



Technical Boards Newsletter

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91st CEN/BT and 166th CLC/BT

Since the last issue of the BT Newsletter in July 2020, the CEN and CENELEC Technical Boards have met once, from 29 September to 1 October 2020 (virtual meetings due to COVID-19 pandemic).

We are pleased to report here on the main outcomes of crosscutting nature discussed in the single-BT and common meetings as well as on the latest decisions of transversal nature taken by correspondence (until 30 October 2020).

Best regards

Cinzia MISSIROLI
Director Standardization & Digital Solutions

BT measures relating to COVID-19 pandemic

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic the CEN and CENELEC community has consistently supported the European joint efforts in the fight against its spread, notably through decisions and measures taken at the Technical Board level.

Standards available free of charge by the Members

Besides those 21 Standards related to Medical and protective equipment that were made available free of charge with a view to support alternative production chains during the COVID-19 outbreak, the BTs accepted that the Members enlarged the set of national implementations available free of charge, in order to address further needs identified to fight the pandemic (covering e.g. respiratory and ventilatory equipment).

At their common session of September the BTs re-assessed the measures taken so far, which were meant to be temporary, in the light of the Members' experience since March 2020. Among others, it was noted that while some Members were still offering identified Standards free of charge, others had already stopped with this initiative.

In line with the BTs conclusions and recommendations the CAs agreed to set 2020-12-31 as the latest date by which the Members can still make available free of charge the national implementations of European standards which had been considered necessary to help combat COVID-19.

Decision ref: CEN/BT 044/2020 and CLC/BT 166/004, applicable from 2020-09-30

Contact person: Ms Catherine VIGNERON (cvigneron@cencenelec.eu)

Community face coverings (masks) – Next steps

Following the publication of the free-of-charge [CWA 17553](#) 'Community face coverings - Guide to minimum requirements, methods of testing and use' in June as a fast solution to the needs identified in the pandemic, CEN/BT considered the development of a wider consensus-based document i.e. a Technical Specification, and allocated the work to CEN/TC 248 'Textiles and textile products', asking the TC to consider any item or characteristic needed by the market (e.g. multi material face coverings, etc.) and to ensure the participation of all concerned stakeholders and relevant experts. A progress report to BT is expected by end of 2020.

Decision ref: CEN/BT 038/2020, applicable from 2020-09-29

Contact person: Ms Catherine VIGNERON (cvigneron@cencenelec.eu)

Tolerance and flexibility in the Standards development process

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, a vast majority of the Technical Bodies meetings (more than 90%) were turned to virtual quite rapidly to ensure business continuity.

Meanwhile, in order to reduce pressure on those Technical Bodies that encountered difficulties to catch up with the standard development timeframe, the BTs took a series of decisions before the summer, in order to ensure more flexibility and tolerance in the system (Decisions CEN/BT 033/2020 and CLC/BT D166/C014). At their meeting of September, the BTs re-assessed the situation, noting the persisting difficulties due to the pandemic:

- In **CEN**:

- WIs having a delay up to **26 weeks** from the target date will not be cancelled
- TCs may change the initial planning via the 'one-change' option for the affected WIs at any time before enquiry (i.e. without the condition that a decision must be taken at least 4 weeks after the dispatch of the 1st WD)
- TC Secretaries may shorten the notice period to 1 month for virtual meetings *only* (including submission of the Agenda)
- Members were invited to take an action (i.e. request for extension to BT) by **2020-10-31** on those projects having a delay exceeding 6 months at Enquiry and Formal Vote stage, otherwise the projects will be cancelled

Decision ref: CEN/BT 033/2020, applicable from 2020-05-20, completed by CEN/BT 036/2020, applicable from 2020-09-29

- In **CENELEC**:

- WIs having a delay up to **12 weeks** from the target date will not be cancelled.
- TCs are reminded of the possibility to request the 39-week (i.e. 9-month) tolerance and may change, at any time before enquiry, the initial planning via the 'one-change' option for the CENELEC homegrown WIs
- TC secretaries may shorten the notice period to 1 month for virtual meetings *only* (including submission of the Agenda)
- Members are invited to take an action (i.e. request for extension to BT) by **2020-12-31** on those projects having a delay exceeding 12 weeks at Enquiry and Formal Vote stage, otherwise the projects will be cancelled

CLARIFICATION: 2020-12-31 is **not** the deadline for delivery of the delayed drafts, it is the deadline for asking an extension (up to 12 weeks) to BT (the draft being possibly delivered begin 2021).

