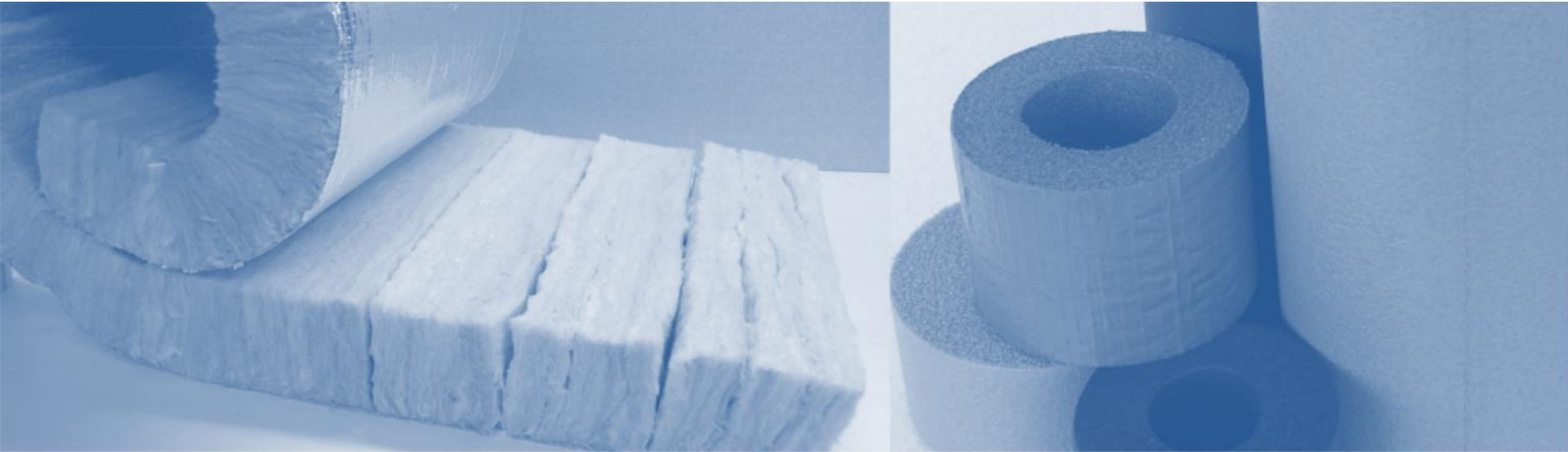




Significance of voluntary certification

Eric Winnepenninckx, BCCA

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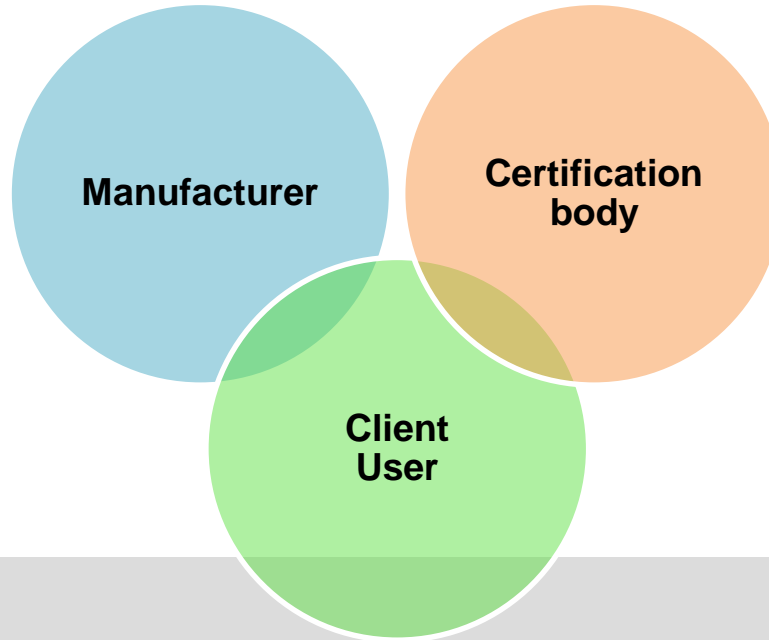
Content

- What is product certification?
- Needs for “sound” product certification?
- Why product certification?

Who can perform conformity assessment activities?



- 1st party: The manufacturer (self-control)
- 2nd party: The client or user
- 3rd party: A party independent from the manufacturer and the client or user



What is product certification?



Means intended to instil confidence that a product is in conformity with requirements / specifications

Why product certification and quality marks?



