

Technical Appraisal: Updating Continue

New price scale, new services



UPDATING BEGAN IN 2012

Stakeholders in the construction industry are developing in a sector undergoing a profound transformation, giving rise to new requirements and expectations. For this reason, in 2012, the CCFAT began a Technical Appraisal updating plan and is currently continuing this reform in accordance with the expectations of industrialists, manufacturers of construction materials and equipment and their clients, craftspeople, businesses, project owners and general contractors.

THE 3 MAIN DEVELOPMENTS

> Reduction in the examination timeframe for Technical Appraisal applications

Since 2012, a Technical Appraisal (or ATec) application is processed in **9 months** on average, one of the shortest timeframes in Europe.

> Standardisation of formulations by product / field of application pairing

Regular and systematic review of method assessment criteria, enabling Technical Appraisal and Technical Application Document (DTA) formulations to be standardised by pairing products with fields of application, enabled lists of minimum evidence required for assessing a Technical Appraisal dossier to be defined, thereby reducing the cost of access to the Technical Appraisal. The list of pieces of evidence can be found on the CCFAT website by product/system family: <http://www.ccfat.fr/produits-procedes/>

> Specific support for VSMEs/SMEs and start-ups

Ariane and RNA, services for helping VSMEs/SMEs and start-ups find the quickest way to get their innovation recognised.

- The CSTB implemented Ariane. This support service is dedicated to VSMEs/SMEs and start-ups that are not always from the construction sector and that have not yet had their innovation assessed.

Ariane

- Helps choose the assessment procedure that best suits the industrial development of innovations.
- Supports VSMEs/SMEs throughout their project.

The RNA

- Local partners grouped together in the National Support Network (RNA) offer this local support service approach, as closely as possible to applicants.

Rate reduction

- Since 2012, VSMEs/SMEs have benefited from a 30% rate reduction on their first Technical Appraisal.

2017 UPDATING

New services adapted to the expectations of industrialists

2 EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENCES IN PROCESSING BETWEEN TWO TECHNICAL APPRAISALS

Restriction of the field of application:

It is possible, after claims analyses are brought to the attention of CCFAT experts, to restrict the conditions for using a product family.

Broadening of the field of application:

By contrast, it is also possible that the field of application for a system may be broadened after receiving sufficient and conclusive feedback from construction sites.

> OCAPI: online construction technical positions

The CCFAT decided to make technical positions of Specialised Groups (SG) public to secure increasingly fair access for innovative products to the market. Indeed, the evolution of scientific knowledge and assessment criteria of CCFAT specialised groups could result in two similar products that, having obtained their Technical Appraisal on two different dates, have significantly different fields of application.

The case-law will soon be accessible using the OCAPI database, which will be progressively put online and fully operational by autumn 2017.

> Free and more frequent automatic revisions

Based on annual analysis of changes in technical positions relating to each Technical Appraisal family, the CCFAT or Specialised Groups can begin automatic revision, at no additional cost, aiming to eliminate differences in wording that could result from significant changes in assessment criteria. Unless there is a safety issue, these revisions will be processed collectively by the specialised group, thereby allowing industrialists to adapt following the revision decision, within a timeframe of a few months.

> A new Technical Appraisal price scale that encourages new innovators and VSMEs/SMEs

To make access to the market easier for innovative products in relation to stabilised techniques, the Technical Appraisal price list, as of 1 January 2017 and after 1.2% discounting, was adjusted as follows:

- 10% reduction in rates for new applications (from €15,360 to €13,824 excl. VAT on average),
- 10% reduction in rates for complete revisions, with extension of the duration (from €10,961 to €9,865 excl. VAT),
- 7% reduction in rates for single, partial revisions, without extension of the duration (from €5,943 to €5,527 excl. VAT on average),
- 24% reduction in rates for partial revisions without extension of the duration (from €10,961 to €8,330 excl. VAT on average),
- 44% reduction in rates for duplicate renewals (from €5,480 to €3,069 excl. VAT on average).

