



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL III
INDUSTRY
Industrial affairs II: Capital goods industries
Mechanical engineering and electrical engineering

Brussels, 28 June 1999
DG III/D/1/JCP:jv

M281- EN

**MANDATE TO CEN CONCERNING THE EXECUTION OF
STANDARDIZATION WORK, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF DIRECTIVE
89/686/CEE RELATING TO PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, FOR
THE PURPOSE OF REVISING STANDARD EN 1384 RELATING TO
HELMETS FOR EQUESTRIAN SPORTS**

1. GROUNDS

By mandate (appendix 1.1 of the purchase order 02/90), the Commission required of CEN to establish a standard for helmets used for protection in horse-riding sports and competitions. This standard was established and carries the reference EN 1384. It was adopted by CEN on August 30, 1996 and was made available in September 1996. The reference of this standard was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities C 180 of June 14, 1997, p. 26.

Following a petition brought to the European Parliament, it appeared that this EN standard presented gaps and that it was possible to remedy these gaps by increasing the security offered by wearing these helmets.

Upon an initiative of the Commission departments, an amendment was worked out by CEN/TC 158/WG5. Nevertheless, this amendment does not include all the desirable improvements.

A meeting was held in the buildings of the Commission on April 15, and 16, 1999. The various interested parts (president and secretary of CEN/TC 158/WG5, central secretariat of CEN, representatives of industry, the notified bodies and the consumers) examined the various possibilities. This mandate results from that working session.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK.

CEN must carry out a complete revision of standard EN 1384, taking account amongst others of the following points:

- suppression of the penetration test and its replacement by a " hazard anvil " test based on the standard ASTM-F-1163 of 1997 ;
- introduction of a lateral crush test ;
- improvement of shock resistance, in particular for helmets intended for small-size heads;
- increase in the protection zone, in particular for the temporal area ;
- provision of a method that ensures correct lateral and vertical vision ;
- provision of a method that ensures that, when the helmet covers the ear, the reduction of hearing does not compromise the rider's security ;
- obtainment of an improvement of helmets retention system.

Moreover, account shall be taken of the elements treated in the amendment in progress (IN 1384/prA1) namely:

- the weight of the helmet must be mentioned on the helmet itself, on its packaging and on the accompanying instructions leaflet

The requested revision must take into account the results in terms of comfort and acceptability of the helmet for equestrian activities, particularly its weight and rigidity, and the absence of impairment of hearing. Very good ventilation must be provided for use in high temperatures. These comfort elements affect the effective wearing of the helmet, in particular for riding activities of long duration (excursions, training, etc). As a result, the study of the necessity of differentiated protection for higher risk and /or short-duration activities (such as jumping, steeplechase, polo, horse-ball, etc.) is requested.

To this end, the standard could be divided into various parts in order to take account of specificities of the activities and place where they take place.

3. EXECUTION OF MANDATE

- 3.1. CEN itself will ensure that the working group in charge will work with a sense of pressing urgency and that meetings will be held, during the drafting of the project text, at least once a quarter. At the end of the working group's work, the technical committee will have to deliver its opinion on this work within three months. CEN will make sure that no delay occurs because of translations.
- 3.2 CEN will submit a project of revision of standard (stage 40) to the Commission before 30 September 2000.
- 3.3 The European standard (EN) will have to be adopted by CEN before 30 June 2002. On this date, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, FR) will have to be available, as well as the correct titles in the other languages of the Community.

- 3.4. The adopted European standards will have to be transposed in national standards and the divergent national standards will have to be withdrawn from the catalogues of the national organizations of standardization in the Member States, within six months following the adoption of the European standards.
- 3.5. Acceptance by CEN of this mandate of standardization will open the period of statu quo referred to in to article 7 of directive 98/34/EC¹ of June 22, 1998.

¹ OJ L 204, 21.07.98, p.37, amended by directive 98/48/EC (OJ L 217, 5/8/98, p. 18)