

BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 158 Head protection

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business Environment

CEN/TC 158 develops standards for head protection.

The total European market of products covered by CEN/TC 158 standards amounts to several hundred million Euro/year.

The following items are of interest for the work of CEN/TC 158:

- the trend of a growing number of types of street vehicles that present risks of head injury while using them;
- the trend of new types of head protection with a totally new design and functionality;
- the trend of an increasing number of people using street vehicles for personal transport;
- the availability of head injury data and knowledge of serious consequences and irreversible damage to health;
- the increasing awareness from employers and legal requirements to provide safe head protection to their workers;
- the increasing demand for low-cost PPE where the design fulfils the protection requirements that correspond to the existing risks of the activity.

Benefits

European Standards developed by CEN/TC 158:

- provide a high level of protection for wearers of head protection;
- remove barriers to trade in Europe;
- support compliance with essential health and safety requirements laid down in European Regulation and, if applicable, other international regulation.

Priorities

To develop harmonized European standards as requested by the EU commission.

1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC

1.1 Description of the Business Environment

Due to the risk for severe injuries to the head for example when falling onto hard ground, with various speed and angles, or from being struck from above by falling objects, the use of head protection is in many countries subject to legislation. In contrast to some other types of PPE, head protection is purchased by consumers as well as by employers.

Supporting a safety conscious way of life is a common interest to all of us. We are a part of a transforming society with focus towards science and knowledge. This environment demands an even greater need for expertise and input from innovative and enterprising PPE manufacturers in the process of developing technical standards.

In the European Union, the essential health and safety requirements for the design and manufacture of head protection falls within the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulation (EU 2016/425) which establishes rules and removes obstacles to trade in PPE between Member States. In relation to the European Union, "harmonization" of law is the process of creating common product standards across the internal market. The Notified Bodies have an important role in the conformity assessment of PPE.

Manufacturers complete the appropriate certification process by using harmonized European Standards and can affix the CE-marking on their products. Conformity with the harmonized standards published in the Official Journal of the European Union, provides a presumption of conformity with the requirements in the Regulation. Also, the harmonized European Standards can give the consumer assurance as to the usability for the intended purpose.

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:

- using head injury data to measure costs for society and individual suffering;
- registering increased attention from consumer organizations within EU, on protection from head injury, in popular activities like bicycle riding, and street vehicles like scooters;
- also noting the public attention on effects of head injuries while playing sports, such as ice hockey, horse riding and skiing, which creates a demand for better head protection;
- paying more attention to occupational health and safety issues of organizations workers, for example within the construction industry;
- looking at competition among manufacturers, that leads to increased pressure to produce at low costs and at the same time compete with innovative design for high level of protection;
- ensuring the development of test methods that are cost efficient and does not lead to heavy investments in new testing equipment.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

The benefits of the work of CEN/TC 158 are, but not limited to;

- publish and harmonize head protection standards under EU Regulation;
- facilitates conformity assessment procedures and general principles of the CE marking;
- lower costs to society (health care, rehabilitation, sick leave, insurance reimbursements, etc.);
- increase efficiencies without increased costs for designers and manufacturers of head protection;
- make possible market surveillance of products and controls on products from third countries.

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.

All experts participating in the work of CEN/TC 158 are obliged to commit to the CEN Code of conduct for delegates, experts and observers participating in technical work, see [CEN BOSS Link](#).

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

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

The objectives of CEN/TC 158 are:

- to develop suitable standards in every area of the sector (terminology, performance requirements, test methods);
- review and incorporate state-of-the-art accident data into the standards for the purpose of highest possible protection for the wearers;
- follow the increased use of accessories and, if necessary, develop requirements around those to maintain protection;
- to actively seek coordination and cooperation with standardisation work and bodies outside CEN, for example ISO, SCC, Standards Council of Canada,
- to actively seek coordination and cooperation with CEN Liaison Organisations (for example FESI - the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry) and CEN Partner Organisations (for example ANEC - European Association for the Coordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation);
- to provide guidance to organizations and persons who manufacture, purchase or wear head protection;
- to encourage the use of effective criteria in their selection, use, care and maintenance.

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

CEN/TC 158 state-of-the-art standards will be achieved by active participation of all interested parties. The ambition is to gather industries at national and international level and public authorities, institutes, laboratories, users' representatives, and other non-governmental organizations, for example trade unions are interested and active parties in the standardization process, and thus ensuring solid consensus when developing the standards.

Revisions of previously published standards and the development of new head **protection** standards shall be carried out according to the following strategy:

- perform a risk assessment with, if available, accident and injury data for analysis of the real and perceived risks related to the product segment within the scope of the standard;
- propose changes to the standards that will give a positive HAS consultants assessment;
- evaluate if existing test methods are relevant for known risks and meet state-of-the-art levels of protection;
- ensure design of test methods suitable to mimic the typical accident scenarios, taking economic and technical considerations into account;
- base pass/fail criteria for the performance requirements to mitigate the injury risk in a cost and user

effective manner;

- when available, use national, regional or international source documents;

4.3 Environmental aspects

CEN/TC 158 strives to consider environmental issues when developing product standards in support of sustainable international trade. TC 158 and its working groups will bear in mind the environmental impact(s) of their meetings and documentation.

The standards prepared by TC 158 are mainly product standards. The potential environmental effects of manufacturing these products will solely be down to the manufacturers who are expected to conform to current environmental legislation requirements. However, with respect to disposal/recycling aspects, the standards will require that the product marking and or “information to users” documentation conforms to the current and accepted recycling marking requirements.

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

Factors that affect the work of CEN/TC 158 are that:

- for a few head protection product categories, for example snowmobiles and ice hockey, only a limited number of member states are interested;
- the availability of head protection experts is limited;
- voluntary contributions required for the validation of proposed new test methods are not always available;
- the lack of a pan-European data system for the collection of accidents and injuries and their circumstances, hinders somewhat the WGs from conducting a risk analysis in the best conditions;
- there is a lack of up-to-date anthropometric data;
- there are legal and regulatory uncertainties regarding issues such as EC regulations which may necessitate modifications of the standards and target dates for projects in the CEN/TC 158 work program.