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Spanish importers welcome decision on French rebar imports

The Spanish association of importers and distributors of steel for construction (ASIDAC) issued a press statement this week to welcome the conclusion of a long-lasting dispute to allow the import of French rebar. The material in question carries the NF certification mark.

The association began a dispute with local authorities in 2012 to fight against the advantages given by the local ministry to rebar produced in Spain and certified by the local authority (AENOR). ASIDAC noted that for the last 20 years the Spanish ministry would only accept the use of AENOR certified rebars. This meant that importers of rebar were forced to pay for additional certification even if buying from other European countries with similar certification standards.

Earlier this year the Spanish court recognised that NF certified rebars from France should also be accepted by the Ministry, opening new market opportunities for construction companies in Spain. "Because of the latest declaration, NF certified rebar will have the same advantages as AENOR-marked material," Rafael Bueno, technical manager at ASIDAC says.

AENOR did not respond to a request for comment by **Kallanish** before publication. A source within Unesid, the Spanish steelmakers association, notes that the rebar Spanish market is very open. In the past imports were very high, but now poor demand in the market is the reason behind the low level of imports of rebar from producers outside Spain.
