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Directorate-General III
INDUSTRY

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**STANDARDIZATION MANDATE TO CEN/CENELEC CONCERNING
STANDARDS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

I. BACKGROUND.

On 21 December 1989, the Council adopted Directive 89/686/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to personal protective equipment (PPE). The Directive foresees that PPE falling within the scope of the Directive as indicated in Article 1 must meet the basic health and safety requirements applicable to them before they can be placed on the market. These basic health and safety requirements are specified in Annex II of the Directive. In accordance with the Directive, Member States shall presume that PPE bearing the CE marking and which has been constructed in accordance with one or more of the national standards transposing harmonized standards that cover the appropriate basic health and safety requirements, complies with the relevant basic health and safety requirements.

To accomplish the need for standards under this Directive, the Commission has already issued two series of mandates asking CEN to establish a number of specific European standards.

The first series of mandates was issued in 1988. It dealt mainly with equipment which within the meaning of the Directive was especially intended for use at the work place. It was comprised of ten separate mandates each covering specific parts of the body:

- (1) Head protection (BC/CEN/03/88)
- (2) Eye protection (BC/CEN/04/88)
- (3) Foot and leg protection (BC/CEN/09/88)
- (4) Face (and eye) protection (BC/CEN/05/88)
- (5) Hearing protection (BC/CEN/06/88)
- (6) Respiratory tract protection (BC/CEN/07/88)
- (7) Hand and arm protection (BC/CEN/08/88)
- (8) Body protection (BC/CEN/10/88)
- (9) Protection against falls from height (BC/CEN/11/88)
- (10) Personal equipment intended for performance of certain activities incorporating one or several safety functions (BC/CEN/12/88).

Each individual mandate contained a list of specific items which were to be standardised.

This first series of mandates was supplemented by a new mandate in 1990 (BC/CEN/02/90). It contained a new list of items for standardisation to cover the items which had not been covered in the priority setting of the first series of mandates issued in 1988.

This new mandate is supplementing the foregoing mandates by asking CEN/CENELEC to draw up within the scope of the Directive, as part of a global programme, a programme of standards necessary for the proper function of the PPE directive in line with the basic health and safety requirements of the Directive. Particular attention should be given to consumer products and sports equipment, which only to a certain and limited extent, were covered by the first two mandates.

The scope of the Directive as laid down in Article 1 covers equipments both for professional and non-professional use. It raises certain questions with regard to some products where it may be difficult to establish immediately whether they are covered by the Directive. The Commission is therefore discussing with Member States criteria and an informative list of products in order to clarify the scope. The results of these discussions will be transmitted to CEN/CENELEC as a complement to the present mandate.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK.

As a complement to the existing mandates in the field of personal protective equipment, the Commission hereby requests CEN/CENELEC to develop and draw up European standards for the different products and groups of PPE falling within the scope of Article 1 of Directive 89/686/EEC as defined above, specifying the requirements for PPE on the basis of the basic health and safety requirements set out in Annex II of the Directive. In doing so CEN/CENELEC must include relevant test methods. They shall pay particular attention to consumer products and sports equipment falling within the scope of the Directive taking into consideration the information which will be provided by the Commission after consultation of the Committee set up under Directive 89/686/EEC. CEN/CENELEC must to the greatest extent possible take into account existing activities which is undertaken in an answer to the two first mandates.

In conformity with paragraph 3 of Article 100A of the EEC Treaty, the Directive relating to P.P.E. is conceived on the basis of a high level of protection. It is important therefore that this fact be taken into account in the drafting of the standards to be established, which shall define in particular the classes of protection appropriate to the classes of risks, and shall indicate, for each class of protection, the corresponding category of P.P.E. mentioned in the Directive with respect to the certification procedures.

With a view to insuring greater transparency, and in order to allow the Commission, after consultation of the Committee set up under Directives 83/189/EEC and 89/686/EEC, to deliver its comments on the work items presented in answer to this mandate, CEN/CENLEC shall present a programme of work items to the Commission, who shall subsequently inform the two committees. This program may be updated by CEN/CENLEC, and the updated versions shall be presented to the Commission on a regular basis.

III. EXECUTION OF THE ORDER.

1. CEN/CENELEC shall present to the Commission a jointly and mutually agreed programme on standardization activities. The programme will indicate the scope of the standards, their relation with the essential requirements, the link with existing activities, and give a timetable for adoption, as well as indicating the competent bodies charged with the task of elaboration
2. When CEN/CENELEC identify new work items which are necessary for the proper functioning of the PPE Directive, they shall communicate the revised programme to the Commission on a regular basis.
3. When the Commission, after consultation of the Committees set up under Directives 83/189/EEC and 89/686/EEC, considers that the proposed work items are not relevant to the PPE Directive, it will inform the concerned European Standards Institution of its position.
4. CEN/CENELEC will adopt the European standards in accordance with the programme.
5. CEN/CENELEC will send the Commission a draft of the respective European standards made in accordance with the programme, they will send the standards which it has adopted under this mandate to the Commission in three language versions (English, French and German). In view of the Commission's obligation to publish the reference numbers of the harmonised standards in the Official Journal of the European Communities, which is a condition for the standards to produce a presumption of conformity with essential requirements, CEN/CENELEC will also send together with the official versions, the titles of the standards in all official languages of the Community.
6. The EN standards will be transposed into national standards and any diverging national standards will be withdrawn within the Member States of the EEC taking into consideration the transitional period set in the Directive.

7. The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Council Directive 83/189/EEC of 28 March 1983 (OJ N° L 109 of 26 April 1983) amended by Council Directive 88/182/EEC (OJ N° L 81 of 26 March 1988) shall apply from the date CEN/CENELEC accept, in answer to this mandate, the work items in their programme, unless the work items listed in the programme have already been accepted by CEN/CENELEC, in which case standstill is already in force.

8. The revision of standards adopted on the basis of the mandate, carried out in conformity with the internal rules of CEN/CENELEC, are covered by this mandate.