

BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 144 TRACTORS AND MACHINERY FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

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:

- **Political factors**

In general, each member state tends to encourage the development of SMEs since these create employment. It should be emphasised that standardisation is very useful to SMEs not only because it helps to eliminate trade barriers but also on account of the knowledge it provides them with.

The degradation of the environment and especially that of the quality of water leads the member states together with European Union (UE) to urge agriculture to adopt less polluting agricultural practices. The implementation of such methods may imply equipment having improved characteristics and performances. Harmonisation of requirements and of assessment methods will benefit all the parties involved.

Energy efficiency and environmental protection are increasing more common factors with regard to, on one hand the price increase of energy, on the other hand, to the impact of CO₂ emissions on green house effect as well as the reduction of hazardous substances in the environment. This generates national policies under harmonization (Directive WEEE, D ecodesign, D energy related products ...).

- **Economic factors**

The cost of technical barriers to trade is far higher for enterprises today than that of standardisation, in spite of the breakthroughs stemming from work in the field of safety (for instance a 1 000 people company may spend 10 % of its R&D budget as compliance expenditures). Manufacturers in this field of activity have a vital need for an extensive market:

1. to reach a production volume strong enough to match prices users are willing to pay; and
2. to resist major national/regional market fluctuations which can often reach up to 40 % from one year to another on a given national market for a given product.

- **Social factors**

Two phenomena should be taken into account:

1. the need for improved safety and comfort from users; and
2. the suspicion from consumers towards modern agriculture products and practices, for example in terms of treatment product residues.

- **Technical factors**

Machine technology is changing fast, especially because of the introduction of electronic and information processing systems. This contribution has not been taken into account up until now in the work. This could lead to a mismatch with the state of art, giving rise to difficulties in the field of safety, for instance. One knows, for example, the problems raised by the use of programmable devices for the safety functions in other fields of machinery: certain public authorities disagree with this solution and/or impose such redundancies that the cost becomes prohibitive. Similar debates could arise within CEN/TC 144 if the future revisions and standards did not explicitly include this type of technologies.

- **Legal factors**

The availability of European Directives is a factor which provides useful common guidelines to the experts and call for new standards.

- **International trade and standardisation aspects**

The presence of many European manufacturers on markets outside the EU make some of them wish for a wider harmonisation, whereas others fear the influence of North America. In general, it is more difficult to reach an international consensus for standards drafted in view of obtaining presumption of conformity to EU Directives. Nevertheless, there are cases where these difficulties are more easily overcome, especially when the market of the product concerned is truly global (e.g. of products: tractors and combine harvesters, forestry machinery and some garden equipment). This is realized by working through Vienna agreement on items having world wide interest.

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:

The TC 144 field of application includes production machines and equipment required for farming and forestry as well as for gardening. Up until now, the questions that have been dealt with relate to safety with reference to Directive 2006/42/EC and its amendment 2009/127/EC and to environmental protection with reference to the Framework Directive 2009/128/EC.

The parties actively involved in the process are manufacturers, public authorities and regulatory bodies, insurance companies, research and testing organisations specialising in the field of agricultural, gardening and forestry equipment and/or that of safety. This last category contributes in particular towards the definition and development of verification methods.

The great variety of equipment concerned reflects the diversity of the agricultural, gardening and forestry operations (from soil preparation to harvesting), of users and as well as of environmental, geographic and soils conditions.

The industry is made up of a large number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and of a few large national or multinational companies, the latter covering particularly most of the tractors, grain harvesters and chain saws. The total number of production sites employing more than 10 people is about 4500.

In total, the production of this field of activity represents a value of 22 Billion € in terms of personnel, it amounts to 135 000 employees in production and 150 000 in maintenance and distribution.

The great diversity (geographical in particular) of both supply and demand, gives rise to a very high flow of trade within the EU which represent a value of 13 Billions €.

The volume of trade with the rest of the world is also quite important (exports amounting to 5.5 Billions €, i.e. 25% of total turnover) because of the activity of the largest companies on the one hand and of certain specialised SMEs, on the other hand (for the latter for example vineyards equipment, sprayers, soil working machines ...).

