



**SLOVENSKI STANDARD**  
**SIST-TS CEN/TS 14472-3:2003**  
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Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings - Design, preparation and installation - Part 3: Laminate floor coverings

Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings - Design, preparation and installation - Part 3: Laminate floor coverings

Elastische, textile und Laminatbodenbeläge - Planung, Vorbereitung und Verlegung - Teil 3: Laminatbodenbeläge

Revetements de sol résilients, textiles et stratifiés - Conception, préparation et installation - Partie 3: Revêtements de sols stratifiés

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**CEN/TS 14472-3**

June 2003

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ICS 97.150

English version

**Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings - Design,  
preparation and installation - Part 3: Laminate floor coverings**

Revêtements de sol résilients, textiles et stratifiés -  
Conception, préparation et installation - Partie 3:  
Revêtements de sols stratifiés

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Vorbereitung und Verlegung - Teil 3: Laminatbodenbeläge

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 30 september 2002 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

CEN members are required to announce the existence of this CEN/TS in the same way as for an EN and to make the CEN/TS available. It is permissible to keep conflicting national standards in force (in parallel to the CEN/TS) until the final decision about the possible conversion of the CEN/TS into an EN is reached.

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
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## Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 14472-3:2003) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 134 “Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings”, the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This Technical Specification, *Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings – Design, preparation and installation*, consists of the following four parts:

*Part 1: General*

*Part 2: Textile floor coverings*

*Part 3: Laminate floor coverings*

*Part 4: Resilient floor coverings*

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this CEN Technical Specification: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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## Introduction

European Standards are currently available for

- resilient, textile and laminated floor coverings
- classification schemes, which define the characteristics of a location where a floor covering is to be used, and enable an appropriate product to be selected.

For these products to give satisfactory service, they also need to be installed competently, and to receive appropriate maintenance in service.

Certain countries have issued guides and/or standards that define good practice for installation and maintenance.

To date, although there has been substantial trade in floor coverings between different countries in Europe, these have largely been installed using the methods of the country importing them. Relatively little installation work has been conducted across European borders, but it is likely that this will increase.

The Technical Specification is not intended to replace the existing national guides or standards on installation. Its purpose is:

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- a) to identify a framework of good practice (common to the existing national standards,
  - b) to identify the principal technical differences in approach between them,

and hence

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- c) to foster good standards of installation across Europe, including countries where there is no national standard on installation,
- d) to enable a specifier to specify a common procedure for installation for work in his country, which may be conducted by installers from other countries, and
- e) to enable an installer to conduct work more easily in another country.

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides recommendations for the installation of laminate floor coverings.

Generally laminate floor coverings are installed as floating floors but in some applications they can be integrally glued to the subfloor. This Technical Specification only details suitable methods for floating floor installation and advises on the selection of the materials required for their implementation.

The guidelines in this Technical Specification are intended for use in cases where manufacturer's instructions, taking account of the national code of practice in the country where the installation is to be made, are not available. References to the national codes that are currently available are listed in the bibliography of the various parts of this Technical Specification.

This part 3 of the Technical Specification is intended for use in conjunction with part 1 that deals with general matters relevant to textile and resilient floor coverings as well as to laminate floor coverings.

All parts of the Technical Specification are intended to supplement, and not conflict with, National Standards.

## 2 Normative references

This Technical Specification incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this Technical Specification only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

EN 1264-4, *Floor heating – Systems and components – Part 4: Installation*

EN 13329, *Laminate floor coverings — Specifications, requirements and test methods*

CEN/TS 14472-1:2003, *Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings — Design, preparation and installation, Part 1: General*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this Technical Specification, the terms and definitions given in EN 13329 and CEN/TS 14472-1 apply. Specific national terms and definitions are included in national vocabularies.

## 4 Exchange of information

In order for the correct floor covering to be installed in appropriate conditions, at the right time, etc. it is essential that all parties have a clear understanding of the requirements of the project, e.g. new build or refurbishment, and of the implications for all concerned. To ensure that this is achieved, it is essential that there is wide consultation between all parties involved in the project, including sub-contractors and materials suppliers. This consultation should start early in the design stage but will be necessary throughout the contract, especially should requirements or time scales change and as new sub-contract work is initiated.

