



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Conformity and standardisation, "new approach", industries under "new approach"
Mechanical and electrical equipment (including telecom terminal equipment)

M 302 EN

**STANDARDISATION MANDATE GIVEN TO THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR
STANDARDISATION (CEN) UNDER EC DIRECTIVE 98/37 RELATING TO
MACHINERY WITH A VIEW TO REVISION OF STANDARD EN 703 ON THE SAFETY
OF SILAGE CUTTERS**

1. BACKGROUND

In mandate M079, covered by order form 91-01, the Commission instructed the CEN to draw up standards for agricultural machinery. One of these standards is EN 703 "Agricultural Machinery – Silage cutters – Safety".

This standard was adopted by the CEN in 1995 and forwarded to the Commission in 1996 for publication of its reference data in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ), in order to confer on the standard, for manufacturers who have opted to apply it, a presumption of conformity with the relevant provisions in the Directive.

It emerged from a survey carried out in Italy by the Italian government that a number of fatal accidents had occurred as a result of the use of silage cutters constructed in conformity with standard EN 703. On the basis of the results of this survey, Italy concluded that the standard in question did not satisfy the Directive's essential safety and health requirements and requested that references to EN 703 should be withdrawn from OJ publications.

In the light of its discussions with the Committee responsible for Directive 98/37/EC on machinery and of the opinion of Committee 98/34/EC on "Standards and Technical Regulations", the Commission decided to withdraw references to EN 703 from OJ publications. This standard will therefore no longer confer a presumption of conformity.

The Commission also decided to mandate the CEN, with its agreement, to revise this standard as quickly as possible.

2. WORK COVERED BY THE MANDATE

The CEN must revise standard EN 703 in view of the problems that the previous version of the standard had caused. In particular, the Technical Committee responsible for revising the standard will closely examine the Italian Government's criticisms of the standard.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE

- 3.1. The CEN will ensure that the Working Party responsible for this work treats it with the utmost urgency. The Technical Committee will deliver its opinion on the work within three months of the completion of the Working Party's activities. The CEN will ensure no delays occur as a result of translation.
- 3.2 The CEN will present a draft revision of the standard (stage 40) to the Commission before **30 March 2002**.
- 3.3 The CEN must adopt the European standard (EN) before **30 September 2003**. The three language versions (DE, EN and FR) must be available by this date, as must the correct titles in the other official Community languages.
- 3.4. The European standard(s) adopted will have to be transposed into national standards and divergent national standards will have to be withdrawn from the catalogues of the Member States' national standardisation bodies within six months of the adoption of the European standards.
- 3.5. The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC¹ of 22 June 1998 will commence on acceptance of this standardisation mandate by the CEN.

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