NOTE The above figures do not fully include all garden related equipment, especially that for individuals, although such equipment is included in the scope of TC 144.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

- ***In the field of safety***

- 52 available standards (compared to 54 already published) have already been cited in the Official Journal of the European Community under Directive 2006/42/EC and confer presumption of conformity with Essential Requirements of that Directive;
- approximately 25 additional standards are under development or approval and can be expected to be cited in the Official Journal).

- ***In the field of environmental protection***

- On the basis of the 11 published standards currently providing tools for harmonizing national regulations and even local practices, several standards are under preparation :
 - a serie of 4 candidate harmonized standards dealing with new sprayers;
 - another series of 4 standards for covering sprayers in use ;
 - another series of 2 standards related to knapsack sprayers.
- A work programme will have to be prepared in order to elaborate the most necessary standards related to the energy efficiency/CO2 emissions and recyclability of machines in phase with the evolution of the up-coming regulations (Directive WEEE, D ecodesign, D energy related products ...).

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.

The participation of public authorities would be welcomed in order to notably avoid to question standards at the end of the process. In addition the participation of users would allow to develop most suitable technical solutions.

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

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

- ***In the field of safety:***

54 standards have already been adopted. Today, almost the most important machines have a specific standard. Nevertheless, TC 144 still has to deal with some types of machines for which the application of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC would remain difficult without a specific standard and/or for which a significant hazard reduction problem is posed.

Furthermore, the revision of existing standards must be undertaken, account being taken of experience and of technical developments (and of the 5-years periodical review). On this occasion, provisions related to the reduction of noise and vibrations levels, by design, ergonomics and safety of control systems should be included.

- ***As far as the environment is concerned***

The existing programme tools for harmonizing the regular technical inspection foreseen to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides shall be conducted.

On the other hand, standards or parts of standards should be developed for evaluating the energy efficiency and CO₂ emissions..

In case of revision of existing standards, and where the market is globally relevant, the work should be undertaken within the framework of the Vienna Agreement, on a case by case basis. Beforehand an analysis of regional regulatory constraints shall be made in order to ascertain the feasibility of preparing harmonized standards before work is undertaken, and in case of doubt to only deal with common aspects.

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

Highest priority is given to the achievement of standards under the mandates:

- M/396 and M/471 which support the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC and its amendment 2009/127/EC;
- M/435 linked to the Framework Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides.

As far as new topics are concerned, a preliminary inventory shall be made on the scientific and technical data available and consequently on the possible need for prenormative research.

If needed, the organization of the work will have to be adapted to the evolution of the work programme.

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4.3 Environmental aspects

The environmental aspects will be dealt with according to the strategy defined in 4.2 stemmed from the analysis of the regulatory context under preparation (Directive WEEE, Directive ecodesign, Directive energy related products, ...).

The environmental checklist as given in the CEN Guide 4 for addressing environmental issues in product standards (circulated as **N 1291**) will have to be completed, updated as appropriate and attached to drafts during the development of all the TC 144 standards.

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

- ***In the field of safety, some difficulties still remain***

- the European market monitoring is insufficient to ensure fair competition;
- the low involvement of the public authorities in the elaboration of standards leads to have too frequently threads or formal objections that upset the process, discredit the TC work and consequently discourage the participants;
- the lack of harmonisation of road safety technical regulations narrows the scope of harmonisation resulting from the Machinery Directive, and even conflicts with it.

- ***In the field of environmental protection***

Some non-coordinated, community regulatory initiatives leads to having heterogeneous requirements related to the content, even sometimes contradictory, and with very different levels of importance.

Given this situation, some member bodies find it extremely difficult to keep their involved parties fully involved in the CEN work.

Moreover, the quality of the work could be improved by:

- a better involvement of some countries, of the users and the regulatory bodies at all stages of development;
- providing the WGs with relevant information related to accidents and to their circumstances to let them conduct a risk analysis in the best conditions.