

ORGANIZER



Albanian
Organization
for Quality

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The background of the poster is a blue gradient. In the center, there is a blurred image of a person's face and hands. The hands are holding a large yellow gear. Surrounding the hands and the yellow gear are numerous black gears of various sizes, some of which are interlocking. The overall theme is mechanical and industrial.

9th *International conference*

**“Standardization, Prototypes and Quality:
A Means of Balkan Countries' Collaboration”**

Honourable Colleagues,

More than one year ago, Balkan Coordinating Committee of International Conference "Standardisation, Prototypes & Quality, a means of Balkan Countries Cooperation", gathered on its annual meeting, in Thessaloniki of Greece, decided that the works of the 9-th International Conference: "Standardisation, Prototypes & Quality, a means of Balkan Countries Cooperation" would take part in the Capital of Albania, Tirana.

Hosting the 9-th International Conference "Standardisation, Prototypes & Quality, a means of Balkan Countries Cooperation" in Tirana, was a honour and great opportunity, for me, as an Albanian member of the BALKAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE, but in the same time it was a great responsibility, particularly for the Albanian Organizational for Quality (AOQ) in the role of the organiser and "Aleksander XHUVANI" University of Elbasan in the role of co-organiser of the 9-the International Conference .

Through a precise and careful organizational process we could arrange the holding of a scientific forum with great values.

I take this opportunity to address particular thanks and my sincere gratitude to:

- the "Scientific Committee of the 9-th International Conference "Standardisation, Prototypes & Quality, a means of Balkan Countries Cooperation" who undertook the challenging task for assessing the papers & posters presented, and
- the supporters of this Conference, namely the companies EhW GmbH from Albania and "Vellezerit e Bashkuar" from Kosova, as well as the Albanian NGO, JAAA (JICA Alumni Association of Albania).

We would not be able to organise such a forum without their generous support.

Taking in consideration the content, the participation as well as the organizational aspect of this event, I am glad to affirm that the 9-th International Conference "Standardisation, Prototypes & Quality, a means of Balkan Countries Cooperation" was a great success.

As an evidence of this success, I have the honour to bring to you this Book of Proceedings of the 9-th International Conference.

On behalf of AOQ (Albanian Organisation for Quality) I would like to express the full engagement and support for activities of such kind that may be organised in the future.

Agim ANXHAKU, Prof. Asc.



P R E S I D E N T

AOQ, Albanian Organization for Quality.

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5. THE "QUALITY" OF STANDARDIZATION PROCEDURE IN WOOD PRODUCTS SECTOR IN GREECE

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Abstract

Standardisation is a key factor for the improvement, the control and quality assurance system, whereas it can add value and increase competitiveness. The European Union, in order to ensure the protection of consumers and the free trading of goods, has developed a powerful system of standardization, and at the same time it collaborates closely with the International Organization of Standardization. To ensure, however, the advantages of standardization, all the procedures followed during the development of standards should meet the essential quality principles. But, we can observe some problems on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Greek standardization system. A sampling examination of European and international standards from the field of wood products showed that there are weaknesses related to their insufficient translation in the process of approval as Greek national standards, thereby making them ambiguous and less functional. The effective participation of all the interested parties could contribute significantly to the improvement of quality of standards, which apart from its support in the operation of the market, could also be a useful model legislation with a positive impact on the organization of society.

Keywords - standardization, European standards, EN, quality

INTRODUCTION

Since the late 19th century, the rapid development of technology has also affected the production of wood products technology. The invention of new wood processing machines in combination with the progress of chemistry, which has achieved the production of economical, durable and convenient synthetic adhesives, have resulted in the potential use of wood to grow dynamically. Thus the gradual appearance of new wood products started, whose a main characteristic for their production are the adhesives. This is the reason why, they are characterized as wood-based panels products [1], [2].

Today in the Greek market, as and in other countries, we can find a wide variety of wood products. Products which, as already mentioned, have been produced for centuries, but also recent products whose production was made possible due to the development of modern technology. However, the terminology used in our country for wood products is often not clear, and many times don't derive from the Greek

vocabulary. The situation is not the same for all products but there is a differentiation corresponding age appearance of the product.

