



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Chemicals, metals, mechanical, electrical and construction industries; Raw materials  
**Chemicals - Classification & Labelling, Specific Products, Competitiveness**

Brussels, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012  
**M/504 EN**

**STANDARDISATION MANDATE ASSIGNED TO CEN UNDER DIRECTIVE 2007/23/EC ON  
 PYROTECHNIC ARTICLES WITH A VIEW TO AMENDMENT OF STANDARD  
 EN 15947: FIREWORKS, CATEGORIES 1, 2 AND 3**

**1. MOTIVATION**

Directive 2007/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the placing on the market of pyrotechnic articles aims at reducing the risk of accidents caused by malfunctions and to increase consumer safety by ensuring that essential safety requirements for pyrotechnic articles are respected throughout the EU.

On 25 October 2007 CEN accepted mandate M/416 to develop the necessary standards. This resulted in CEN approving, on 21 August 2010, EN 15947 (parts 1-5): Pyrotechnic articles - Fireworks, Categories 1, 2 and 3, prepared by CEN/TC 212 "Pyrotechnic Articles". CEN/TC 212 continues its work on fulfilling the rest of its mandate in relation to category 4 fireworks and other pyrotechnic articles, category P1 and P2, pyrotechnical articles for vehicles and theatrical pyrotechnic articles, category T1 and T2.

The references to parts 1 (terminology) and 2 (categories and types of firework) of standard EN 15947 were published in the Official Journal on 11 November 2010. However the Swedish authorities lodged a formal objection in respect of parts 3 (minimum labelling requirements), 4 (test methods) and 5 (construction and performance requirements), in particular as regards the requirements for batteries and combinations, which the standard considers to be in conformity with the essential requirements of Directive 2007/23/EC if they are buried into soft ground or fixed to a post in order to stay upright during functioning and labelled accordingly. This objection was on the grounds that the standard failed to take into account fully the fact that such articles are commonly used on hard ground, such as frozen ground and pavement or asphalt surfaces or concrete.

In the light of this, and following informal consultation of the Pyrotechnics Working Group and formal consultation with the Member State competent authorities for standardisation of the Committee set up by Directive 98/34/EC, in accordance with Article 8(4) of the Directive, the Commission considers that it is necessary to revise the standard to introduce different types of batteries and combinations<sup>1</sup>. In its communication

<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision 2011/482/EU (OJ L 197, 29.7.2011, p. 23).

of 15 October 2011<sup>2</sup> publishing the references to the full standard it accordingly included a notice that Member States shall consider batteries and combinations which comply with standard EN 15947 to be in conformity with the essential safety requirements of Directive 2007/23/EC only if, before being placed on the market, they have been clearly labelled with the appropriate use instructions as specified in that notice.

Against this background, standard EN 15947 therefore needs to be reviewed and revised as appropriate to address the above issues and thereby contribute to a higher level of quality and safety and to a better functioning of the internal market for pyrotechnic articles.

## **2. WORK COVERED BY THE MANDATE**

CEN TC/212 shall modify the relevant parts of EN 15947, and in particular parts 2, 3 and 5, to cover and differentiate between at least the following sub-types of batteries and combinations: batteries and combinations to be placed on flat ground; batteries and combinations to be embedded into soft ground or material; batteries and combinations to be fixed to a post; and if appropriate other types of batteries and combinations. All modifications should take into account the essential safety requirements of the Directive and Commission Decision 2011/482/EU.

## **3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE**

3.1. The work should be treated urgently. CEN is requested to consider utilising if possible the Unique Acceptance Procedure (UAP) track to accelerate the timetable indicated in 3.2 and 3.3.

3.2. CEN shall present the necessary draft revised standard to the Commission within 12 months of acceptance of the mandate. It will keep the Commission informed of the measures taken to execute this mandate and of any difficulties that arise in the process.

3.3. CEN shall adopt the revised standard within 36 months of acceptance of the mandate. By that date, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, and FR) shall be available as well as the correct titles in the other official Community languages.

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

3.5. CEN is also requested to consult with the European Commission Directorate-General Joint Research Centre in order to explore if the Commission's research institutes dispose of specific competence to support the standardisation work.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ C 304, 15.10.2011, p.5.