Trust in

- Safety
 - Technical performances
 - Health
 - Environment
 - ...
 - Fitness for the intended use
- **Consumer protection**
- **Trust in conformity of product placed in the market with the qualities claimed by the manufacturer**





Framework for product certification

- Certification is performed by third party conformity assessment bodies
- Accreditation (in most cases by authorities) is a means to instil confidence in third party conformity assessment bodies' competence to perform activities (testing, inspection, certification)



Empowerment - Accreditation – Certification - Product conformity



Empowering body

Additional verification of Keymark specific rules by an independent party

Accreditation body

Accreditation for product certification in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17065:2012, scheme-rules (e.g. Keymark rules) and a product specification (e.g. a product standard)
→ Trust in the certification bodies' confidence

Certification body

Certification (which may lead to use of the mark, e.g. Keymark) on the basis of scheme rules (e.g. Keymark rules) and a product specification (e.g. a product standard)
→ Trust in the conformity of the product with the product specification

Manufacturer

Certification systems (EN ISO/IEC 17067)



Conformity assessment functions and activities ^a within product certification schemes	Types of product certification schemes b, c							
	1a	1b	2	3	4	5	6	N ^d
1) Selection , including planning and preparation activities, specification of requirements e.g. normative documents, and sampling as applicable,						X		
2) Determination of characteristics , as applicable, by: a) testing b) inspection c) design appraisal d) assessment of services or processes e) other determination activities, e.g. verification						X		
3) Review Examining the evidence of conformity obtained during the determination stage to establish whether the specified requirements have been met						X		
4) Decision on certification Granting, maintaining, extending, reducing, suspending, withdrawing certification						X		
5) Attestation, licensing a) issuing a statement of conformity (attestation) b) Granting the right to use certificates, marks or other statements of conformity on products conforming to the specified requirements (licensing)						X	X	
6) Surveillance , as applicable, by: a) testing or inspection of samples from the open market b) testing or inspection of samples from the factory c) assessment of the production, the delivery of the service or the operation of the process d) management system audits combined with random tests or inspections						X	X	X

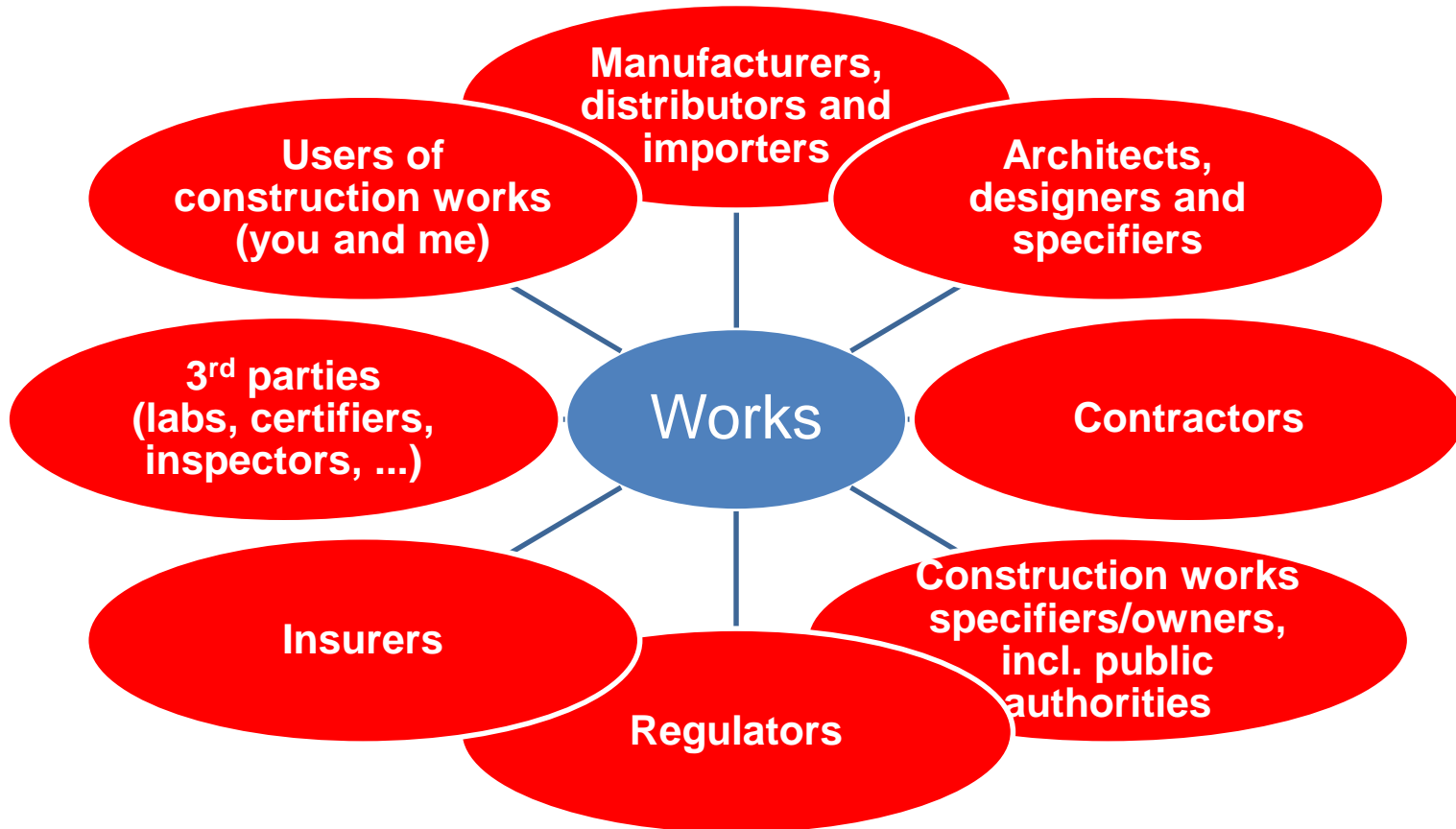
The Keymark scheme rules belong to the most stringent system