Decision ref: CLC/BT D166/C014, applicable from 2020-06-10, completed by CLC/BT D166/009, applicable from 2020-10-01

*Contact person: Mr Alberto SIMEONI (asimeoni@cencenelec.eu)
The Project Manager following the activities of your TC*

Common CEN-CENELEC matters

CEN and CENELEC strategy 2030

The CEN and CENELEC Strategy 2030 is expected to be adopted by the General Assemblies of November. Considering the political, economic, digital, and societal drivers of change impacting CEN and CENELEC, the Strategy 2030 sets the following vision, mission and strategic goals:

Vision

Building a safer, more sustainable and competitive Europe through European and International Standardization.

Mission

Through our stakeholder networks, we create consensus-based standards in order to generate trust, fulfil market requirements, enable market access and innovations for a better, safer and more sustainable Europe.

5 Strategic Goals

1. EU and EFTA recognize and use the strategic value of the European standardization system.
2. Our customers and stakeholders benefit from state-of-the-art digital solutions.
3. Increase the use and awareness of CEN and CENELEC deliverables.
4. The CEN and CENELEC system to be the preferred choice for standardization in Europe.
5. Strengthen our leadership and ambitions at the international level.

Contact person: Mr Brecht LEIN (blein@cencenelec.eu)

Processes and Procedures

Flexible standards development process

The flexible standards development process, empowering TCs to autonomously plan and organize their work within a maximum timeframe, has been brought some needed adjustment and refinement since its implementation in April 2020.

A webinar was held on 29 October 2020 to present the novelties to the TC officers – if you missed it, you still have the possibility to listen to the recordings:

Flexible standards development process - Clarifications & improvements [[RECORDING](#)]

Decision ref: CEN/BT 041/2020 and CLC/BT D166/002, applicable from 2020-09-30

Contact person: Mr Alberto SIMEONI (asimeoni@cencenelec.eu)

Editing of drafts before submission to Formal Vote (FV)

The BTs re-introduced the 5-week-editing period for draft homegrown standards received at CCMC for Formal Vote, bearing in mind the complexity related to harmonized standards, XML conversion, etc..

Furthermore, the BTs confirmed that CCMC should give priority to the editing of harmonized Standards and continuously assess the production flow.

The relevant CEN and CENELEC BOSS pages will be updated accordingly within short.

Decision ref: CEN/BT 040/2020 and CLC/BT D165/001, applicable from 2020-09-30

Contact person: Mr Gonalo ASCENSAO (gascensao@cencenelec.eu)

Rail Interoperability – New Template for Annex ZA/ZZ

Taking into account the specificities of the Railway Legislation, notably the existence of Technical Specifications of Interoperability (TSIs) and the possibility for the EC to make mandatory clause(s) of the standards into those TSIs, the BTs endorsed a new template for drawing Annex ZA/ZZ for the Railway Interoperability standards – Implementation as from 1 September 2020.

The new template, including an explanatory note, is available on the CEN and CENELEC BOSS ([template](#) – [note](#)).

Decision ref: CEN/BT C142/2020 and CLC/BT D166/C046, applicable from 2020-08-05.

