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ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Aerospace, GMES, security and defence  
**Defence, aerospace and maritime industries**

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Brussels, 28 March 2008

**MANDATE FOR STANDARDISATION**  
**ADDRESSED TO CEN**  
**FOR**  
**THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN HANDBOOK FOR**  
**DEFENCE PROCUREMENT**

**I. Motivation**

The objective of this mandate is to consolidate the work already undertaken to develop the European Handbook for Defence Procurement (EHDP) by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) at the request of the European Commission. The Handbook, which is already on line (<http://www.defense-handbook.org>), brings together a list of standards commonly used for defence procurement.

The European Commission has been working to develop an effective European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM). This is an essential prerequisite to the strengthening of the European industrial and technological base of the defence sector. It is largely on this base that the success of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) will depend.

There are many requirements for establishing a successful EDEM. A critical requirement is transparency of standards used in national procurement procedures. A conference in 2000 on "European Defence Procurement in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" recommended that there should be easy access to information on:

- National defence standards practices and how they relate to procurement;
- Access to defence standards catalogues;
- The status of NATO standards within each Member State;
- National criteria for the use of civilian standards and the hierarchies of preferred standards to be applied in defence procurement; and
- Links to other sources of defence standards information available outside Europe.

The Commission and CEN proposed to take this recommendation forward by establishing the Handbook. This was reinforced by the Commission's Communication of March 2003 (COM (2003) 113), which identified standardisation of defence equipment as an important precondition for the opening-up of national markets and the gradual establishment of a single European market. This was also recognised by the Council of Ministers in its Resolution on the Standardisation in the Field of Armaments (6953/03) which stated "that standardisation is an important pre-condition to fulfil the building of a strong European defence industry" and that the work on the Handbook should be pursued.

The work on the EHDP has been carried out in CEN Workshop 10 – a CEN Workshop is a consensus standards group, open to the direct participation of any interested party worldwide. The deliverables from such Groups have the status of CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA), although these documents do not have the formal status of European Standards they can be produced rapidly.

There have been two phases so far to the CEN Workshop 10 activities. The first phase, was to identify national procedures for defence procurement in 10 Member States<sup>1</sup> (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK) and assess the collection of standards frequently used in procurement. This was followed by the identification of a number of key categories of standards - NBC (nuclear, bacteriological, chemical) detectors, energetic materials (explosives), fuels and lubricants, batteries, packaging, electrical interfaces, electromagnetic environment and environmental testing. This phase was completed in June 2005 with the accompanying website going on line in September 2005. It references about 10,000 standards with around 1,000 of them identified as "best practice".

In February 2007 work began on the second phase, adding a further set of key areas: armoured land vehicle technology, ammunition, paints and coatings, fluid handling systems, life cycle management, life cycle technical documentation, quality of electric power supply and terminology. With experience gained during the first phase, the second phase information is being selected and presented using an improved methodology. This work is due to be completed by October 2008.

The Commission would like to see the EHDP systematically used in defence procurement contracts. This will reduce divergence in standards, lead to better alignment of national procurement practices, support co-operation and enhance interoperability to the benefit of Member States and industry. However, if the EHDP is to become an indispensable tool for project managers in Governments and industry for the long-term, it needs to be updated and both sets of key areas harmonised to the same level of quality. EHDP should cover key areas which can be supported by standards references. New key areas not yet covered could be identified due to increasing co-operation between Ministries of Defence and industry.

Ultimately, it is expected that the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Members States' Ministries of Defence would recommend the Handbook to be referenced as the source for selecting standards in the context of their defence contracts. At that stage, the long term update and maintenance of the EHDP might be maintained by an organisation such as the EDA.

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<sup>1</sup> Standards used by NATO and Turkey were also included where used by the 10 Member States.

## **II. Description of the mandated work**

The European Commission requests CEN to update, upgrade and harmonise the current content of the EHDP. The aim is to ensure that it provides a common multi-national reference set of standards that will help reduce the barriers to armaments co-operation and enhance interoperability of defence equipment. Specifically CEN is requested to:

- a) upgrade the presentation, content and user–friendliness of the eight categories of standards selected in the first phase. This is in order to ensure equivalent quality level with those selected in the second phase, which, as noted above, used an improved methodology.
- b) thoroughly check all standards to ensure that they are up-to-date;
- c) examine whether the list of best practice standards is up-to-date, ensure that it is well publicised within the EHDP website including a guide to implementing them within defence contracts;
- d) thoroughly review the website to make it as user-friendly and as easy to maintain as possible including a consultation of existing and potential industry and government users; and
- e) prepare a proposed methodology and business plan for ensuring the successful maintenance of the EHDP in the longer term.
- f) in order to avoid a lack of global coverage of technical domains and to be reactive to potential identification of new key areas to be covered, allow the possibility to launch studies on new key areas (3 maximum) subject to agreement of the European Commission.

At the end of this work the EHDP should be a tool of 'first resort' to project managers in both government and industry responsible for defence procurement.

## **III. Execution of the Mandate**

The European Commission requests CEN to update, upgrade and harmonise the EHDP, including the on-line material, and to prepare proposals for its long-term maintenance.

CEN shall submit, within three months from the date of acceptance of this mandate, a work programme indicating the timelines and main approaches planned for achieving each of the deliverables. Whilst the choice of consensus body is a matter for CEN, it may be most appropriate to continue the present Workshop 10 into a third phase.

CEN will keep the Commission informed, following the submission of the work programme, of the measures taken to execute this mandate and any difficulties which arise in the process.

CEN shall complete the work programme within 18 months of the acceptance of this mandate.

#### **IV. Bodies to be associated**

CEN will ensure that representatives from national Ministries of Defence (or other organizations that Member States may deem appropriate), the European Defence Agency and representatives of the defence industry will be invited to take part in the process.

As necessary, external governmental and industrial bodies (e.g. NATO Standardisation Agency or ASD/STAN – the standardization branch of the AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe , as well as entities from countries not members of the EU), may also be associated with the activities.