EN 1996-2 and S.R. 325 e.g. external render, durability, movement joints, etc
- Part C/TGD C (Site Preparation and Resistance to Moisture), to prevent the passage of moisture to the inside of the building or damage to the fabric of the building.



### Legend

1. External Render – Refer to S.R. 325 (including Annex E and F)
2. Insulation – Refer to S.R. 325 and Acceptable Construction Details
3. Wall ties – Refer to S.R. 325 (including Annex D)
4. Aggregate concrete block external leaf – Refer to S.R. 325 (including Annex C for aggregate concrete blocks and Annex E for masonry mortar)
5. Damp Proof Course – Refer to TGD C (Site Preparation and Resistance to Moisture) and S.R. 325.
6. External Ground Level
7. Cavity filled with concrete
8. Rising wall
9. Foundation – Refer to TGD A (Structure)
10. Internal plastered finish – Refer to EN 13914-2
11. Aggregate concrete block inner leaf – per Note 4



## 3. Example Documentation

### 3.1 Sample Declaration of Performance

The following sample Declaration of Performance is in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 574/2014) and tailored for aggregate concrete blocks (EN 771-3).<sup>11</sup>

The Sample Declaration of Performance illustrates the information which should be provided for a common masonry unit to EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015, taking into consideration the national provisions that exist in Ireland e.g. S.R. 325 and Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs).

**NOTE 1:** Article 6.3 (e) of the CPR states: *“The declaration of performance shall in addition contain:*

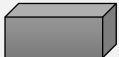
*.....(e) the performance of those essential characteristics of the construction product which are related to the intended use or uses, **taking into consideration the provisions in relation to the intended use or uses where the manufacturer intends the product to be made available on the market;..”***

**NOTE 2:** Where National Provisions do not exist for certain essential characteristics or where some essential characteristics are not relevant to the intended use of the product, the manufacturer may decide not to declare a specific performance. In both these cases “no performance determined” using the acronym “NPD” may be inserted in the Declaration of Performance.



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<sup>11</sup> Where the Declaration of Performance is hosted online, the manufacturer must comply with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 157/2014 of 30 October 2013 on the conditions for making a declaration of performance on construction products available on a website. Refer to: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0157>

DECLARATION OF PERFORMANCE No. 12345		
1. <b>Unique identification code of the product type:</b> ABC – 7.5N Solid Block		
2. <b>Intended Use:</b> Common masonry unit for use as external walls, or as internal walls, in load bearing or non-load bearing building and civil engineering applications.		
3. <b>Manufacturer:</b> ABC Concrete Ltd., Address 1, Address 2, Ireland. Eircode: XXXX		
4. <b>Authorised Representative:</b> Not Applicable		
5. <b>System of AVCP:</b> AVCP System 2+		
6. <b>Harmonised Standard</b> EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015		
7. <b>Notified Body:</b> NB 99999		
8. <b>Declared Performance:</b>		
Essential Characteristic	Performance	
Dimensions	Length	440 mm
	Width	100 mm
	Height	215 mm
	Tolerance Category	D1 (+3mm, -5mm)
Configuration	Shape and features	
	Grouping according to EN 1996-1-1	Group 1
Compressive Strength	Mean Compressive Strength	7.5 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
	Direction of load	Perpendicular to bed faces
	Unit Category	Category I
Dimensional Stability Moisture Movement		< 0.6 mm/m
Bond Strength	Shear Bond Strength	0.15 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
	Flexural Bond Strength	0.5 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Reaction to Fire		A1
Water Absorption		≤20 g/m <sup>2</sup> s
Water Vapour Permeability		5/15µ (Tabulated value)
Direct Airborne Sound Insulation - Gross Density		>1900 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Thermal Resistance		1.11 W/mK (λ10, dry)
Durability against freeze thaw		<p>▲ Suitable for use in:</p> <p><b>Masonry Condition Situations A1 and A2</b> as outlined in Table 14 of S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018.</p> <p>(Work below or near external ground level) – MX2.1/2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>net density ≥ 1,500 kg/m<sup>3</sup>,</li> <li>mean compressive strength ≥ 7.5 N/mm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>aggregate in accordance with I.S. EN 12620 and S.R. 16:2016</li> <li>Mortar Strength Class: M4 for A1 or M6 for A2</li> </ul>
Dangerous Substances		NPD
The performance of the product identified above is in conformity with the declared performance/s. This declaration of performance is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer identified above.		
Signed for and on behalf of the manufacturer by: A.N. Other		
At: Address 1, Address 2, Ireland, Eircode XXXX on 01 July 2013		
Signature: A.N. Other		
<a href="http://www.ABCConcrete/DoP12345">www.ABCConcrete/DoP12345</a>		

