



Brussels, 22 June 2009

M/448 EN

STANDARDISATION MANDATE ASSIGNED TO CEN CONCERNING

THE REVISION OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS TO DETECT THE RELEASE OF NICKEL FROM SPECTACLE FRAMES AND SUNGLASSES (REVISION OF EN 1811:1998)

1. MOTIVATION

This mandate falls within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, REACH, in particular Commission Regulation (EC) No 552/2009 of 22 June 2009 amending regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards Annex XVII..

In the entry 27 of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 552/2009, the Commission gave CEN a mandate (M/004) to develop a test method to permit the enforcement of the limit value for nickel release of $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$. A method, EN 1811:1998, was developed and the reference published in the Official Journal¹.

The Commission was called upon to request the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) to review the standard EN 1811:1998, in particular regarding the adjustment factor and to prepare a revised standard without adjustment factor, or with a smaller adjustment factor, if appropriate.

On 25 June 2007, the Commission mandated CEN (M/414) to review EN 1811:1998 which created a task group within CEN/TC 347. During the discussion between the experts of this task force some concerns were expressed regarding the development of this new standard addressing nickel release from spectacle frames and sunglasses.

The revised method EN 1811:1998 cannot be applied to spectacle frames and sunglasses due to some technical aspects such as the geometry and design of the frame. This would lead to a certain inaccuracy of the method as well as to an inconsistency and discrepancy of the results. Consequently, it was not possible to eliminate the adjustment factor in the case of spectacle frames.

¹ OJ C 205, 20.7.1999, p. 5–5

During the discussion of the Limitations Working Group meeting on 28 April 2009, Member States Competent Authorities responsible for the implementation of Directive 76/769/EEC and successive amendments (repealed by REACH on 1 June 2009) , agreed that the Commission should prepare a new mandate for spectacle frames and sunglasses.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK

The Commission mandates CEN to review EN1811:1998 for the determination of the release of nickel from spectacle frames and sunglasses. EN 1811:1998 should be retained for application to spectacle frames and sunglasses until the new revised method is ready.

3. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED

As appropriate, CEN will invite the representative organizations of consumers interests (ANEC²), environmental protection (ECOS³), workers (ETUI-REHS⁴), small and medium-size enterprises (NORMAPME⁵) to take part in the elaboration of the standards.

4. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATED WORK

4.1 CEN will provide the Commission with a detailed work programme and a timetable for the adoption of the standards needed within three months of the acceptance of the mandate. The European standards will have to be adopted by the dates in the work programme, but in any case no longer than three years from submission of the work programme. On these dates, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, FR) must be available as well as the correct titles in the other Community languages.

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

4.3 Related works within CEN in connection with Nickel should be taken into account in the development of the standards under this mandate.

4.4 The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC⁶ shall commence when CEN accepts this standardisation mandate.

² European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardization

³ European Environmental Citizens Organizations for Standardization

⁴ European Trade Union Institute-Research, Education, Health and Safety

⁵ European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Standardization

⁶ OJ L217, 5.8.1998 p.18