



Verband
Lagertechnik
Betriebs-
einrichtung

ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATION

Position paper on the
approving of shelving systems

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With its communication of 18.12.2013 the German Conference of Construction Ministers established that a shelving system within a building, which shelving system is not part of the construction of the building, is - regardless of its size and construction - in general not a physical structure in so far as it has solely a purely storage function.

From the above it can be derived that construction approval is only needed if the shelving system has functions - in addition to its storage functions and the necessary related picking and packing processes - that relate to the development of the building and/or its escape routes or if the shelving system is part of the structure of the building

Shelving systems outdoors on the other hand are themselves physical structures or components of a physical structure and may accordingly be subject to the obligation to receive construction approval

In the communication of the German Conference of Construction Ministers of 18.12.2013 it is stated that:

"(...) shelving systems that are erected "only" in buildings without the afore-mentioned functions [part of the building structure or development function] are not physical structures (...)".

Here we take as a basis the following definitions:

- Storage function:

To be grouped together under storage function are: picking and packing of goods, taking-into-store and taking-out-of-store processes, inspection. Linked or associated with the storage function can be the temporary if also repeated presence of persons in or below the shelving system.

- Development function and escape route:

Shelving systems and intermediate platforms only possess a development function when they are a part of escape routes of the physical structure. This is only the case when recreation areas or rooms are on the shelving system itself or are reached via the shelving system. This presupposes first of all that there is a development function in accordance with regulations. In addition the escape routes must be led via the shelving system. The fact that an escape route passes under the shelving system or that other escape routes could be affected by a failure of the shelving system or parts thereof does not lead to the situation that the shelving system becomes a physical structure and thereby becomes subject to the construction approval requirement.

- Recreation room / area:

In § 2 of the German Model Building Code recreation rooms are defined as rooms which are designed or suitable for the continuous accommodation of persons. Accordingly recreation areas are areas which serve for the accommodation of persons not just at relatively large intervals but in an extended and continual manner. However a picking and packing area does not count as a recreation area. The same holds good for circulation areas, i.e. areas which must be entered for the use of the storage surfaces.

To obtain legal certainty in this matter the principals of shelving systems should be recommended to notify the competent local building control authority that the erection of a shelving system is intended and draw the authority's attention to the fact that approval is not required, presenting the communication of the Conference of Construction Ministers and the observations in this position paper.

In addition an appropriate letter should be sent to the topmost competent building control authorities of the federal states so that the federal states confirm in this function the correctness of the view of the Conference of Construction Ministers so that this legal concept also becomes binding for the local building control authorities of the federal states.

In respect of the general building inspectorate approvals that have already been issued by the DIBt (Deutsche Institut für Bautechnik - German Institute for Construction Technology), it should be clarified with the DIBt as to whether these approvals still have significance in respect of building construction control. This will be the case only when the maintenance of a building control requirement is certified in the approval.



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