



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
New Approach Industries, Tourism and CSR
Construction, Pressure Equipment, Metrology

Brussels, 20th February 2009
M/434 EN

Standardisation mandate given to CEN under EC Directive 97/23/EC relating to pressure equipment with a view to revision of standard EN 3-8:2006

1. BACKGROUND

Standard EN 3-8 "Portable fire extinguishers - Part 8: Additional requirements to EN 3-7 for the construction, resistance to pressure and mechanical tests for extinguishers with a maximum allowable pressure equal to or lower than 30 bar " was adopted by the CEN on 2 November 2006. It was forwarded to the Commission for publication of its references in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Before the publication of the reference for this standard in the Official Journal, Sweden raised a formal objection pursuant to Article 6(1) of Directive 97/23/EC concerning pressure equipment¹ on the basis that the standard did not satisfy the Essential Safety Requirements of the Directive.

By decision of 10 February 2009, the Commission decided to proceed with the publication of the references of standard EN 3-8:2006 in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

However, the Commission in consultation with the Member States decided to give to the CEN a mandate in order to improve the standard.

2. WORK COVERED BY THE MANDATE

CEN shall revise standard EN 3-8:2006 to reduce the risk of misunderstanding the scope of the standard and the essential safety requirements of Directive 97/23/EC covered by it.

In order to increase the intrinsic level of safety, CEN shall investigate whether the standard can be further improved in view of meeting the essential safety requirements laid down in Annex I of Directive 97/23/EC related to materials.

¹ OJ L 181, 9.7.1997, p.1.

CEN shall review the wording of the procedures related to permanent joining and traceability in view of being sufficiently specific and ensuring full compliance with the essential safety requirements of Directive 97/23/EC.

It is recalled that standards dealing with particular products shall not reproduce safety requirements already defined in the Directive. They shall not reproduce the essential requirements of the Directive to which nothing is added, nor attempt to express the content of an essential safety requirement in other terms.

Moreover, standards dealing with particular products shall, as far as possible, cover all aspects relevant to the product concerned regarding the risks dealt with by the Directive, i.e., product standards shall standardize the pressure-risk related aspects of the product to which they apply.

During the revision of EN 3-8:2006, CEN shall also take into consideration the overall coherence of this standard with the other standards in the EN 3 series and with other related standards in general.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE

- 3.1. CEN will ensure that the Working Group responsible for this work treats it with priority. CEN shall inform the Commission of the arrangements to be adopted for the execution of the work within three months of acceptance of this mandate.
- 3.2. CEN will deliver its findings in an interim report within 12 months after the acceptance of this mandate. CEN will ratify a revised version of EN 3-8:2006 within three years of the acceptance of this mandate. 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.
- 3.3. CEN will proceed to adopt the revised European standard (EN) as a matter of urgency.
- 3.4. Acceptance by CEN of this mandate starts the standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998².
- 3.5. Following the implementation of this mandate and depending on its results, possible further decisions concerning the current version of the standard could be envisaged.

4. Bodies to be associated

As appropriate, CEN will invite the representative organisations of consumers' interests (ANEC), environmental protection (ECOS), workers (ETUI-REHS) and small and medium-size enterprises (NORMAPME) to take part in the standardisation work.

² OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p.37.