Insert DoP Reference No. e.g. 12345

Insert unique identification code

Insert intended use(s). See Section 5 for relevant terms and definitions.

Insert Manufacturer's name and address  
N/A for EU based manufacturers

This must be AVCP 2+ for Ireland

Reference to harmonised EN

Unique number of [EN 771-3 Notified Body](#)

**As National Provisions exist, the manufacturer must:**

● Declare a performance value of each essential characteristic for the specific product to which the DoP relates.

▲ Declare a performance value of the essential characteristic for the specific product, taking into consideration the minimum performance value specified in national provisions, for certain applications.

Annex C.2 of S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018

Annex C.3 of S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018

To be defined by the manufacturer

Annex C.5 of S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018

Annex C.4 and C.5 of  
S.R.325:2013+A2:2018, and Technical  
Guidance Document A (Structure)

Annex C.4 of S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018

Table 14 of S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018

Annex C.6 of S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018  
& Table NA.6 of NA:2010+A1:2014 to I.S.  
EN 1996-1-1:2005+A1:2012

Table NA.5 of NA:2010+A1:2014 to I.S. EN  
1996-1-1:2005+A1:2012

Technical Guidance Document B - Fire  
Safety

To be declared by the manufacturer.  
Section 5.5 of S.R. 325 provides guidance  
Technical Guidance Document E - Sound

Technical Guidance Document L –  
Conservation of Fuel and Energy  
Table 14 of S.R 325:2013+A2:2018  
outlines the range of masonry condition  
situations, for example:  
**Masonry Condition Situation C1 and C2**  
(Unrendered external walls) – MX3.1/3.2

- net density ≥ 1,500 kg/m<sup>3</sup>,
- mean compressive strength ≥ 13N/mm<sup>2</sup>
- aggregate in accordance with I.S. EN 12620 and S.R. 16:2016
- Mortar Strength Class: M12 for C1 and C2

No Performance Determined

Insert as per Regulation (EU) No 574/2014

Insert Name

Insert address and date of issue


Insert signature

Link to online copy of DoP (if hosted online)  
See Delegated Regulation (EU) No 157/2014



## 3.2 Sample CE Marking

The following provides a sample CE Marking for a common masonry unit to EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015, having regard to the Sample Declaration of Performance illustrated in Section 3.1.










**13**

12345 - ABC – 7.5N Solid Block  
 ABC Concrete Ltd., Address 1, Address 2, Ireland.  
 Eircode: XXXX  
 EN 771-3:2011 + A1:2015

NB 99999

**Intended Use:** Common masonry unit for use as external walls, or as internal walls, in load bearing or non-load bearing building and civil engineering applications.