Requirements for specifications and scheme rules



- Transparency (clear procedures)
- Openness (involvement of **all** stakeholders)
- Impartiality and consensus
- Relevance and added value (scientific and technical consolidated knowledge)
- Coherence (between documents)

Which stakeholders?





Users' needs

- Confirmation of aspects related to safety, environment and/or health, fitness for use
- Effective dissemination of technical information responding to their expectations relevant for the users and taking into account possible differences (regulations, responsibilities, insurance schemes, state-of-the-art and good workmanship, climate, uses, traditions, ...)
- Information and requirements with regards to packaging, transport, storage, design, installation, execution of incorporation, maintenance, repair, recycling, waste, ...
- Competence requirements for designers, contractors, ...

Market access and market acceptance



↑ Technical information

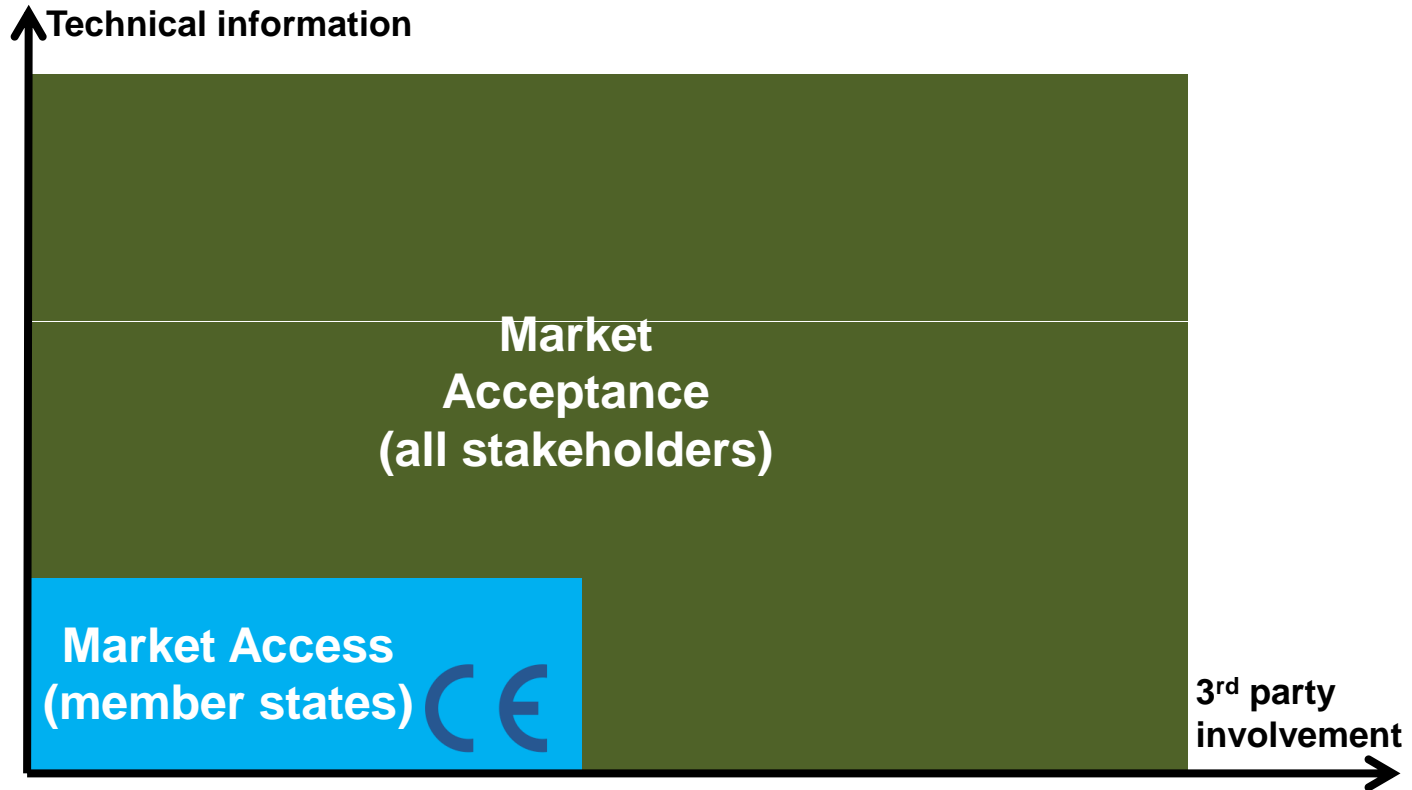
Conformity assessment schemes respond to users' needs, if:

