



COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR
INTERNAL MARKET AND
INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS

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Standardization mandate to CEN
in the field of equipment and installation
for the transmission and distribution of gas.

1. BACKGROUND.

This mandate relates to measures taken by the European Community for the opening up of public procurement, and in particular to Council Directive 90/531/EEC on the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors, published in O.J.E.C. No. L 297 of 29 October 1990.

As part of the establishment of the internal market, public contracts for the supply and installation of equipment for the transmission and distribution of gas must be subject to competition. Reference to common European standards contributes to the opening of such contracts to competition since it ensures that the technical aspects of procurement contracts are transparent and that economic operators can compete for such contracts on an equal basis. Technical harmonization will also contribute to the development of European networks for gas supply.

As a result of studies carried out for the Commission, certain areas of public procurement have been identified as having priority, for example the energy field. A mandate, BC/CEN/CLC/09-92, has already been issued in the field of exploration and production in oil and gas, and the present mandate requests complementary standards in transmission and distribution of gas.

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The Commission is aware that CEN has been working on a programme of work in this area which may be relevant to this mandate.

Cooperation in areas such as the electronic instrumentation associated with gas distribution, should be ensured as necessary with CENELEC.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK.

CEN are asked to draw up standards for the aspects of the transmission and distribution of gas which, in the opinion of CEN, are the priority areas for the opening up of public procurement in that area, that is, the areas in which the existence of European standards for obligatory reference by public procurement entities will contribute to the effective opening of public procurement contracts to free competition. The standards should cover the safety aspects and functional requirements for gas supply equipment and installations, from the output of the gas producer's metering station to the installed piping leading to the gas appliance.

CEN should limit itself to work on the transmission and distribution of gas from production plants, including underground piping, but is not to cover domestic installations.

In this context gas is defined as any fuel which is in a gaseous state at a temperature of 15°C under a pressure of 1 bar.

Where equipment may be covered by the scope of other Directives, existing or in preparation, for example the Construction Products Directive 89/106/EEC, or the draft Pressure Equipment Directive, the standards elaborated under this mandate should not overlap with aspects mandated under other Directives. However, the standards elaborated should take account of, and where necessary make reference to, other European standards in the field, either existing or in preparation.

The Commission recommends that CEN take account as far as possible of standards or rules currently available in this area at a national or international level.

3. EXECUTION OF THE REQUEST.

1. CEN shall present a programme of standards, providing a coherent approach, and meeting the criteria set out in Article 2 above to the Commission within one month of acceptance of the present mandate. This programme shall include proposed target dates for the presentation of draft standards and the adoption of final European standards. These dates shall subsequently be the subject of agreement between the Commission and CEN.
2. CEN shall advise the Commission of relevant national legal requirements or regulations where action by the public authorities is necessary to secure effective opening of the market.
3. CEN shall present the draft standards by the date agreed.

4. The European standards (EN) shall be adopted by the date agreed. At this date, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, FR) shall be available as well as the correct titles in the other Community languages.
5. The European standards adopted shall be transposed into national standards and differing national standards shall be withdrawn from the catalogues of the national standards organizations in the Member States within six months of their adoption.
6. Standstill shall apply from the date of receipt of the programme unless the work items listed in the programme have already been accepted by CEN, in which case standstill is already in force.