



Brussels, 16 January 2007
M/399 EN

MANDATE TO CEN AND CENELEC FOR STANDARDISATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS – HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

1. MOTIVATION

This mandate relates to the EC type-approval system for tractors, as established by Framework Directive 2003/37/EC¹ on the EC type approval of agricultural tractors, trailers, towed machinery and their components. In addition to the Framework Directive, the system comprises 23 separate Directives, each one of them laying down technical requirements for specific tractor components and technical units.

The Council and the EP have given the Commission the remit to cover within the type-approval directives (approach "specific requirements") some risks that are already covered in the Machinery Directive, but only by way of general requirements and, in some cases harmonised standards for certain machines. In this context, there are two risks for which a mandate to CEN and CENELEC would be useful: hazardous substances and the protection of passengers. This mandate concerns hazardous substances (e.g. solid and liquid aerosols).

ISO Technical Committee 23/Sub-Committee 2 is already working on the Preliminary Work Item 23607, which concerns cabin pressurisation and filtration for agricultural tractors. The purpose is to limit the exposure of operators to both particles (e.g. dust, fungus) and chemical substances (e.g. pesticides). This is a very complex issue as effective systems would depend upon the specific conditions of use (e.g. chemical substances, particles in the air and length of exposure).

Once that the requested standard is available the Commission could refer to it for type-approval purposes.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK

The Commission hereby requests CEN and CENELEC to draw up European standards containing the necessary performance requirements, testing methods, limit values and

¹ Directive 2003/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 on type-approval of agricultural or forestry tractors, their trailers and interchangeable towed machinery, together with their systems, components and separate technical units and repealing Directive 74/150/EEC (OJ L171, 9.7.2003, p.1)

documentation to be submitted by the manufacturer with regard to cabin pressurisation and filtration for limiting the exposure of operators to both particles (e.g. dust and fungus) and chemical substances (e.g. pesticides, fertilisers, treated seed and manure). The following conditions shall be met:

- The standards shall respect the essential requirements laid down in Directive 2006/42/EC on machinery, notably the general principles and sections 1.5.13. and 3.5.3 of Annex I;
- The standards shall take into account the exposure limit values laid down in Directives 98/24/EC, 2000/39/EC and 2006/15/EC. To the extent that limit values have not yet been harmonised by legislation, the standardisers are requested to take account of current limit values set in legislation across the EU and to utilise the state of the art when making the relevant standards. However, it should be borne in mind that the question of limit values in this context will be re-examined in the legislative context at European level and so the standardisers may need to review the standards produced on this basis;
- The standards shall take account of the type of sprayer used, as a function of spraying conditions (low or high spraying, trailed or mounted sprayer);
- The standards shall apply to vehicles of categories T1 to T5 and C1 to C4, as defined in the Framework Directive 2003/37/EC. It shall be taken into account the specificities of each category, such as the limitations imposed by its intended use and the cost/benefit of meeting the requirements;
- The standards shall distinguish, for each vehicle category and in view of cost/benefit considerations, which requirements shall apply to all vehicles and which ones should only apply on the basis of the intended use of the tractor. Certain requirements should apply to all vehicles within a tractor category taking into account the normal use of that tractor. More stringent specific requirements should be established for tractors that are intended to be used either in particularly unhealthy environments (e.g. dusty) or to be often used for spraying fertilisers, treated seed or pesticides. In this way the buyer and eventually the national inspectorates, may easily and reliably identify the most appropriate tractors;
- The requirements shall be established in terms of performance, correspond to the state of the art, be technically feasible and technologically neutral and maintain the intensity of competition among manufacturers;
- The requirements shall ensure a high level of occupational safety, both for a normal use of the tractor (general requirements) and for a more intense exposure to the risks (specific requirements). The cab filtration performance must be displayed, as developments can result in the placing on the market of cabs with inadequate filtration performance in respect of certain products (highly toxic or gaseous products);
- The requirements shall take account of European risk assessment models for crop protection products with regard to operators and all contamination measurement tests carried out under actual treatment conditions;
- To the extent that filters are needed, the requirements shall foresee state of the art filters while taking into account their availability in the EU. For filters and filtered

cabins, the standard shall contain requirements in respect of instructions and indication of the area of application (dusts, liquid and solid aerosols, vapours and gases), efficiency, maintenance conditions and use-by date;

- The standards will include a warning to alert the operator when servicing is needed to maintain the performance of the systems (e.g. a warning light on the dashboard indicates when the filters need to be replaced);
- The standards will also include, when necessary, durability requirements, to ensure the performance of the system (e.g. the air tightness of the cabin);
- The requirements shall minimize the changes necessary in tractor design to comply with them; in particular, they must take into account the need to connect the control systems of towed machinery to the control devices in the cab;
- The requirements shall, when appropriate, take into consideration UN/ECE Regulations, OECD Codes, ISO standards or other international standards or regulations;
- The requirements shall not reduce the protection of operators against other risks (e.g. hot surfaces, roll-over-protection and penetration of objects into the cabin);
- The testing method shall be repeatable and reproducible in most laboratories at present recognised as “technical services” under the Framework Directive;
- The standards shall contain all the necessary diagrams and tables to be easily understood, and finalised in a way that an EC Directive can make reference to the standard to lay down its technical requirements;
- CEN/CENELEC shall conduct all the necessary testing to support the proposed requirements; CEN/CENELEC shall provide a report of any testing done including the conclusions of these tests;
- Where appropriate, CEN/CENELEC may divide the deliverables into parts in order to speed up the delivery of specific elements, such as the standardisation work on particles.

3. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED

The elaboration of the standards should be undertaken in co-operation with the broadest possible range of interested groups, comprising the main international and European level associations and representatives of European consumers, unions and regulatory bodies.

It is essential to gain the co-operation of industrial organisations with particular interest in agricultural tractors and/or chemical industry such as CEMA (European Committee of Associations of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery), CEETAR (European Organisation of Agricultural and Rural Contractors), CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Council), ECB (European Chemicals Bureau), ECPA (European Crop Protection Industry), pesticide evaluation agencies (AFFSA) and EFMA (European Fertilizer Manufacturers Association).

European organisations representing farmers shall also be invited to participate in the development of the standards, such as COPA-COGECA (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations - General Confederation for Agricultural Co-operation), CPE (European Farmer Coordination) and CEJA (European Council of Young Farmers).

The co-operation with organisations such as ANEC (European association for the co-ordination of consumer representation in standardisation), ECOS (European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation) and NORMAPME (European Office of Crafts, trades and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for Standardisation) and ETUI-REHS (European Trade Union Institute – Research, Education, Health and Safety) is considered as relevant.

4. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE

The European Standard(s) (EN) shall be finalised by 1 July 2009.

At this time, the titles of the standards in all the official languages of the European Union and a copy of the standards in the three working languages of the ESOs shall be provided by the ESOs.

The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998 shall commence on acceptance of this standardisation mandate².

² OJ, L 204, 21.7.1998, p.37, as amended by Directive 98/48/EC (OJ L 217, 5.8.1998, p.18)