- The provided information responds to users' needs
- The information is reliable

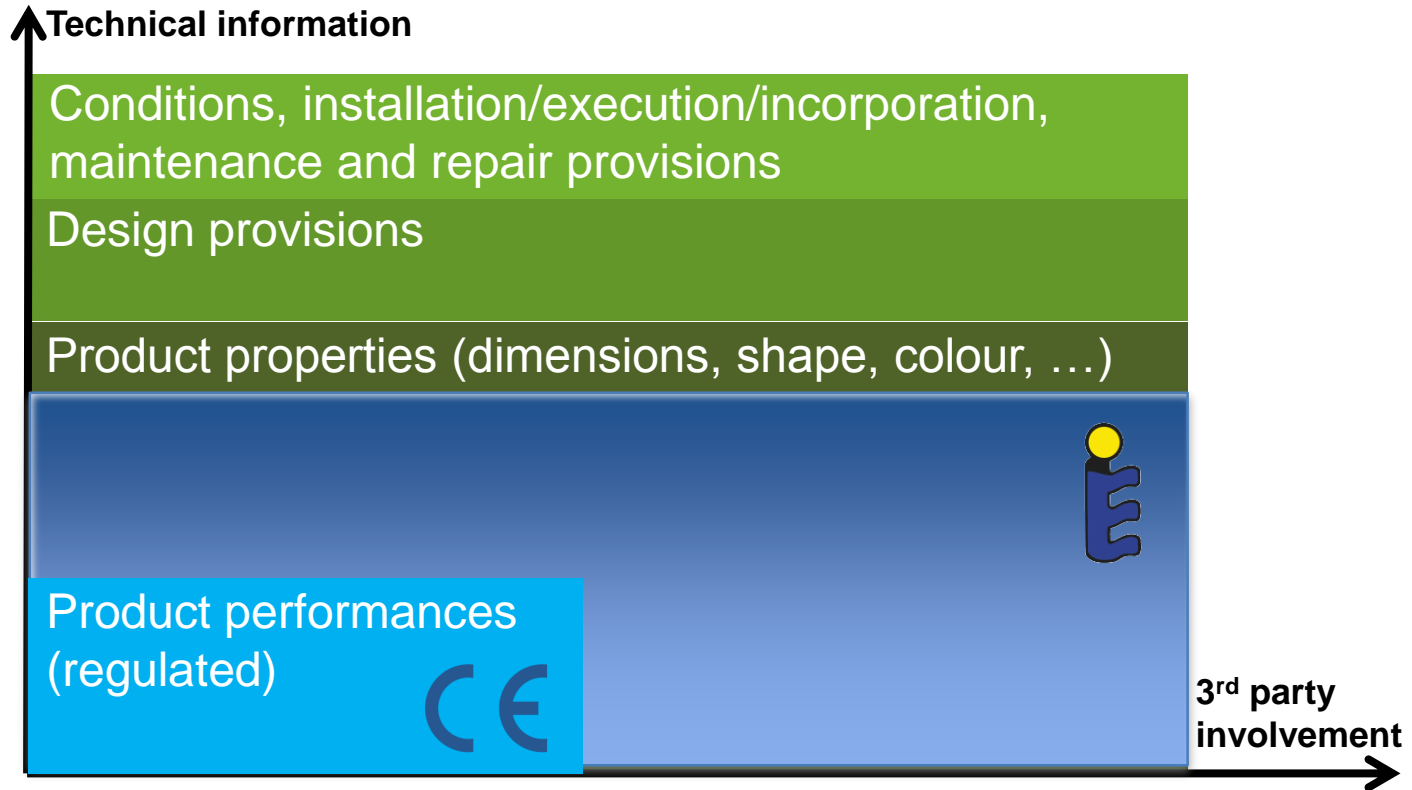
3rd party involvement



Market access and market acceptance



Market access and market acceptance





Conclusions

- The Keymark rules respond to requirements that generally apply for stringent certification schemes
- The Keymark responds to part of the needs expressed by thermal insulation product manufacturers and users
- The Keymark comprises added value
- The Keymark may be considered as relevant for consumer protection