BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 72
FIRE DETECTION AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scope

To prepare standards, harmonised where necessary, to meet the essential requirements 'Safety in case of fire' of the Construction Products Regulation, in the field of fire detection and fire alarm systems in and around buildings, covering test methods, requirements and recommendations for:

- components;
- combination of components into systems;
- planning, design, installation, commissioning, use and maintenance of systems in and around buildings;
- usage, maintenance and servicing;
- connections to and control of other fire protection systems;
- connections to remote fire alarm and fault warning receiving centres;
- combination with other systems to form integrated systems;
- combination with fixed firefighting systems;
- contribution of fire detection and fire alarm systems to fire safety engineering.

Business Environment

Fire detection and fire alarm systems are one of the most effective means of providing safety of people in case of fire as well as providing protection for buildings and building contents. The savings to insurers run into billions of Euro every year worldwide and countless lives are saved. In addition, the early detection of fire and the subsequent firefighting actions are one of the major influences in the protection of the environment.

Parties involved: manufacturers of components, systems and installations, both from a single source and and from a combination of sources, architects, legislators, fire engineers, fire safety consultants, system providers and installers, testing laboratories and third party certification bodies.

Benefits

The publication of European Standards which provide requirements and test methods which maintain good minimum levels of performance for fire detection and fire alarm components, systems and installations will provide a means of ensuring acceptable safety levels. When applied consistently, these will be of major benefit to the populations of all European countries and can have a real impact on reducing the costs to society of fire.

Priorities

The main priority is to complete the work programme and revise published Standards in support of the Construction Products Regulation. There is also a need to prepare standards, which cover the application of new\technologies in the fire detection and fire alarm systems field.

1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC

1.1 Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal and/or international dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this CEN/TC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

Fire detection and fire alarm systems are one of the most effective means of providing safety of people in case of fire as well as providing protection for buildings and building contents. The function of a fire detection system is to detect fire at the earliest practicable moment and to give signals and indications so that appropriate action can be taken. The function of a fire alarm system is to give audible and/or visible signals to occupants of the building who may be at risk from a fire.

Loss of life due to fire is socially unacceptable and generates a direct or indirect financial burden on society. Injury due to fire is costly in terms of medical expenses incurred during recovery and the support costs related to the injured persons and their dependants.

Property protection is important in terms of minimising the cost to society of insurance of fire damage and the impact of uninsured losses. Even more important in many respects is the effect on commerce and industry as statistics indicate that the long-term viability of companies suffering a serious fire is greatly reduced.

The market for fire detection and fire alarm systems currently consists of manufacturers of components, systems and installations, both from a single source and and from a combination of sources; architects, legislators, fire engineers, fire safety consultants, system providers and installers, testing laboratories, third party certification bodies, consumers and trade unions.

1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the CEN /TC:

European production of fire detection and fire alarm systems is estimated to result in sales of over € 500 million per annum worldwide. The savings to insurers run into € billions every year worldwide and countless lives are saved. In addition, the early detection of fire and the subsequent fire fighting actions are one of the major influences in the protection of the environment.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

The publication of European Standards, providing requirements and test methods which maintain good minimum levels of performance for fire detection and fire alarm components, systems and installations will provide a means of ensuring acceptable safety levels. When applied consistently, these will be of major benefit to the population of all European countries and can have a real impact on reducing the costs of fire to society. Any measures, such as the use of good quality standards, which facilitate free trade across borders is therefore to be welcomed by all parties concerned.

The work programme of CEN/TC 72 was previously developed to support the Construction Products Directive (CPD) and the product standards were harmonised, thereby meeting the essential safety requirements specified in the CPD for 'Safety in case of fire'. Standards will be revised to support the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), which has replaced the CPD. National safety codes may also use the standards for legislative purposes.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC

All the CEN national members are entitled to nominate delegates to CEN Technical Committees and experts to Working Groups, ensuring a balance of all interested parties. Participation as observers of recognized European or international organizations is also possible under certain conditions. To participate in the activities of this CEN/TC, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

Representatives of the following CEN member countries regularly participate in the meetings of CEN/TC 72: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

CEN/TC 72 Working Groups:

