



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
 New Approach Industries, Tourism and CSR
Mechanical, Electrical and Telecom Equipment

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STANDARDISATION MANDATE GIVEN TO THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDISATION (CEN) UNDER DIRECTIVE 1989/686/EEC ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WITH A VIEW TO AMENDMENT OF STANDARD EN 353-1:2002 - Personal protective equipment against falls from a height - Part 1: Guided type fall arresters including a rigid anchor line

1. BACKGROUND

The abovementioned standard was adopted by CEN on 12 March 2002. The United Kingdom lodged a formal objection against the standard on the ground that the standard failed to take into account all reasonably foreseeable fall conditions such as a “fall back” or “sideways” fall which leads to a significant risk that the device could fail. In addition the specifications for instruction for use are inadequate.

The issue was discussed at the meeting of the PPE Working Group held on 24/25th May 2009.

The conclusion was that the standard failed to meet the basic health and safety requirements set out in sections 1, 1.1.1, 1.4 and 3.1.2.2 of Annex II to Directive 89/686/EEC.

In particular, clause 5 of the standard, “Test methods”, does not give specifications for reasonably foreseeable fall conditions such as a “fall back” or “sideways” fall.

As a result, the Commission decided to withdraw the references of the standard from the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

2. WORK COVERED BY THE MANDATE

CEN shall modify the standard EN 353-1:2002 - *Personal protective equipment against falls from a height - Part 1: Guided type fall arresters including a rigid anchor line*, taking particular account of the basic health and safety requirement 1 in conjunction with the requirement 3.1.2.2. of Annex II to Directive 1989/686/EEC, in order to specify effective means of protection against the risk of falling from a height, including the "fall back" and "sideways fall" situations.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE

- 3.1. The CEN shall ensure that the Technical Committee responsible for this work treats it as a matter of urgency.
- 3.2. The CEN shall present the necessary draft revised standard to the Commission within one year of acceptance of the mandate.
- 3.3. The CEN shall adopt the revised European standard within three years of acceptance of the mandate. The English, French and German versions of

the amended standard(s) shall be available by this date, as shall the correct titles in the other official Community languages.

- 3.4. The European standard(s) adopted shall be transposed into national standards and divergent national standards shall 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).