



BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 98 LIFTING PLATFORMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Generally, it can be stated that the number of power-driven lifting platforms in Europe – especially those for lifting workers up to a work place – has increased tremendously during the last 10 years. For instance, the European market for mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPS) is almost comparable to the market in North America where these machines had been preferably applied in lieu of scaffolding much earlier. Since these machines are capable to elevate working personal and some tools up to heights of more than 100 metres safety requirements have become more and more substantial.

Statistics of the European Federation of Materials Handling Industries (FEM) show that the rental fleet for MEWPS comprises some 250.000 units in the EU, which is a remarkable number.

Beside MEWPS the activities of CEN/TC 98 cover a wide range of different platforms for lifting goods, vehicles and workers with many application sectors, such as:

- power industry;
- municipality;
- production industry;
- public facilities;
- buildings;
- construction;
- distribution and logistics;
- etc.

The CEN/TC 98 has elaborated numerous EN standards in this field which improved the free movement of goods significantly. Some of these standards provided the basis for later elaborated ISO standards. Thus, worldwide trade barriers could be decreased due to the work of CEN/TC 98.

Grace to the intensive dialog of experts and grace to the systematic review of the standards it is guaranteed that technical innovations and new developments with regards to the state of the art are incorporated in the standards by CEN/TC 98 without considerable delay.

For the time being it is not intended to create new working groups. It is recommended to keep the existing working groups after completion of their tasks (elaboration of standards) to observe the market and the accident situation, to deal with interpretation requests and to revise the standards if necessary.

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:

Interested parties

The most interested party in the standardization process is the industry manufacturing many types of lifting platforms (as defined by CEN/TC 98) causing risks to health and safety to which people are exposed at the workplace as well as in the public environment.

This party includes all types and sizes of companies, from large international concerns to small and medium-sized enterprises. The respective products are subject to trade within the internal European as well as international market.

Other interested parties are all authorities responsible for the protection of health and safety of people in industry and in the public, trade unions and customer organizations, testing labs and certification bodies.

Political factors

The EU directive on machinery safety (2006/42/EC) provides the basis for the activities of CEN/TC 98.

In order to assist manufacturers to prove conformity to this essential requirements and to allow inspection of conformity it is desirable to elaborate product-related harmonised European standards.

All standards of CEN/TC 98 are drafted for support and specification of general legal regulations in respect to machinery safety.

Economical factors

Standards of TC 98 contribute to the harmonisation of the legislative systems of the member states and to the elimination of trade barriers within the Community.

The design and construction of safe lifting platforms as well as the harmonised certification system provide also an advantage on the international market.

Social factors

Lifting platforms taking in account the state of the art of ergonomic measures which are described in the standards of TC 98 contribute to a better working environment. The number of diseases and accidents will be decreased by safe and ergonomically designed lifting platforms.

The consequence will be: Reduced social costs and support for a better economy within the Community.

Technical factors

CEN/TC 98 covers the following lifting platforms:

- mobile elevating work platforms;
- lifting tables;
- vehicle lifts;
- tail lifts for goods;
- tail lifts for passengers;
- dock levellers;
- mobile or movable jacks and associated lifting equipment;
- suspended access equipment;
- mast climbing work platforms;
- equipment of power-driven parking of motor vehicles.

The importance of the European materials handling equipment industry and the importance of the sector's international trade absolutely justify the standardisation of safety rules applicable to the design of these products to ensure their free movement.

In the past, different test and certification methods have been applied in the member states to control the compliance with national regulations. Now they are substituted by the harmonised standards of TC 98. Test and certification bodies as well as market surveillance authorities will be provided with unified test methods. Manufacturers will be supported with an agreed description of the state of the art regarding safety techniques.

Legal factors

The presumption of conformity to the Machinery Directive granted by compliance with CEN harmonised standards guarantees a high level of safety to users, which are numerous, scattered and varied. Customers thus have an objective reference document.

All standards of TC 98 are drafted for support and specification of general legal regulations in respect to safety aspects for various kinds of lifting platforms.

Regulations in this respect are the New Approach Directives:

- Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to machinery (Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC);
- Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits (2014/35/EC).

1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

All types of machines covered by CEN/TC 98 are summarised under serial lifting equipment. Statistics for all different kinds of these machines are not available. However, statistics e.g. for the rental fleet of mobile elevating work platforms in the EU are estimated to be roundabout 250.000 units.

Generally, it can be stated that the number of power-driven platforms in Europe – especially those for lifting workers up to a work place – has increased significantly during the last 10 years. The European market for mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPS) is almost comparable to the market in North America where these machines had been preferably applied in lieu of scaffolding

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much earlier. Since these machines are capable to elevate working personal and some tools up to heights of more than 100 metres, safety requirements have become more and more substantial.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

The CEN/TC 98 has elaborated numerous EN standards in the field of lifting platforms which improved the free movement of goods significantly. Some of these standards provided the basis for later elaborated ISO standards. Thus, worldwide trade barriers could be decreased due to the work of CEN/TC 98.

Grace to the intensive dialog of experts and grace to the systematic review of the standards it is guaranteed that technical innovations and new developments with regards to the state of the art are incorporated in the standards by CEN/TC 98 without considerable delay.

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.

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

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

Elaboration respectively adaption of standards in accordance with the state of the art on:

- mobile elevating work platforms (WG 1),
- lifting tables (WG 2),
- vehicle lifts (WG 3),
- tail lifts for goods (WG 4-1),
- tail lifts for passengers (WG 4-2),
- dock levellers (WG 5),
- mobile or movable jacks and associated lifting equipment (WG 6),
- suspended access equipment (WG 7),
- mast climbing work platforms (WG 8),
- equipment of power-driven parking of motor vehicles (WG 9).

Each standard is or will be "harmonised", i.e. it will address the essential requirements that are listed in the Directive on Machinery 2006/42/EC, by specifying requirements and/or measures for reducing or eliminating risks associated with the hazards relevant to the product(s) covered by the standard. Each harmonised standard will be published; it can be used by manufacturers/suppliers as a guide to fulfill the relevant ESRs of the MD since it provides "presumption of conformity" to this EC-Directive.

For the time being it is not intended to create new working groups. It is recommended to keep the existing working groups after completion of their tasks (elaboration of standard) to observe the market and the accident situation, to deal with interpretation requests and to revise the standards when necessary.

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

Most issues and queries that come across the work of CEN/TC 98 are being resolved in writing and by voting on delegated decisions. However, plenary meetings are held, if necessary, for better resolving dissensions. Furthermore, CEN/TC 98 is collecting proposed corrections and requested interpretations of existing standards. Within the 5-year systematic review it is evaluated if a standard is to be revised by the dedicated working group.

CEN/TC 98 has established a liaison with ISO/TC 214 which deals with elevating work platforms.

4.3 Environmental aspects

Environmental aspects have been considered and will be evaluated again during the revision of standards which CEN/TC 98 is responsible for. CEN Guide 4 will be used and the environmental check-list will be filled-in when future revisions will be prepared. However, it is the opinion of TC 98 experts that lifting platforms have a low impact on environment. Some aspects, e.g. noise or theoretical spillage, have been considered from the safety point of view, more than from the point of view of the impact with the environment.

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

The following risks have been identified during the work in CEN/TC 98:

- a) time delay during ratification procedure because of the possibility to launch an appeal after Formal Votes with overwhelming positive results;
- b) the restricted number of experts available for the work and the change of experts during a standardisation project are permanent problems causing time delays. This bottleneck effect is even enhanced by the restrictions following economical problems in the European countries;
- c) complex revisions of extensive standards may easily collide with the new 3-years-time-frame.