



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Consumer Affairs  
**Product and Service safety**

Brussels, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
**M/507 EN**

**STANDARDISATION MANDATE ISSUED TO THE EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION ORGANISATIONS (ESOs) TO DEVELOP EUROPEAN STANDARDS FOR GYMNASTIC EQUIPMENT**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Compliance with voluntary national standards transposing European standards, the references of which have been published by the Commission in the Official Journal in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2001/95/EC, gives to the product a presumption of safety as far as the risks and risk categories covered by those national standards are concerned.

Article 4 of Directive 2001/95/EC sets out the procedure for drawing up such European standards which consists of four steps: first, the Commission determines the requirements intended to ensure that products which conform to these standards satisfy the general safety requirement; second, on the basis of these requirements, the Commission calls upon the European standardisation organisations (ESOs) to draw up standards which satisfy these requirements; third, on the basis of this mandate, the European standardisation organisations adopt the standards<sup>1</sup>; and fourth, the Commission publishes in the Official Journal the references of these European standards.

After receiving a favourable opinion of the Committee set up under Article 15 of Directive 2001/95/EC and no objections from the European Parliament or the Council, on 27 July 2011 the Commission adopted the Commission Decision (2011/479/EU) on the safety requirements to be met by European standards for gymnastic equipment pursuant to Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup>.

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK**

The Commission requests the ESOs to develop European standards that as a minimum fully meet the safety requirements detailed in the Annex to the Commission Decision

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<sup>1</sup> following the principles contained in the General Guidelines for the cooperation between CEN, CENELEC and ETSI and the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (OJ C 91, 16.04.2003, p. 7)  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2003:091:0007:0011:en:PDF>

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 197, 29.7.2011, p. 13, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:197:0013:0016:EN:PDF>

2011/479/EU. For the purposes of this mandate the definition of the gymnastic equipment provided in Article 1 of the above named Commission Decision applies.

Additionally in carrying out the mandated work, the ESOs are requested to consider existing legislation, guidelines, code of practices and standard(s) in this area, ongoing standardisation work at international and national level.

### **3. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED**

As appropriate, the ESOs will invite the representative organisations of consumers' interests (the European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation, ANEC), environmental protection (European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation, ECOS), workers (The European Trade Union Institute for Research, Education, Health and Safety, ETUI) and small and medium-size enterprises (European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium sized Enterprises for Standardisation, NORMAPME) to take part in the standardisation work.

The ESOs are 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.

In carrying out the mandated work, appropriate co-ordination and liaison with relevant regulatory or standardisation organisations (e.g. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), ISO etc) shall be established at international, national and European level to ensure coherence.

### **4. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE**

The ESO, which is in charge of this mandate, shall inform the Commission of the arrangements to be adopted for the execution of the work within three months of acceptance of this mandate. Such information will include a detailed list of standards to be developed and it will also cover co-operation arrangements with interested parties and standards organisations.

The ESO in charge will forward to the Commission regular reports on the progress of the work at regular intervals of 12 months from the date of acceptance of this mandate.

Upon completion of the mandated work the responsible ESO will provide the Commission with the title(s) of the standard(s) in all official languages of the European Union, along with a copy of the standard(s) in all working languages of CEN/CENELEC (namely English, French and German).

The standstill period referred to in Article 7(1) of Directive 98/34/EC<sup>3</sup> of 22 June 1998 will commence on acceptance of this standardisation mandate by the ESO.

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<sup>3</sup> Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules on Information Society services (OJ L 24, 21.7.1998, p. 37) as amended by Directive 98/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 July 1998 (OJ L 217, 5.8.1998, p. 18).