**Declared Performance**

Essential Characteristic	Performance
Dimensions	L x W x H = 440 x 100 x 215 mm
Configuration	Group 1
Tolerance Category	D1
Mean Compressive Strength	 7.5 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Direction of load	Perpendicular to bed faces
Unit Category	 Category I
Moisture Movement	 < 0.6 mm/m
Shear Bond Strength	0.15 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Flexural Bond Strength	0.5 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Reaction to Fire	 A1
Water Absorption	≤20 g/m <sup>2</sup> s
Water Vapour Permeability	5/15μ
Direct Airborne Sound Insulation - Gross Density	 > 1900 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Thermal Resistance	 1.11 W/mK (λ10, dry)
Durability against freeze thaw	 Suitable for use in masonry condition situations A1 and A2 as outlined in Table 14 of S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018. (Work below or near external ground level) MX2.1/2.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>net density ≥ 1,500 kg/m<sup>3</sup>,</li> <li>mean compressive strength ≥ 7.5 N/mm<sup>2</sup></li> <li>aggregate in accordance with I.S. EN 12620 and S.R. 16:2016</li> <li>Mortar Strength Class (M4 for A1 / M6 for A2)</li> </ul>

[www.ABCConcrete/DoP12345](http://www.ABCConcrete/DoP12345)

← CE marking, consisting of the “CE”-symbol

← Last two digits of the year in which the marking was first affixed


← Reference No. of DoP and unique identification code of the product type

← Name and the registered address of the manufacturer, or identifying mark

← No. of European standard applied, as referenced in Official Journal of the EU

← Identification number of the notified factory production control certification body

← Intended use(s) of the product as laid down in the European standard applied. See Section 5 for relevant terms and definitions.

 **NOTE:** The declared value of the essential characteristics on the DoP which are not NPD must be provided on the CE Marking.

← Link to online copy of DoP (if hosted online)  
 See Delegated Regulation (EU) No 157/2014

## 4. Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. I am a manufacturer from Northern Ireland of aggregate concrete blocks (EN 771-3) and I distribute and sell in the Republic of Ireland. What are my obligations?

As a manufacturer of aggregate concrete blocks you are responsible for compliance with the CPR and in particular for the Declaration of Performance/CE marking of the construction product he or she is placing on the market, having full knowledge of the raw material and having regard to the end product's suitability for use in construction works in accordance with the relevant S.R.s published by the NSAI.

Aggregate concrete blocks placed on the market in the Republic of Ireland should be Category I blocks which require independent third party oversight of factory production control (AVCP 2+) by a Notified Body.<sup>12</sup>

Self certified aggregate concrete blocks (AVCP 4) should not be marketed for use in works to which the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021 apply.

**NOTE 2:** Article 6.3 (e) of the CPR states: "The declaration of performance shall in addition contain:

.....(e) the performance of those essential characteristics of the construction product which are related to the intended use or uses, **taking into consideration the provisions in relation to the intended use or uses where the manufacturer intends the product to be made available on the market;..**"

### 2. I am an economic operator who currently sources aggregate concrete blocks (EN 771-3) from Northern Ireland to distribute and sell in the Republic of Ireland. What are my obligations?

If you are an economic operator that currently sources aggregate concrete blocks (EN 771-3) from Northern Ireland to place on the market in the Republic of Ireland, you are a distributor.<sup>13</sup>

Refer to 1.1 for National Provisions which exist in the Republic of Ireland and 2.1 for information requirements for distributors, which you must have and make available, upon request from end users or a Market Surveillance Authority.

<sup>12</sup> Check the NANDO-CPR database for factory production control certification bodies (AVCP System 2+), accredited to EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015 at the following link: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=cp.nb\\_hs&hs\\_id=155203&cpr=Y](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=cp.nb_hs&hs_id=155203&cpr=Y)

<sup>13</sup> Refer to the publication 'Construction Industry: Preparing for the end of the Brexit Transition Period – Frequently Asked Questions' available on the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9a771-brexit-construction-products-regulation/#support-and-guidance>

Aggregate concrete blocks placed on the market in the Republic of Ireland should be Category I blocks which require independent third party oversight of factory production control (AVCP 2+) by a Notified Body.<sup>14</sup>

Self certified aggregate concrete blocks (AVCP 4) should not be marketed for use in works to which the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021 apply.

