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ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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

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STANDARDISATION MANDATE GIVEN TO THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDISATION (CEN) UNDER EC DIRECTIVE 98/37/EC RELATING TO MACHINERY WITH A VIEW TO REVISION OF STANDARD EN 1495:1997 "LIFTING PLATFORMS - MAST CLIMBING WORK PLATFORMS"

1. BACKGROUND

In mandate M079, covered by order form 91-01, the Commission instructed the CEN to draw up standards for lifting platforms. One of these standards is EN 1495:1997 "Lifting platforms - mast climbing work platforms".

This standard was adopted by the CEN in April 1997 and forwarded to the Commission in 1998 for publication of its references in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* in order to confer on the standard, for manufacturers who have opted to apply it, a presumption of conformity with the relevant provisions of the Directive. The references for this standard were published for the first time in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* on 13 March 1998.

After a safeguard clause was invoked for standard EN 1495:1997, it emerged that the standard in question failed to correctly assess the risk of falling where the maximum distance between the wall and the work platform was less than 50cm.

The Commission, after discussion with the Committee responsible for the Machinery Directive 98/37/EC, and having heard the opinion of the 98/34/EC Committee (Technical Standards and Regulations), decided not to withdraw the references to EN 1495:1997 from the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Nevertheless, the existing publication should be supplemented by a warning stating that certain sections of the standard fail to provide a presumption of conformity with the provisions of Directive 98/37/EC.

The Commission also decided to give to the CEN, with its agreement, a mandate to revise this standard as quickly as possible to take account of these risks.

2. WORK COVERED BY THE MANDATE

The CEN must revise standard EN 1495:1997 (possibly by amending it), taking particular account of essential requirement 1.5.15 "Risk of slipping, tripping or falling" in Annex I to Directive 98/37/EC relating to machinery.

In order to guarantee a high level of safety for persons working on such platforms, all platforms placed on the market must be fitted with guard rails on all sides. Provision may be made for the guard rail on the side of the platform facing the facade to be dismantled, and its height must be adjustable to adapt to different types of work. Users will be responsible for any changes to, or the removal of, these rails in accordance with the legislation and possibly the working conditions in force in the Member States. This point should also be added to the section of the standard covering operating instructions.

Paragraphs 5.3.2.2, 5.3.2.4, the last subparagraph of 7.1.2.12, figure 9 and table 8 should be revised as regards the reference to guard rails, as should Chapter 7 as regards operating instructions.

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 completion of the Working Party's activities. The CEN will ensure that 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 by 31 December 2002.
- 3.3. The CEN must adopt the European standard (EN) by 31 December 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).