

Mandate to CEN/CENELEC/ETSI  
for the drawing up of a programme of standards  
in the field of  
computer-aided acquisition and logistic support (CALs).

**1. BACKGROUND.**

This mandate relates to Community policy for public procurement, and in particular to Community interest in computerised procurement systems, particularly the Computer-Aided Acquisition and Logistic Support (CALs) initiative within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO. The aims of CALs have been stated to be the integration of design, production and support into a single process, in order to reduce lead times and costs, and the paperless flow of information between procurement entities and industry and within industry. The development of common standards for this information transfer process is clearly an essential element of the concept.

In general, military procurement falls within the scope of Community public procurement rules, and in particular, it is subject to the obligation to refer to European standards where they exist. There is an exemption for products covered by Article 223 (b) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, under which Member States may take measures to protect the essential interests of their security related to the trade in or production of arms, munitions and war material; such measures "shall not adversely affect the conditions of competition in the common market regarding products which are not intended for specifically military purposes". Article 223 (b) has to be interpreted strictly.

As is to be expected, the CALs concept is primarily addressed to military applications. There is, however, already a significant impact on products with more general application, and it may be foreseen that this impact will increase, due to the increasing integration of military and civil industry. Divergence between military and civil standards for similar or associated products will lead to wasteful duplication of effort; furthermore, the integration of defence and civil technologies implies that the needs of defence procurement will increasingly need to be met from the civil market. Industry has recognised this; the NATO

Industrial Advisory Group (NIAG) has recently cooperated in a study on the feasibility of harmonization of existing NATO standards for CALS, and a European CALS industry group (EUCIG) has recently been set up to coordinate the views of European industry in this area.

The development of specifications for CALS should not result in new barriers to trade that may arise from the lack of a single system of communication between purchasing authorities and suppliers. Thus it is important to avoid a position of conflict between diverging standards elaborated in different fora, each applicable within its own constituency of users. If industry is bound to supply the markets with products specified to diverging standards, the result will be inefficiency and waste - a state of affairs that has been recognised at European level by some of the industries concerned.

NATO standards for CALS should not be considered as having the status of standards under Community law; they are technical specifications adopted within NATO, and are not subject to the procedural rules (enquiry, national vote, transposition, etc.,) that are applied to ENs. This means that the obligation under EC public procurement rules to refer to European standards where they exist does not apply to CALS specifications as such, since they do not of themselves have the status of European standards. Furthermore, the situation could arise when purchasers are constrained both by CALS standards and ENs.

It is important that the contribution of Community industry to the elaboration of standards is as effective as possible, so that European industry is not obliged to make disproportionate efforts to conform to the results of CALS standardization.

The possibility should be anticipated of CALS having recourse to ENs or ETS, either existing or under preparation.

The results of the process will be of interest in a broader context than that of NATO. It is desirable that where an economic need for international cooperation on the elaboration of technical specifications is established, the results of such cooperation should be implemented through the recognised mechanisms for the agreement and issue of international standards. Thus, although the European dimension is important, there would also appear to be a role for ISO and the IEC in developing standards for international application in this area, for subsequent transposition as European standards where appropriate.

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK.**

1. CEN/CENELEC/ETSI are asked to carry out a review of the requirements and implications for European standards of the NATO CALS initiative. This should cover the contribution of European bodies to the development of CALS, and the introduction of CALS into the framework of European and international standardization. The review should examine where necessary the effects of national programmes with an implication for CALS.
2. They are also asked to review their own, and where appropriate, their member bodies' activities related to CALS, such as activities in CEN TC 93 and TC 310. They are also asked to analyse, where possible, relevant current work in international bodies -

particularly IEC (for example, TC 3), ISO (for example, TC 184 SC 4) and NATO - and third countries.

3. On the basis of this analysis, CEN/CENELEC/ETSI are asked to assess the implications for future cooperation mechanisms for dealing with the needs of CALS. In particular, they are asked to examine and report upon the extent to which the development of cooperation with ISO and IEC is desirable and practical, and to draw up a plan for such cooperation.
4. CEN/CENELEC/ETSI are asked to propose, on the basis of their analyses of their own work and that of other standards bodies, and on the basis of their assessment of the requirements, a programme of European standardization (to be the subject of negotiations on a possible standardization mandate in the future) which will contribute to the formation of a technical consensus on CALS-related work at European level and will contribute to the effective coordination of CALS work with international standardization, to improving the impact of the European contribution to the formulation of the CALS environment, and to the closer integration of CALS into the world-wide standardization system.

### **3. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED.**

The work shall be carried out in close cooperation with NATO (The relevant NATO group is Sub-group D of Armaments Committee AC 301). Other bodies to be involved include manufacturing interest groups, in particular the European CALS Industry Group EUCIG, and bodies grouping public procurement entities. Consultation with ISO and the IEC will be necessary in elaborating a plan for cooperation with these bodies.

### **4. EXECUTION OF THE REQUEST.**

1. CEN/CENELEC/ETSI shall present to the Commission a report, in accordance with the requirements set out Article 2 above, within three months of acceptance of the present mandate. The results of the study shall be joint and mutually acceptable to CEN/CENELEC/ETSI.
2. The report shall also include proposals for a programme of European standards which it is proposed to draw up in support of the objectives of this mandate.
3. The programme shall indicate the areas where support from the Community through further mandates is needed.