**NOTE:** If you rebrand the aggregate concrete blocks as your own, you assume all the responsibilities of a manufacturer.

### **3. I am a manufacturer of aggregate concrete block (EN 771-3) who currently sources the constituent aggregate (EN 12620) from Northern Ireland and I make my aggregate concrete blocks available on the market in the Republic of Ireland. What are my obligations?**

As a manufacturer, you are responsible for drawing up a Declaration of Performance / CE Marking for the aggregate concrete blocks (EN 771-3).

You must ensure that the constituent aggregate (EN 12620) sourced from Northern Ireland conforms to '*I.S. EN 12620+A1:2008 - Aggregates for concrete*' and '*S.R. 16:2016 Guidance on the use of I.S. EN 12620:2002+A1:2008 - Aggregates for concrete*'.

Refer to 1.1 for National Provisions which exist in the Republic of Ireland and 2.1 for information requirements for distributors, which you must have and make available, upon request from end users or a Market Surveillance Authority.

### **4. I am a self-builder / builder who intends to build (self-build or contract build), a house in the Republic of Ireland and I have sourced my aggregate concrete blocks (EN 771-3) from Northern Ireland. What are my obligations?**

If you are a self-builder or builder procuring and directly incorporating aggregate concrete blocks into construction works, you are not an economic operator under the Construction Products Regulations (CPR), as you are not placing a construction product on the market.

However, you must satisfy yourself that the manufacturer has fulfilled his/ her obligations outlined in FAQ 1.

Whilst the CPR concerns itself with the conditions which apply placing a product on the market, clients, specifiers, designers, builders, certifiers and end users should:

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<sup>14</sup> Check the NANDO-CPR database for factory production control certification bodies (AVCP System 2+), accredited to EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015 at the following link: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=cp.nb\\_hs&hs\\_id=155203&cpr=Y](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=cp.nb_hs&hs_id=155203&cpr=Y)

- when drawing up specifications for aggregate concrete blocks, refer to the harmonised European standard (EN 771-3), and specifically to the requirements of individual characteristics for the particular end use (Refer to S.R. 325 / TGDs),
- when choosing aggregate concrete blocks most suitable for their intended use in construction works, ensure the aggregate concrete blocks are Category I (Requires AVCP 2+) and are procured from a compliant economic operator. Check the website of the notified body for a list of certified manufacturers e.g. <https://www.nsai.ie/certification/search-for-a-certified-company/>
- review the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance (Refer to 3.1 for sample DoP),
- check Standard Recommendations e.g. S.R. 325 and Technical Guidance Documents which give guidance on appropriate minimum performance levels for specific intended uses of the product in Ireland (S.R.s are available for purchase on [www.standards.ie](http://www.standards.ie)),
- ensure all works should be carried out using *“proper materials...which are fit for the use for which they are intended and for the conditions in which they are to be used”* to ensure compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021.<sup>15</sup>

## 5. I wish to make a complaint regarding a non-compliance with the Construction Products Regulation. Who do I contact?

A complaint should be submitted in writing (detailing as much information as possible) to either your local Market Surveillance Authority and/or the National Building Control Office and Market Surveillance Office (NBCO&MSO) who monitor and enforce the statutory requirements set out under the European Union (Construction Products) Regulations 2013 and Regulation (EU) No. 305/2011.

The Local Market Surveillance Authority may be contacted through the City or County Council.<sup>16</sup> NBC&MSO may be contacted at: [support@nbco.gov.ie](mailto:support@nbco.gov.ie).



<sup>15</sup>For Building Regulations 1997 to 2021, refer to the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/95d00-building-standards/>. Also refer to [Information Note for Owners of new dwellings and extensions who opt out of Statutory Certification for building control purposes](#)

<sup>16</sup>Contact details for local authorities are available at the following link <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/942f74-local-authorities/>

## **6. What is the penalty for an offence under the European Union (Construction Products) Regulation 2013?**

A person who is found guilty of an offence under the European Union (Construction Products) Regulations 2013 is liable: -

- (a) on summary conviction to a fine up to €5,000 or to a term of imprisonment up to 3 months or to both; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment to a fine up to €500,000 or to a term of imprisonment up to 12 months or to both.