Contact person: Mr Thierry LEGRAND (tlegrand@cencenelec.eu)

Cooperation with EC/EFTA

CEN & CENELEC support to the [Recovery Plan for Europe](#)

(i.e. EC initiative to help repair economic and social damage brought by COVID-19 pandemic and kick-start EU recovery)

In the frame of the **Recovery Plan for Europe**, the European Commission has adapted the draft **2021 Annual Union Work Programme** for Standardisation (AUWP) to reflect the 14 priority industrial areas - so-called 'Ecosystems' – identified in the Plan: tourism, cultural industries, space and defence, textiles, electronics, smart and sustainable mobility, low-carbon energy intensive industries, renewable energy, agri-food, smart health, digital industries, construction, retail, and local life.

Taking the opportunity to show the added-value of standardization in Europe's recovery post COVID-19, CEN and CENELEC assessed how ongoing and future activities could contribute to the 14 Ecosystems and provided the EC with extensive inputs (available on the [CEN-CENELEC website](#)), based on the contributions from the Technical Bodies and Technical Boards.

The CEN-CENELEC contributions are expected to be annexed to the final 2021 AUWP and will support the development of future standardization requests.

The BTs will monitor the evolution of the work programmes of CEN and CENELEC to support the deployment of the EU Recovery Plan.

Contact person: Ms Cinzia MISSIROLI (cmisiroli@cencenelec.eu)

ESOs' contribution to the EC European Strategy for Standardization

To address the unprecedented crisis and challenges due to the pandemic, the EU's efforts in the upcoming months and years will focus on the economic recovery (as detailed above). At the same time, resilience building and leading the European economy through the **Twin Transitions – green and digital** – will also form the core of the recovery processes.

In this context the EC has started building a Strategy for Standardization around two main pillars: the industrial recovery and associated Ecosystems on the one hand, and the industrial strategy goals, with the Twin Transitions, resilience building and technological sovereignty as main priorities, on the other hand.

Recognizing the key role of the ESOs in the success of the above Strategy, the EC has invited CEN, CENELEC and ETSI to participate to its elaboration, with a view to maximise alignment of the objectives defined in their respective long-term strategic planning. The ESOs joint response that was sent to the EC should ensure that their Strategies and the EC European standardization strategy are complementary and aligned.

Contact person: Ms Andreea GULACSI (agulacsi@cencenelec.eu)

CEN & CENELEC contribution to the revision of the [Blue Guide](#)

The '**Blue Guide on the implementation of EU product rules**' is one of the main reference documents explaining how to implement the legislation based on the New Approach, now covered by the New Legislative Framework (NLF). The role of standardization, and harmonized Standards in particular, is therein well acknowledged. This document, published periodically by the Commission, is currently being revised and under stakeholders' consultation.

A first analysis of the current revision revealed that the Blue Guide includes modifications, fundamental for CEN and CENELEC, stemming from the stricter EC interpretation of the EU court cases, on which CEN and CENELEC have submitted their position: changes relating to conformity with Essential Requirements in Harmonized Standards (including the concept of Harmonized Standards as part of Union Law), very legalistic approach towards Standardization Requests and citation, as well as references to the impact of Brexit for the UK/Northern Ireland.

The BTs are involved at each step of the revision process.

Contact person: Mr Alberto SIMEONI (asimeoni@cencenelec.eu)

Standardization Request (SReq) on Medical devices and In-vitro diagnostic medical devices – Not accepted

Besides the volume of work and the limited timeframe to deliver it (about 225 standards to be revised or developed by May 2024), the BT members opposed several restrictive requirements that would hinder the interrelation between international and European standards (e.g. SReq explicitly restricting the scope of harmonized Standards to exclusively cover Medical Devices under the MDR, use of definitions set by MDR-IVDR only, etc.). It was considered that these requirements could lead to an increased number of decoupling from the MDR and deviation from ISO and IEC.

Discussions are ongoing with the EC; CEN and CENELEC (incl. CEN-CENELEC Advisory Board for Healthcare Standards (ABHS)) have worked on a revised draft SReq and comments over the summer. The revised draft and comments are currently being evaluated by the Commission services.

