

Construction products sold in EU must be reusable and repairable, Commission proposes

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By Charlie Drape

Makers of construction products must provide extra environmental information about goods sold in the EU market under a revamp of rules governing the items, the European Commission has said in a legislative proposal. A revision of the Construction Products Regulation will introduce rules mandating that products be as reusable and repairable as possible, and be manufactured in the most environmentally friendly way.

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A revision of the Construction Products Regulation, proposed today, will introduce rules mandating that products be as reusable and repairable as possible, and be manufactured in the most environmentally friendly way.

The EU executive published the proposed update as part of a suite of measures today aimed at boosting the “circularity” of products — reducing waste and pushing products to be repaired, reused, or made from recycled materials, as well as giving consumers more transparent information about products’ green credentials.

The changes will mandate manufacturers to design products and their packaging to be environmentally sustainable and durable, giving preference to recyclable over non-recyclable construction materials, and designing the products so they can be “repaired, refurbished and upgraded.”

The proposed regulation will also oblige manufacturers to provide environmental information on the lifecycle of the products they’ll be using. Manufacturers will then draw up a “declaration of performance” and a “declaration of conformity” that explains how environmentally sustainable the product is.

EU governments and lawmakers must agree to the changes before they apply — a process which can take a year or more.

“We all know eco-design from the energy labels on washing machines, electric kettles,” EU climate chief Frans Timmermans said at a press conference unveiling the proposals. “Today we propose to expand the scope and cover the broadest possible range of products.”

Construction products are “an ecosystem we need to address; we need to harmonize standards to improve environmental and climate performance,” internal market commissioner Thierry Breton said at the same press conference.*

The commission is hoping the revision will strengthen the original 2013 regulation and allow for better enforcement, after evaluations identified issues with product standardization, weak market surveillance and insufficient support for small businesses.

Information and labeling requirements for certain construction products will be covered under a revamp of the Ecodesign Directive, including energy-related construction products, and some metals (see [here](#)).

* *Official translation from the original French.*

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