



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENTERPRISE

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

**Committee on Technical
Standards and Regulations
Doc.**

**STANDARDISATION MANDATE AWARDED TO CEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF DIRECTIVE 98/37/EC RELATING TO MACHINERY, WITH A VIEW TO
REVISION OF ISO STANDARD 11681-2 CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF CHAIN
SAWS FOR TREE SERVICE**

1. BACKGROUND

In mandate M079, the Commission asked CEN to establish standards for forestry machinery. One of these standards is EN ISO 11681-2 "Machinery for forestry - Portable chain saws - Safety and testing requirements - Part 2: Chain saws for tree service".

This standard was adopted by CEN in 1998 and was forwarded to the Commission for publication of its reference data in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ), in order to guarantee manufacturers who have opted to follow the standard a presumption of compliance with the relevant provisions of the Directive. These references were published in the OJ on 15 October 1998.

A survey carried out in Denmark by that country's authorities revealed that numerous accidents had occurred as a result of the use by private individuals of chain saws for tree service constructed in accordance with EN ISO 11681-2. Chain saws for tree service are intended to be held and used with one hand.

The Commission, after discussion with the Committee responsible for Directive 98/37/EC relating to machinery, and having heard the opinion of the 98/34/EC Committee (Technical Standards and Regulations), decided not to withdraw the references to EN 11681-2 from the OJ. This standard will therefore continue to guarantee manufacturers a presumption of compliance. A detailed examination of the standard did not reveal it to be deficient.

Nevertheless, given the fairly considerable risks involved with this type of product, it was also decided to mandate CEN, in agreement with it, to revise the standard as soon as possible.

2. THE WORK INVOLVED IN THE MANDATE

CEN must completely revise ISO standard EN 11681-2, taking into account criticisms of it by the Danish authorities. In particular, the use of these products by non-professional users will be the focus of attention by the technical committee responsible for revising the standard.

To this end, it is desirable:

- to improve the balance of the chain saw and to provide for specific testing methods;
- to reduce the downtime of the chain when the trigger is not engaged;
- to reduce the kickback angle,
- to draw attention to the danger to non-professional users of the chain saw;
- to recommend the use of appropriate personal protection gear, particularly for the arm and hand not holding the chain saw;
- to make the instructions clearer, particularly with regard to the use of chains not manufactured or recommended by the manufacturer.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE

- 3.1. CEN will ensure that the Working Party responsible for this work treats it with the greatest urgency. The Technical Committee will deliver its opinion on the work within three months of the end of the Working Party's activities. CEN will ensure that translation work does not cause delays.
- 3.2. CEN will submit a draft revision of the standard (stage 40) to the Commission before **30 March 2001**.
- 3.3. The European standard (in English) will be adopted by CEN before **30 November 2002**. The three language versions (DE, EN, FR) must be available by that date, as must the correct titles in the other official languages of the Community.
- 3.4. The adopted European standards will have to be transposed into national standards and existing, disparate national standards will have to be withdrawn from the catalogues of the Member States' standardisation bodies within six months of adoption of the European standards.
- 3.5. The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998 will commence when CEN accepts this standardisation mandate¹.

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)