Decision ref: CEN/BT C125/2020 and CLC/BT D166/C015, applicable from 2020-06-16

Contact person: Ms Jennifer OGBONNA (jogbonna@cencenelec.eu)

Standardization Request (SReq) on LOT14 products – Accepted

CENELEC has accepted the Standardization Request addressed to the 3 ESOs as regards Ecodesign and energy labelling requirements for household dishwashers, household washing machines and household washer-dryers. The work has been allocated to CLC/TC 59X 'Performance of household and similar electrical appliances', with the challenging task to finalize the expected standards for publication by December 2020. Despite the short deadline, the adoption of the requested standards in due time is feasible thanks to the pro-active approach of the CLC/TC 59X experts, who started the work upfront, leading to the publication of some expected ENs at the time the SReq was accepted. The new deliverables will support Commission Regulations (EU) 2019/2022 and (EU) 2019/2023, as well as Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2019/2017 and (EU) 2019/2014.

Decision ref: CEN/BT C123/2020 and CLC/BT D166/C029, applicable from 2020-07-01

Contact person: Ms Mercedes MIRA COSTA (mmira@cencenelec.eu)

Standardization Request (SReq) on Personal Protective Equipment – Accepted

While objecting the strict model of the SReq as regards Personal Protective Equipment, CEN and CENELEC have finally decided to accept it, considering the urgent need for such SReq expressed by Industry and the market. Around 50 standards are expected to be revised and another 90 developed in the frame of this SReq, in support of Regulation (EU) 2016/425, before 2021-04-30. Work is ongoing at a steady pace and several standards have already been published, a.o. in the EN 352 series 'Hearing protectors'.

Decision ref: CEN/BT C193/2020 and CLC/BT D167/C026, applicable from 2020-10-21

Contact person: Ms Jennifer OGBONNA (jogbonna@cencenelec.eu)

Cooperation with other Stakeholders

CEN-CENELEC Guide 6 – Accessibility in Standards

Similarly to its international counterpart ISO IEC Guide 71, the BTs confirmed the relevance of [CEN-CENELEC Guide 6](#) 'Guide for addressing accessibility in standards' during its systematic review. This document provides guidance for writing appropriate accessibility requirements and recommendations in standards. While primarily dedicated to standard drafters, it contains information that can also be useful to other people, such as manufacturers, designers, service providers and educators.

Decision ref: CEN/BT C150/2020 and CLC/BT D166/C059, applicable from 2020-08-19

Contact person: Ms Claire DALIER (cdalier@cencenelec.eu)

CEN-CENELEC Guide 23 – Research Consortium Bridge

To make it easier and more attractive for the research and innovation communities to become involved in standardization and to channel their work into the standards work programme, a **new edition** of CEN-CENELEC Guide 23 has been developed, with a revised title 'Research Consortium bridge - Addressing Research and Innovation in European Standardization activities and deliverables'. Endorsed by the BTs, the revised Guide is now available on the [CEN-CENELEC website](#).

Contact person: Mr Luc Van den Berghe (Ivandenberghel@cencenelec.eu)

CEN-CENELEC Guide 29 – Workshop Agreements

Over the years Workshop Agreements (CWAs) have shown to be particularly attractive for European research and innovation projects, which must deliver results within the limited duration of their project lifetimes. In the **new edition** of Guide 29 'CEN/CENELEC Workshop Agreements – A rapid way to standardization', attention has been given to introduce the CWA into the full consensus process of the TCs. Endorsed by the BTs, the revised Guide is now available on the [CEN-CENELEC website](#).

Contact person: Mr Luc Van den Berghe (Ivandenberghel@cencenelec.eu)

Processes and Procedures

Harmonized Standards - HAS assessment of WIs under Vienna Agreement

CEN/BT examined the current process relating to the HAS consultant's assessment of WIs developed under the Vienna Agreement, where CCMC asks the assessment as soon as notified by ISO of the expected FDIS. As a matter of fact, because this notification is almost immediately followed by the effective submission of the ISO FDIS, the parallel procedure is launched without having received the outcome of the HAS assessment. In practice, this situation has led to a series of negative assessments on voted drafts.

