

## **Hempel's HEMPACORE Intumescent Coatings Achieve CE Marking**

The recently launched HEMPACORE ONE intumescent coatings, for passive fire protection of steel structures in cellulosic fires have now been awarded a certificate of conformity - the CE mark. The CE mark is the "passport" to the EU, it allows free movement and sale of products throughout all EU and European Economic Area countries. At present, Hempel's intumescent range includes two, one-component, solvent-borne acrylic coatings, HEMPACORE ONE 43600 for on-site applications and HEMPACORE ONE FD 43601 for applications where a fast drying time is required. Both coatings provide up to 120 minutes of fire protection in cellulosic fires.

### **The Construction Products Regulation**

Obtaining the CE mark is a significant step forward for these products in the market place. From the 1st July 2013, under the Construction Products Regulation 20111 (CPR), it became mandatory for manufacturers to provide a declaration of performance and apply CE marking to any of their construction products covered by either a harmonised European standard or which conform to a European Technical Assessment (ETA), before the product is placed on the market. This includes intumescent coatings. The CPR replaces the current Construction Products Directive (CPD) and aims to break down technical barriers to trade in construction products within the European Economic Area (EEA).

### **Why CE Marking?**

The CE mark indicates that the manufacturer takes responsibility of the product and its performance, and is a declaration that the product conforms to the relevant guidelines and assessment procedure, and is only gained after rigorous testing by an approved notified body, who issue a certificate of conformance with the relevant ETA (12/0581). The testing involves submitting the intumescent coating to cyclic weathering exposure according to ETAG-018, and carried out in two phases. Phase one involves cycling between dry UV exposure and water spray, and in the second phase the coating is exposed to extremes of temperature (-20 to +70 C) and humidity (20 to 95%). After this aggressive testing the coating is submitted to fire testing to ensure that it still performs as required and will protect the underlying steel structure for the desired time.

### **Outstanding Performance**

The advantages of the Hempel's HEMPACORE products over existing products on the market, are durability and reliability, both important properties for intumescent coatings, as the products are expected to have a long lifetime yet still perform to their designed full fire rating in case of fire. The excellent durability of HEMPACORE ONE 43600 and HEMPACORE ONE FD 43601, was confirmed in the set of tests carried out in accordance with the ETAG 018-2 standard used in the assessment for CE marking.

In addition, the products are more efficient and flexible than current products; either for on-site application with HEMPACORE ONE 43600, or off-site application with HEMPACORE ONE FD 43601. More than 1,000 µm /coat can be easily applied and be surface-dry in 15 minutes for off-site or 30 minutes for on-site application, saving valuable time during construction. In terms of flexibility, the HEMPACORE products are compatible with a wide range of primers and topcoats, so fewer choices are needed to meet all challenges of different structures or environments.