WG 2 – Environmental tests
WG 3 – Fire alarm devices
WG 4 – Flame detectors
WG 5 – Point heat and smoke detectors and short-circuit isolators
WG 6 – Manual call points
WG 7 – Control and indicating equipment
WG 8 – Power supply equipment
WG 9 – System requirements
WG 10 – Optical beam smoke detectors
WG 11 – Guidelines for planning, design and installation
WG 12 – Multi-sensor detectors
WG 14 – Smoke alarm devices
WG 15 – Routing devices
WG 16 – Aspirating smoke detectors
WG 17 – Input/output devices
WG 18 – Line-type heat detectors
WG 19 – Radio components
WG 20 – CO detectors
WG 21 – Duct smoke detectors
WG 22 - Revision of EN 54-1

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEN/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

- Development of standards for individual components of fire detection and fire alarm systems.
- Development of standards for systems and compatibility of components.
- Development of guidelines for installation, commissioning, use and maintenance.

- Continuous input to fire safety engineering in respect fire detection and fire alarm systems.
- Co-ordination and integration of fire detection and fire alarm standards and guidelines with related systems.

4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN/TC.s defined objectives.

Europe has been a leading innovator in the technology of fire detection and fire alarms and has greatly contributed to improvements in the performance of fire detection and fire alarm systems.

Standards are a very important requirement to underpin the declared performance of products and to ensure a consistency of testing and acceptability. This is enhanced by the use of third party certification.

The combined approach of product innovation underpinned by up-to-date standards assists Europe to continue to be recognised as a major player in the design, production and supply of fire detection and fire alarm products.

CEN/TC 72 is central to the standardization of these products and will continue to prepare harmonized product standards in support of the Mandate M/109, originally under the CPD and now under the CPR. This will be accomplished by the extensive use of working groups to prepare draft standards.

Standard guidance on system design and installation will also be published in order to ensure that not only are the products reliable and safe but they will be assembled and installed in a suitable manner.

CEN/TC 72 and its working groups will continue to work using electronic circulation of documents and by holding technical meetings. Meetings are conducted in English with translation confined to a minimum and all committee papers are circulated in English only, which ensures maximum progress with immense savings in cost and time.

CEN/TC 72 normally holds two plenary meetings per year to check on progress of the technical work as well as of the administrative processes for enquiry and publication of ENs, which are under the control of CEN/CS and to formulate policy.

The technical work is carried out in working groups which meet several times a year.

CEN/TC72 maintains strong liaison with the following committees and organizations.

Committees:
- CEN/CLC/TC 4 'Services for fire safety and security systems'
- CEN/TC191 'Fixed firefighting systems'
- CEN/TC127 'Fire safety in buildings'
- CENELEC/TC79 'Alarm systems'
- ISO/TC21/SC3 'Equipment for fire fighting and fire protection - Fire detection and alarm systems'
- CEN/TC 126/WG 5
- CENELEC/TC 61/WG 4 'Hob (cook top) fire detection'
- CENELEC/TC 216
- ETSI 'Short range devices'

Organizations:
- Euralarm

4.3 Environmental aspects

1. Consideration of environmental aspects in the standards developed by CEN/TC 72 is to be based on the CEN Guide 4 and the Environmental Checklist. CEN TC 72 intends to create a simplified template based on the CEN checklist that is applicable by CEN/TC 72 working groups for work items for which environmental aspects are relevant. Other approaches that may be considered by CEN/TC 72 includes the development of a guide or generic annexes about environmental aspects.

2. Identification of environmental aspects are to be identified at the earliest possible stage. However, as this is optional at the preliminary stage, it can be deferred until activation of the work item and working groups are asked to consider environmental aspects before requesting activation of the work item by the TC.

3. During development of the Standard CEN/TC 72 default approach is to use the environmental checklist in CEN Guide 4. This may be used as it stands in the CEN Guide or may be in the simplified format developed in 1 above. Other approaches that might be used include bringing environmental expertise into the TC/WG or allocating reviewing drafts for environmental issues to a specific WG or creation of a dedicated ad-hoc group (Task Group). CEN/TC 72 consider that the advantage of the checklist/template is that it can be included as an informative annex in the standards thus enabling demonstration that the appropriate environmental aspects have been considered."

5   FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme of the TC has previously been developed in support of the CPD, requiring agreement and preparation of harmonization annexes ZA, which sometimes caused delays. With the replacement of the CPD by the CPR, it is necessary to revise Standards previously developed to include the new structure and the new Annex ZA, required by the CPR.

Because of the safety aspects involved and the differing application of fire detection and fire alarm systems in different countries, the agreement of common requirements in standards involves protracted discussions and hard-won compromises.