Considering the above issue CEN/BT asked CCMC to approach ISO/CS to consider having the HAS assessment before starting the Formal Vote (following the same approach as for ENs developed outside the Vienna Agreement); this would allow TCs to decide on the next steps *before* the start of the Formal Vote, not leaving this decision after the closure of the vote.

Decision ref: CEN/BT 019/2020, applicable from 2020-04-07.

Contact person: Mr Gonçalo ASCENSAO (gascensao@cencenelec.eu)

CEN-only matters

Procedural matters

Committee Internal Ballot (CIB)

At its last meeting, CEN/BT stressed the importance of drafting clear and unambiguous texts for CIB, with complete reference documents.

Furthermore, to ensure that NSBs have enough time to find national consensus before voting on a proposal under CIB, CEN/BT has recommended to set a CIB **timeframe of 4 weeks**, unless otherwise specified (e.g. Adoption of NWI and activation of PWI, for which the CIB shall last 2 months).

However, with due justification, the TC Secretary, in consultation with the TC Chair, may

- shorten the 4-week timeframe to a minimum of 2 weeks, provided that no objection is voiced by any NSB,
- extend the 4-week timeframe

Furthermore, NSBs may ask for an extension, with due justification.

The CEN BOSS will be updated accordingly within short, together with some practical guidance.

Decision ref: CEN/BT 037/2020, applicable from 2020-09-29.

Contact person: Mr Alberto SIMEONI (asimenoni@cencenelec.eu)

Resubmission of documents with lack of compliance before FV

Until now, the CEN rules forbid the re-submission of a modified version of a FV text by the Technical Bodies ('1st delivery'), as well as a new version for translation by CCMC ('2nd delivery').

This limitation proved to be too restrictive for the development of harmonized Standards, which sometimes received a lack of compliance assessment prior to the FV. In those case, there is no possibility for the Technical Body to modify the draft in order to address the HAS consultant's comments.

Therefore, CEN/BT revisited the current rules and confirmed that the resubmissions for the 1st and 2nd delivery of texts for Enquiry and Formal Vote are not allowed, **except for** harmonized Standards, when technical changes are necessary following a HAS assessment prior to the start of the Formal Vote.

Decision ref: CEN/BT 042/2020 (superseding BT 017/2018), **applicable from 2020-09-30**

Contact person: Mr Gonçalo ASCENSAO (gascensao@cencenelec.eu)

Informative Annex ZA relating to Directive 2014/33/EU - Lifts

Noting that Standardization Request M/549 on Lifts and safety components for lifts, in support of Directive 2014/33/EU, requires a detailed format of an informative Annex ZA, a specific template has been developed with the relevant TCs and agreed upon by the EC.

CEN/BT approved the template, which is available on the [CEN BOSS](#).

Decision ref: CEN/BT C124/2020, **applicable from 2020-07-01**

Contact person: Ms Joanna FRANSKOWSKA (jfranskowska@cencenelec.eu)

Cooperation with EC/EFTA

Standardization Request (SReq) on Drones (UAS) – Accepted

CEN has accepted the Standardization Request as regards 'Unmanned aircraft classes intended to be operated in the 'open' category'. The work has been allocated to the 'AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe – Standardization' (ASD-STAN) in the frame of their specific Cooperation Agreement with CEN. The four requested deliverables will support Regulation (EU) 2019/245 and shall be published by December 2021.

Decision ref: CEN/BT C164/2020, **applicable from 2020-08-12**

Contact person: Mr Thierry LEGRAND (tlegrand@cencenelec.eu)

CENELEC-only matters

Highlights on Directives presented to CLC/BT

Radio Equipment Directive (RED)

CEN-CLC/BTWG 10 'RED impact on standardization' regularly meets and reports to the BTs, raising awareness on the challenges caused by this Directive for most CLC/TCs in terms of work programme, namely on the difficulties they encounter to adapt their Safety standards to the requirements set in the Directive.