## **7. What is the penalty for an offence under the Building Control Act 1990 to 2020?**

If successfully prosecuted in court, such offences may lead to a fine of up to €50,000 and/or a term of imprisonment of up to 2 years.

## **8. Where can I find the National Provisions relevant to aggregate concrete blocks?**

The referenced national standards are available for purchase on [www.standards.ie](http://www.standards.ie)

- S.R. 16:2016 Guidance on the use of I.S. EN 12620:2002 Aggregates for Concrete
- S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018 Recommendations for the design of masonry structures in Ireland to Eurocode 6
- I.S. EN 1996-1-1:2005 Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures. General rules for reinforced and unreinforced masonry structures (+A1:2012) (including Irish National Annex +A1:2014)

Technical Guidance Documents to the Building Regulations 1997 to 2021 are available on the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/95d00-building-standards/>

## **9. How can I check if the manufacturer of aggregate concrete blocks is certified to AVCP 2+?**

Many notified bodies provide a list of certified manufacturers on their websites, for example refer to <https://www.nsai.ie/certification/search-for-a-certified-company/>

## 5. Relevant Terms and Definitions

**Aggregate concrete block:** masonry unit manufactured from, cementitious binder, aggregates and water and which may contain admixtures and additions and colouring pigments and other materials incorporated or applied during or subsequent to unit manufacture.

**Article 6.3 (e) of the CPR:** “The declaration of performance shall in addition contain:

*.....(e) the performance of those essential characteristics of the construction product which are related to the intended use or uses, taking into consideration the provisions in relation to the intended use or uses where the manufacturer intends the product to be made available on the market;..”*

**AVCP:** Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) is a harmonised system defining how to assess products and control the constancy of the assessment results. This system safeguards the reliability and accuracy of the Declaration of Performance.

**AVCP 2+:** The manufacturer shall draw up the declaration of performance and determine the product-type on the basis of the assessments and verifications of constancy of performance as follows:

(a) The manufacturer shall carry out:

- i. an assessment of the performance of the construction product on the basis of testing (including sampling), calculation, tabulated values or descriptive documentation of that product;
- ii. factory production control;
- iii. testing of samples taken at the manufacturing plant by the manufacturer in accordance with the prescribed test plan.

(b) The notified factory production control certification body shall decide on the issuing, restriction, suspension or withdrawal of the certificate of conformity of the factory production control on the basis of the outcome of the following assessments and verifications carried out by that body:

- i. initial inspection of the manufacturing plant and of factory production control;
- ii. continuing surveillance, assessment and evaluation of factory production control.

**Common masonry unit:** Masonry unit normally intended for use with no faces left visible.

**Category I masonry unit:** Masonry units with a declared compressive strength with a probability of failure to reach it not exceeding 5 %.

**NOTE:** This may be determined via the mean or characteristic value. Category I units require an AVCP system of 2+, including certification of the factory production control by a notified factory production control certification body on the basis of initial



inspection of the manufacturing plant and of factory production control as well as of continuous surveillance, assessment and evaluation of factory production control.

**CE Marking for construction products:** The CE marking indicates that a construction product is in conformity with its declared performance and that it has been assessed according to a harmonised European standard or a European Technical Assessment has been issued for it.

**Declaration of Performance:** The Declaration of Performance is a key part of the Construction Products Regulation. It provides information on the performance of a product. Each construction product covered by a harmonised European standard or for which a European Technical Assessment has been issued needs this Declaration and has to be CE marked.

**Exposed masonry unit:** facing masonry unit exposed to external climatic conditions without render or other equivalent protection

**Facing masonry unit:** Masonry unit intended for use with one or more faces left visible and which may or may not be exposed to external climatic conditions.