For the oldest products which till now are produced mainly by machining of solid wood, there is one more defined meaning terminology. In fact, for products that are known more than 2000 years, there is almost exclusively Greek terminology exist and is used such as hewed timber (πελεκητή ξυλεία), sawn timber (πριστή ξυλεία), etc. Perhaps the only case in solid wood products category we found the use a foreign term is the French word "massif" which is used to denote the solid natural wood. The rest of the products which were known before the 20th century also have consistent terminology which, however, derived mainly from the nationalization of foreign words. Such example of terminology is the word "parchetto" which has Italian origin and used for the solid wood flooring. Another example is the word "Kaplama", which its origin is Turkish, and used for the decorative veneer [3].

For the newer products which started being produced last century, the terminology we meet is basically foreign and very confusing. There are products which, though has been established Greek terminology, prevail the use of a foreign terminology. A such, very characteristic example is the use of French term "contre-plaqué" that used for the product "plywood" (αντικολλητό).. In other cases, the prevailing terminology is the result of the influence of advertising or monopolistic market conditions. An example in this case is the use of the trademark "NOVOPAN" to designate all of the particleboards in general [4].

In most modern wood products the terminology used is the English one. The use of Greek term in these products encounters difficulties because the majority of the products in this category are made by a complex process and the mere translation of English terms rarely specifies the product. So we have several products to which acceptable Greek terminology has not yet been assigned as for OSB, LVL, etc. In some products, although the translation is successful the product is not used in business transactions because it is long as happens with medium density fibreboard for which it is used that word MDF. It is obvious that if these products first appeared in Greece there would be not difficulties with Greek terminology.

Greece, for various reasons has stayed away from the pioneers of technological developments and due to the lack of adequate infrastructure and expertise was not involved in the development of these innovative wood products. Thus, at the beginning, our country started to import the wood-based panels and their production technology of these products and thereby imported the terminology that accompanied them, which had been developed by the experts who have participated in the development of these products.

The competent body for the formulation and standardization of terminology is the Greek Hellenic Organization for Standardization (ELOT), which is responsible for the preparation and issuance of national standards and the acceptance and performance in the Greek language of the European standards (EN). But in our country national standards were never issued for wood products while the acceptance of European standards from the Greek Organization for Standardization (ELOT) does not also indicate that it has completed the process performance in the Greek language [3].

Today the European and international standardization deals with the preparation and adoption of standards for almost all the issues, and constitute the basic factor for the achievement and quality assurance. European standardization concerns and interests everybody, producers, consumers, services, the trade, science and technology. It is an integral part of policies pursued by the European Union, which accepts that the standards have actually turned into public goods because they are a powerful tool for stimulating competitiveness of business, can help health protection, safety and environmental policies, trade facilitation and cooperation, but can also improve the effectiveness of important Community policies [5].

In the creation of European standards, according to the rationale of establishing the organization, could involve anybody that has benefits or it is affected by a standard as well as representatives from the industry, the public sector, the academic sector and special interest groups. After the preparation of the standards, these should be approved by the representatives of the EU countries, after voting and gaining at least 71% of positive expression. Then the standards are published in three languages and all EU countries are obliged, within the time specified (usually up to 6 months), to accept these as national standards and withdraw any relevant standards which exist.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the quality of standards that result from the rendering process in Greek, European and international standards of the wood products sector. More specifically the clarity and precision performance of the scientific terminology that refers to products and capabilities were examined to improve the quality of the process of adoption.

METHODOLOGY

To conduct the research the European and international standards which became accepted as standards by the Greek Standardization Organization (ELOT) were examined. The subject of standards that were examined were relevant to the wood-based panel products. The European standards discussed in this paper, according to the European standardization process, after acceptance are officially Greek national standards. EN and ISO standards where have published the last 4 years (2009-2012) were examined.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The investigation showed that in several of the standards examined there are flaws in the process of adopting these as Greek national standards, which may cause difficulties when applying the standards. What is noticed in the Greek version of the European Standards is mainly the lack of overall translation of the standard text in Greek or improper performance of the terminology which has also reported in previous surveys [6].