Contact person: Mr Constant KOHLER (ckohler@cencenelec.eu)

Low Voltage Directive (LVD)

CLC/BTWG 143-1 'LVD standardization in the EU regulatory framework' is contributing to the review process of the LVD initiated by the EC. Some clarifications are still needed on the LVD scope and its interaction with other directives, such as the Radio Equipment Directive. The most significant potential changes relate to the extension of its application below 50V AC (alignment with RED) and the possible inclusion of plugs and socket outlets for domestic use. All TCs with an interest in LVD are invited to liaise with CLC/BTWG 143 for being involved in the review.

Contact person: Mr Constant KOHLER (ckohler@cencenelec.eu)

Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMCD)

Through CLC/BTWG 154-1 'EMC OJEU listing' CENELEC is monitoring the review of the EMCD and has sent contributions to the public consultation that was launched by the EC in order to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and coherence of the Directive. The first conclusions of the review are expected for Q1/2021.

Contact person: Mr Constant KOHLER (ckohler@cencenelec.eu)

Cooperation with IEC - Frankfurt Agreement

Exemptions from parallel procedures

The CENELEC Technical board is closely monitoring the implementation of the Frankfurt Agreement. At each meeting, an updated review of IEC publications exempted from parallel procedures is presented: a first part lists permanent and temporary exemptions, while a second part indicates those IEC documents that are used as such in Europe. The Permanent Delegates are invited to check beforehand with the relevant Technical Bodies whether the status mentioned is still correct and to inform CCMC of any needed modification. This document remains a key tool in order to apply the Frankfurt Agreement properly.

The Exemption list is available on the [CENELEC BOSS](#).

Adoption of IEC-IEEE dual logo standards

CLC/BT reconsidered its position towards those Standards developed jointly by IEC and IEEE and decided that those are covered by the Frankfurt Agreement, *but* are permanently exempted from parallel procedures.

CLC/BT also clarified the possible issues associated to:

- **Copyright and Licensing:** There is no related issue associated with the adoption of IEC-IEEE publications by CENELEC. However, the CENELEC Members, when implementing the European standards at national level, shall act in accordance to their respective Copyright and Licensing agreements with CENELEC and IEC.
- **Patent policy:** Should the adoption of a specific IEC-IEEE dual logo standard be requested:
 - The initiator shall clarify upfront with IEC which patent policy applies
 - The foreword of the resulting European Standard (EN IEC/IEEE) shall include this information in order to help the standard users, who could more easily direct themselves to the relevant sources of information for the licensing of these standard essential patents.

Decision ref: CLC/BT D166/C039, applicable from 2020-07-08.

Contact person: Mr Constant KOHLER (ckohler@cencenelec.eu)

Cooperation and observership in Technical Bodies

To ensure transparency and a clear view of existing liaisons and alike between CEN, CENELEC and/or ETSI Technical Bodies, CLC/BT agreed to add to the templates 'TC meeting agenda' and 'TC report to BT' an item on 'Review of liaisons', not only covering liaisons with Technical Bodies but also any other observership where relevant.

BT also invited the CENELEC Technical Bodies to:

- systematically report on their liaisons and observers, by identifying the Technical Body or organization in liaison, incoming and outgoing liaison officers, the mode of cooperation, the specific field of cooperation and the envisaged duration of the liaison;
- ensure that appropriate reporting is performed by the liaison officers.

Decision ref: CLC/BT D166./008, applicable from 2020-10-01

Contact person: Mr Constant KOHLER (ckohler@cencenelec.eu)

Next CEN and CENELEC BT meetings

February 2021

2021-02-16 – 167 CLC/BT

2021-02-17 – Common Session

2021-02-18 – 92 CEN/BT

May 2021

2021-05-25 – 93 CEN/BT

2021-05-26 – Common Session

2021-05-27 – 168 CLC/BT

October 2021

2021-10-19 – 169 CLC/BT

2021-10-20 – Common Session

2021-10-21 – 94 CEN/BT

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