

Tile information

“Large-format ceramic tiles and plates” of the Trade Association Tiles and Natural Stone

Dear Sirs or Madams,

In principle, we agree with our colleagues from France and Great Britain concerning large-format ceramic tiles and plates. We endorse the joint effort within the EUF and to make the associated problems, also with the industry and the suppliers, public.

We have concerned ourselves with large-format tiles and plates for several years now.

Until recently, it did not seem to be feasible to manufacture large-format tiles, but nevertheless the size of tiles is still increasing towards gigantic dimensions.

In addition to that, the product standardisation is dealing with this type of tiles consisting of material that is getting increasingly thin.

Greater demands on knowledge and skills of the processors are required as regards tile laying and preparatory work.

But that is equally true of the industry of ceramics manufacturers, construction chemistry and manufacturers for the preparation of the grounds and not least manufacturers of the substructure, f. ex. screeds.

Since there is no safe way of construction available so far for the laying of large-format ceramic tiles and plates, we are asking manufacturers for increased safety on the production of these coverings and with their suppliers.

Otherwise the field testing and its possible damages will go at the expense of our firms.

Over the past few months, the Technical Committee within the German Association Tiles and Natural Stone has been working on this issue and published a specialised information which I want to present in basic outline now:

- dimensional stability of the background
- joint width ≥ 3 mm
- notched trowel method on the back of the tile
- more flatness of the background and filling of the background
- maximum field size 5 m/side
- minimum tile thickness 8 mm (floor)

Even though it seems to be very difficult to reduce all this to a common denominator we should nevertheless stress and keep in mind:

Products being permanently free of damage and craftsmanship always guaranteeing a high quality are indispensable for our trade.