NEW PRICE SCALE

-10%

for new applications

-10%

for complete revisions with extension

-7%

for single, partial revisions without extension

-24%

for partial revisions without extension

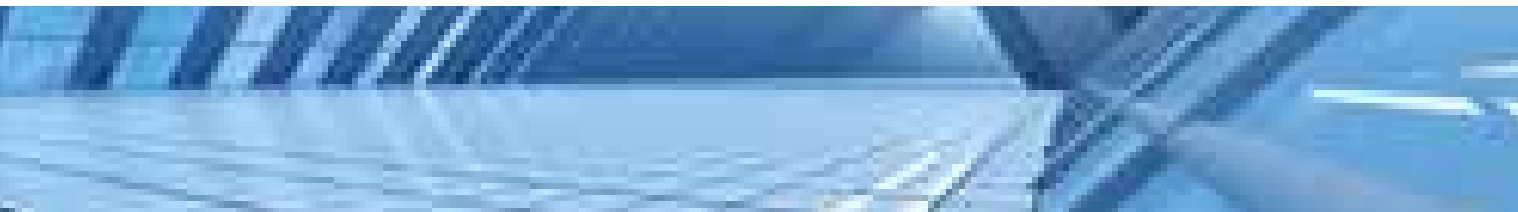
-44%

for duplicate revisions

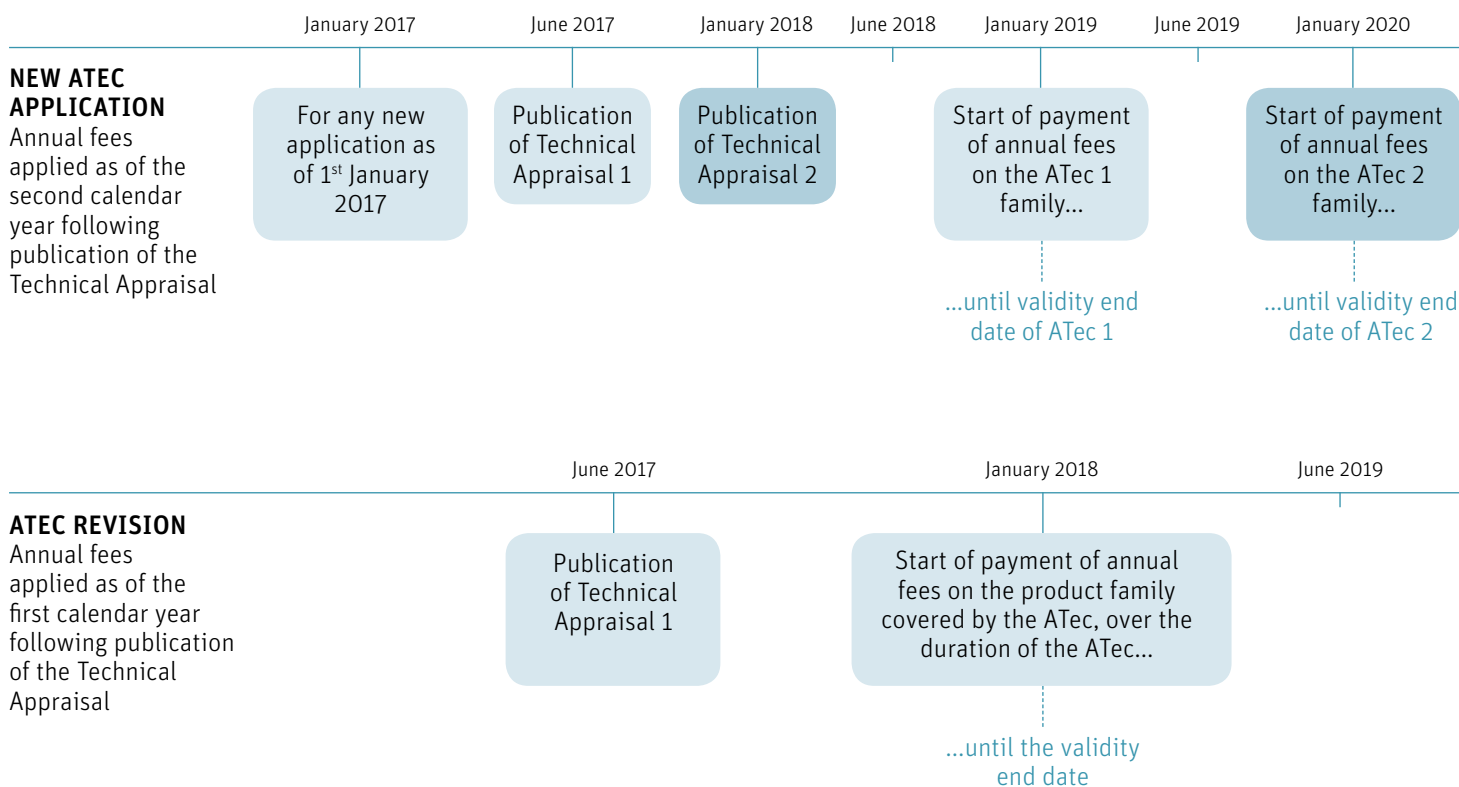
Annual administration fees for the Technical Appraisal family: **10%** of the cost of new applications

This new price list, available from the CCFAT secretariat, leads to a rate reduction for Technical Appraisal applications and the setting up of an annual contribution that applies to all Appraisal holders in order to finance the work of continuous updating of assessment criteria used for the product family in question. These annual administration fees correspond to 10% of the cost of new applications (€1,382 excl. VAT on average), with a 50% reduction for each year during which an application for revision is submitted by the holder.

These administrative fees do not apply to Technical Appraisals that are the subject of an appraisal or revision application dated prior to 1 January 2017.



APPLYING ANNUAL FEES



> A monitoring and assessment commission on the effects of the new Technical Appraisal price scale

On the request of the French association of construction product industries (AIMCC), a commission for monitoring the new pricing system for Technical Appraisals is in place to evaluate these developments and suggest possible relevant adjustments.

> VSME/SME special

The first Technical Appraisal applications from VSMEs/SMEs are always facilitated by a 30% rate reduction (refer to the online Technical Appraisal application form on the CCFAT website), on top of the 10% reduction resulting from the 2017 reform.



VSMES/SMES, START-UPS, NEW ENTRANTS

-30%

for new applicants

-10%

for new applications

CONTACT

Presidents and rapporteurs for the specialised groups as well as examiners and the CSTB's Technical Department team are at your disposal to study, on a case-by-case basis, the way in which the changes to the Technical Appraisal rates will apply to your portfolio of Technical Appraisals and/or Technical Application Documents.

Ccfat.fr: <http://www.ccfat.fr/groupes-specialises/>

TECHNICAL APPRAISAL PRICE SCALE

The price scale is available from the CCFAT secretariat: secretariat.at@cstb.fr