As each project will be unique it is impossible to give a definitive list of the information to be exchanged, but typical examples, applying to textile and resilient floor coverings as well as to laminate floor coverings are given in CEN/TS 14472-1.

**CEN/TS 14472-3:2003 (E)****5 Materials****5.1 Laminate floor coverings****5.1.1 General**

Laminate floor coverings are defined in EN 13329. Most laminate floor coverings elements feature a wood-based material as core ply.

Wood is a natural product and expands and contracts as its moisture content changes. Laminate floor coverings consist to a large extent of wood-based panels and consequently have the same properties so that the dimensional stability of a floating laminate floor is influenced by a change in its moisture content.

The dimensional stability can also be influenced by application of heat from above and below, as well as by any resulting change in moisture content.

**5.1.2 Selection**

EN 13329 gives details of classification schemes that draw a distinction between the different grades of floor covering available. Requirements for laminate floor coverings in domestic or commercial premises depend largely on the type and frequency of the traffic to which the floor is subjected.

When selecting the appropriate type of laminate floor covering, attention should be paid to the requirements resulting from the specific characteristics of the installation site. The possibility that wet conditions could arise by accident, e.g. from flooding from dishwashers or washing machines, should also be considered. Before installing laminate floor coverings in premises likely to be subjected to a degree of use over and above that encountered in domestic or commercial premises (e.g. industrially used premises), all relevant instructions and recommendations issued by the laminate floor covering manufacturer should be heeded.

Laminate floor coverings are generally not suitable for installation in rooms in which wet or damp conditions prevail, such as bathrooms, shower rooms, washrooms, etc.

**5.1.3 Typical properties**

Expansion and contraction of the substrate material used in laminate floor coverings caused by an increase or a decrease in the moisture content is a typical property and intrinsic to the product. Stagnant water on the surface of the floor covering should be avoided because it can result in moisture ingress into the joints.

Laminate floor coverings should be cleaned using a dampened mop only. Perfectly sealed and water-tight joints on laminate floor coverings cannot be guaranteed.

In the event of persistent, prolonged extreme climatic conditions (relative humidity below 30 % or above 90 %) dimensional changes and distortion in keeping with the typical and intrinsic properties of the product are to be expected.

**5.2 Associated materials****5.2.1 General**

Membranes, underlay, adhesives for the tongue-and-groove joints, joint profiles and suitable tools are needed for the whole floor covering installation.

**5.2.2 Vapour barrier**

A thin flexible sheet, at least 0,20 mm thick, for example of polyethylene, which is placed directly onto the surface of the mineral subfloor to protect the laminate floor covering from residual damp.



### 5.2.3 Underlay

An underlay is used to create a floating floor, to level minor surface irregularities, to give sound insulation and to improve walking comfort. The underlay should have the compressive strength properties to avoid unnecessary deflection.

The appropriate underlay should be chosen according to the manufacturer's recommendations and the intended uses such as sound insulation, underfloor heating etc.

When sound insulation is required, the underlay should be chosen in order to reach the level of insulation required for the system "underlay with laminate floor covering" and to ensure a relatively stable conservation of this property with time.

In the case of installation on a heating subfloor, the thermal resistance of the system "underlay with laminate floor covering" should not exceed the level required for the correct functioning of the heating system.

### 5.2.4 Adhesive for tongue and groove joints

Where necessary, the tongue and groove should be glued together in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### 5.2.5 Joint profile

Expansion or finishing joint profiles should be chosen according to the size and the geometry of the floor surface. The manufacturer's recommendations should be followed.

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## 6 Subfloors

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### 6.1 General

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New subfloors should be constructed in accordance with the recommendations given in the relevant national or European standards. Those responsible for the design and construction of the subfloor should ensure that it meets the requirements, i.e. should ensure that it has the necessary characteristics, to allow the floor covering to be installed successfully before the installer of the floor covering is asked to commence work.

These characteristics include:

- a) regularity of concrete floors and screeds;
- b) moisture content of concrete floors and screeds;
- c) integrity of screeds;
- d) making-good of cracks;
- e) treatment of construction joints;
- f) gaps and changes of level;
- g) moisture content of wooden subfloors;
- h) presence of asbestos in an existing floor covering;
- i) squeaking in wooden subfloors.

General information and guidance on subfloors is given in CEN/TS 14472-1 under the following headings: