



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL III
INDUSTRY

Directorate B: legislation and standardization; telematics networks
Unit III/B-2: standardization

M/055

STANDARDIZATION MANDATE TO CEN FOR EXPLOSIVES FOR CIVIL USES

I. MOTIVATION.

Council Directive 93/15/EEC on the harmonisation of provisions governing the placing on the market and the supervision of explosives for civil uses (O.J. N° L 121 of 15 May 1993) requires that explosives falling within the scope of the Directive must meet the essential safety requirements applicable to them before they can be placed on the market. These essential safety requirements are specified in Annex 1 of the Directive. Article 4 of the Directive lays down that explosives shall be presumed to comply with the essential safety requirements when they comply with the relevant national standards transposing the harmonised standards.

In July 1993 a programming mandate (M/010) was given to CEN to draw up, in co-operation with CENELEC, a programme of standards giving safety requirements and test methods for explosives for civil uses, in line with the essential safety requirements of the Directive. CEN responded to this mandate on 7 February 1994 giving a list of standards, which is annexed.

The purpose of this mandate is to invite CEN, in co-operation with CENELEC, to draw up such standards on the basis of the programme submitted in response to mandate M/010.

The programming mandate emphasised the importance of the development of a common terminology. As well as overcoming an obstacle to harmonisation, the elimination of differences in terminology and classification of explosives will contribute to the opening of barriers to trade and reduce the likelihood of unsafe practices. This aspect remains of crucial importance.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK.

The Commission hereby requests CEN to draw up standards relating to explosives for civil uses capable of giving presumption of conformity with the essential safety requirements of the Directive.

The standards developed should include basic standards giving general safety requirements for explosives and specific standards giving detailed safety requirements and test methods for particular types or groups of products.

In particular a classification of products and a common terminology for the different products and groups of products in all Union languages should be developed.

The standards are to be drawn up on the basis of, but not limited to, the list of standards and target dates submitted in response to programming mandate M/010. Where additional standards projects in the area of explosives for civil uses are approved for addition to the work programme of CEN (or CENELEC), or where, in elaborating the standards, amendments to the structure of the programme become necessary, such work remains covered by this mandate but CEN (in co-operation with CENELEC where appropriate) is requested to advise the Commission of any such amendments or additions. The Commission will inform the Committee on Standards and Technical Regulations of such advice.

Co-operation shall be established as necessary with CENELEC.

III. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE.

1. CEN shall present the draft standards listed in the annex to the Commission by the target dates specified therein.
2. The European Standards (EN) shall be adopted by the target dates specified. At these dates, the three linguistic versions (German, English, French) shall be available as well as the correct titles in the other Union languages, with the exception of the terminology standards mentioned above which are to be presented in all the Union languages by the dates specified in the programme. CEN (in co-operation with CENELEC where appropriate) shall notify the Commission of any further standards projects, with their target dates, which it approves for addition to its work programme, that may fall within the area of technology covered by this mandate.
3. The European standards adopted shall be transposed into national standards and differing national standards shall be withdrawn from the catalogues of the national standards organisations in the Member States within six months of their adoption.
4. Acceptance by CEN of this mandate starts 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).

ANNEX:

Programme of standardization submitted by CEN in response to mandate M/010