

ANNEX III

Definition of certain technical specifications referred to in Article 18

For the purposes of this Directive, the following definitions shall apply:

1. (a) ‘Technical specifications’, in the case of works contracts: the totality of the technical prescriptions contained in particular in the tender documents, defining the characteristics required of a material, product or supply, which permits a material, a product or a supply to be described in a manner such that it fulfils the use for which it is intended by the contracting authority/entity. These characteristics shall include levels of environmental performance, design for all requirements (including accessibility for people with disabilities) and conformity assessment, performance, safety or dimensions, including the procedures concerning quality assurance, terminology, symbols, testing and test methods, packaging, marking and labelling and production processes and methods. They shall also include rules relating to design and costing, the test, inspection and acceptance conditions for works and techniques or methods of construction and all other technical conditions which the contracting authority/entity is in a position to prescribe, under general or specific regulations, in relation to the finished works and to the materials or parts which they involve;
- (b) ‘Technical specification’, in the case of supply or service contracts: a specification in a document defining the required characteristics of a product or service, such as quality and environmental performance levels, design for all requirements (including accessibility for people with disabilities), and conformity-assessment, performance, use of the product, its safety or dimensions, including requirements relevant to the product as regards the name under which the product is sold, terminology, symbols, testing and test methods, packaging, marking and labelling, user instructions, production methods and procedures, as well as conformity assessment procedures;
2. ‘Standard’: a technical specification approved by a recognised standardisation body for repeated or continuous application, compliance with which is not compulsory, from one of the following categories:
 - international standard: a standard adopted by an international standards organisation and made available to the general public,
 - European standard: a standard adopted by a European standardisation body and made available to the general public,
 - national standard: a standard adopted by a national standards organisation and made available to the general public,
3. ‘Defence standard’: a technical specification the observance of which is not compulsory and which is approved by a standardisation body specialising in the production of technical specifications for repeated or continuous application in the field of defence;
4. ‘European technical approval’: a favourable technical assessment of the fitness for use of a product for a specific purpose, based on fulfilment of the essential requirements for building works, by means of the inherent characteristics of the product and the defined conditions of application and use. European technical approvals are issued by an approval body designated for this purpose by the Member State;

Status: EU Directives are being published on this site to aid cross referencing from UK legislation. After IP completion day (31 December 2020 11pm) no further amendments will be applied to this version.

5. 'Common technical specification': a technical specification laid down in accordance with a procedure recognised by Member States which has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
6. 'Technical reference': any product produced by European standardisation bodies, other than official standards, according to procedures adapted to developments in market needs.