



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENTERPRISE

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

M 311 – EN

**STANDARDISATION MANDATE AWARDED TO THE CEN WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF DIRECTIVE 98/37/EC RELATING TO MACHINERY, WITH
A VIEW TO REVISION OF EN STANDARD 848-3:1999 CONCERNING THE
SAFETY OF WOODWORKING MACHINES**

1. BACKGROUND

In mandate M079, the Commission asked the CEN to establish standards for woodworking machinery. One of these standards is EN 848-3 "Safety of woodworking machines - One side moulding machines with rotating tool - Part 3: Numerical control boring machines and routing machines".

This standard was adopted by the CEN in 1999 and 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 April 2000.

A survey carried out in Sweden by that country's authorities revealed that numerous accidents had occurred as a result of the use of these machines due to human error. Nevertheless, Sweden feels that the safety level provided by this standard is insufficient, especially with regard to the risk of ejection and the installation of adequate protective features.

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 848-3 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 arguments presented by Sweden, it was decided, in agreement with the CEN, to mandate it to revise the standard as soon as possible.

2. THE WORK INVOLVED IN THE MANDATE

The CEN must revise standard EN 848-3, taking into account criticisms of it by the Swedish authorities. In particular, the technical committee responsible for revising

the standard is to give special attention to the risk of ejection of pieces and to the installation of protective features providing enhanced protection.

To this end, there is a need:

- to take account of normal use but also foreseeable abnormal use of the machine;
- to consider the risks of ejection of the worked pieces and pieces of the machine itself;
- to anticipate the risks caused by moving parts of the machine;
- to plan the installation of protective features ensuring maximum safety for workers and exposed persons.

Furthermore, according to the Swedish authorities, some of the safety distances specified by standard EN 294 have not been adhered to without the application of compensatory measures. It must be ensured that adequate safety distances are always maintained around dangerous parts of the machine.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE

- 3.1. The CEN shall ensure that the working party responsible for this work treats it with the greatest urgency. The Technical Committee shall deliver its opinion on the work within three months of the end of the working party's activities. The CEN shall ensure that translation work does not cause delays.
- 3.2. The CEN shall submit a draft revision of the standard (stage 40) to the Commission by 01/07/2003.
- 3.3. The European Standard shall be adopted by the CEN by 01/01/2005. The three language versions (DE, EN, FR) shall be available by that date, together with the correct titles in the other official languages of the Community.
- 3.4. The adopted European Standard shall be transposed into national standards and existing, differing national standards shall be withdrawn from the catalogues of the Member States' standardisation bodies within six months of adoption of the European standard.
- 3.5. The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998 shall commence when the 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)