Specifically, from the thirty-seven standards listed in the sector of "Wood-based panels" and which were issued by the CEN in the years 2009-2012, it was found out that only the title for some of these have been translated in Greek. While the full text

of standards have not been translated for none of them. Furthermore the already translated titles have difficulties in comprehension.

In particular, the most important observations noted on the surveyed standards are:

The standard ELOT EN 12871:2011, which is especially important since it refers to floors, walls and roofs and its title in English language is «Wood-based Panels -- Performance specifications and requirements for load bearing boards for use in floors, walls and roofs», has not been translated in the Greek language except for its title by using incorrect terminology. In particular, the term 'wood based panels' has been translated as "separative sheets based on wood". Moreover, in comprehension difficulty is observed in the overall translation of the Greek title. The adoption of the standard was delayed by approximately one year from its issue. The same translation for this terminology is used and in the title of standard ELOT EN 12369-2:2012.

In addition, in the standard ELOT EN 1058:2011, the same term "wood based panels" has been attributed in different terms as "artificial wood boards". The translation of the same English term with two different ways can cause confusion and problems of understanding. Furthermore, the overall translation of the title is difficult to understand. This standard has not been fully translated, except for its title and its adoption by ELOT was accomplished after about 2 years. Also, the same translation for this terminology is used and the standard ELOT EN 326-2:2010.

In the standard ELOT EN 325:2012 there is translation the same term with a third way. The English term "Wood-based Panels" translated in the title of the Greek edition of the standard with the French term "panneaux". The translation of a term with three different ways is certainly that not meet the basic principles of standardization process

In title of the ELOT EN 14250:2011 standard, with the English title of the standard «Timber structures-Product requirements for prefabricated structural members assembled with punched metal plate fasteners», the terms are correctly attributed but the overall performance of the title is not fully correct.

In the standard ELOT CEN / TS 635-4:2009 " and in the standard ELOT EN 14272:2012 the English term "plywood" in the title of the Greek edition of the standard has been translated with a correct Greek term but added and the word "timber" that is no proper because it refers to another wood product. In the title of the Greek standard ELOT EN 12369:2012 there is another translation for the word "plywood". Here for this terminology used the French word "contre plaque".

In title of the ELOT EN 320:2011 standard, with the English title of the standard "Particleboards and fibreboards - Determination of resistance to axial withdrawal of screws", the word "withdrawal" in the title of the Greek edition of the standard it has been attributed as "ungluing".

The standard ELOT EN 14279+A1:2010 referred to Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL), which it is a relatively new wood product. In the title of Greek edition of the standard the word "lumber" has been translated with the same Greek word as the word "timber" that there is in other standards. Lumber and timber are obviously

wooden products. In many places worldwide, these two terms are being used interchangeably. However, there are some countries that make certain distinctions between these two terms.

Generally we can say, as it was found out from the examination of the standards about wood based panels, which have been published by CEN, the translation in Greek language of the full text of standard it is not accomplished virtually, and in cases that it is achieved it is behind schedule and in a lot of cases may meet difficulties in terminology's expression.

CONCLUSIONS

The standardization which among its main objectives, has sought to provide a clear framework for communication between the interested parties, did not created the necessary conditions for its implementation in the field of wood-based panels in our country. With the realization of the program of establishment of common European standards, the extension of application of standardization becomes feasible in our country in this area as well.

The acceptance process of European standards in the Greek language continues to present problems especially in the terminology translation. The European standards which according to the rules of CEN are valid as national standards of European countries, according to the results of our research, can not be considered to fully meet this requirement when they are not recoverable in the national language. Perhaps the fact that not any national standard has published in Greece concerning the wood products is the reason why there hasn't created any standardized terminology in the wood based panels sector.

The Greek users of these standards are not able to use them in their native language. Even more, in the cases that only the title is attributed to the Greek language confusion may again be caused.

To face the problem in correct standards translation, there has to be cooperation of all the involved parts, as required in the standardization process. Standardization should be a means of collaboration between all interested bodies to improve the quality of standards.

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