**Group 1 blocks:** Generally solid units but may contain individual holes up to  $\leq 12.5\%$  volume (% of the gross volume) and also a total volume of all holes of  $\leq 25\%$ .

**Harmonised European standards:** Technical basis to assess the performance of construction products. They enable manufacturers to draw up the Declaration of Performance as defined in the Construction Products Regulation, and affix the CE marking.

**Masonry unit:** Preformed component intended for use in masonry construction.

**National Provision:** Minimum performance criteria relating to a construction product's suitability for use in construction works in Ireland, generally specified in a Standard Recommendation (S.R.) or Technical Guidance Document (TGD).

**Notified bodies:** Third party bodies designated to carry out specific tasks in relation to the assessment of performance of construction products. Notified bodies are designated by EU countries for a specific scope. The European Commission ensures cooperation between notified bodies.

Check the NANDO-CPR database for notified bodies accredited to EN 771-3:2011+A1:2015 at the following link: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=cp.nb\\_hs&hs\\_id=155203&cpr=Y](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=cp.nb_hs&hs_id=155203&cpr=Y)

**NPD:** No Performance Determined. Where National Provisions do not exist for certain essential characteristics or where some essential characteristics are not relevant to the intended use of the product, the manufacturer may decide not to declare a specific performance. In both these cases "no performance determined" using the acronym "NPD" may be inserted in the Declaration of Performance

## 6. References to additional information

### EU Harmonised Legislation and Guidance

- Refer to the website of the European Commission at the following link:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/construction-products-regulation-cpr\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/construction/construction-products-regulation-cpr_en)
- Regulation No (EU) 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:088:0005:0043:EN:PDF>
- CE Marking of Construction Products - Step by Step  
<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/12308?locale=en>
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 574/2014 of 21 February 2014 amending Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the model to be used for drawing up a declaration of performance on construction products <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014R0574> and FAQ on Delegated Regulation 574/2014  
<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/5407/attachments/1/translations>
- Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32019R1020>
- The referenced European standards are available for purchase on [www.standards.ie](http://www.standards.ie)
  - EN 771-3: 2011+ A1:2015 Specification for masonry units Part 3: Aggregate concrete masonry units (Dense and lightweight aggregates)
  - EN 12620:2002+A1:2008 Aggregates for concrete
  - EN 13914-2:2016 Design, preparation and application of external rendering and internal plastering - Part 2: internal plastering

## Ireland's Legislation and Guidance

- European Union (Construction Products) Regulations 2013  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2013/en/si/0225.html>
- Construction Products Regulation - Refer to the website of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the following link:  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7069d-construction-products-regulation-cpr/>
- The referenced national standards are available for purchase on [www.standards.ie](http://www.standards.ie)
  - S.R. 16:2016 Guidance on the use of I.S. EN 12620:2002 Aggregates for Concrete
  - S.R. 325:2013+A2:2018 Recommendations for the design of masonry structures in Ireland to Eurocode 6
  - I.S. EN 1996-1-1:2005 Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures. General rules for reinforced and unreinforced masonry structures (+A1:2012) (including Irish National Annex +A1:2014)
- Brexit - Construction Products Regulation  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9a771-brexit-construction-products-regulation/#implications-of-the-protocol-on-irelandnorthern-ireland-in-relation-to-the-construction-product-regulation>
- Construction Industry: Preparing for the end of the Brexit Transition Period – Frequently Asked Questions  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9a771-brexit-construction-products-regulation/#support-and-guidance>
- Building Regulations 1997 to 2021 and associated Technical Guidance Documents  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/95d00-building-standards/>
- Acceptable Construction Details  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d82ea-technical-guidance-document-l-conservation-of-fuel-and-energy-dwellings/#acceptable-construction-details>

[gov.ie/housing](https://gov.ie/housing)

