



BUSINESS PLAN
CEN/TC 161
FOOT AND LEG PROTECTORS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business environment

The safety footwear market in Europe is well established and because of high safety standards and strict legislation on usage there is a relatively high per capita consumption.

Benefits

Since the creation of the committee in 1988 over 30 standards have been published.

The publication of these standards has resulted in fewer accidents caused by trips, slips and falls, thereby increasing the confidence of consumers in respect of safety footwear.

Priorities

To continue to develop new standards for protective safety footwear products and materials and to maintain existing standards taking into account the changing state of the art, avoiding the use of toxic chemicals as detailed in the REACH Directive listings

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:

The safety footwear market in Europe is well established and because of high safety standards and strict legislation on usage there is a relatively high per capita consumption. The market was previously protected from extra-EU imports by legislation in each of the member states. Two European PPE Directives were introduced in 1989 which standardized legislation within the European union:

89/686/EEC Council Directive relating to Personal Protective Equipment

89/656/EEC Council Directive on the minimum health and safety requirement for the use by the workers of personal [protective equipment in the workplace.

The PPE Directives have in effect made it easier for extra-EU manufacturers to import safety footwear into Europe, as they only have to deal with one piece of legislation, as opposed to one for each nation. If standards can be met, there is little to stop them importing into all Europe, a company has to have a representative based in Europe.

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 USA continues to be the world's leading footwear market in both value and volume. Other strong markets in 2007 were Japan and European Union countries such as Spain, Germany, France, Italy and the UK.

Imports of safety footwear have continued to increase over the past five years, with cost being the main driving factors. Although trade is still between countries of the European Union, volume of imports from the Far East is growing significantly. The largest producer of safety footwear in Europe is Italy, with 9.2 million pairs. Italy is also the largest exporter. In 2002, it exported 13.9 million pairs, part of this total being re-export of imported goods.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

The European Directives have been produced to make the workplace safer and the key objective of CEN/TC 161 is to provide standards which ensure that products placed on the market provide the level of protection needed to meet this requirement and thus help to safeguard the user of protective footwear.

Across Europe accident statistics show that injury to the lower leg and foot account for 15 % of all work related accidents that necessitate time away from work. Injuries resulting from tripping and

falling account for a further 20% of the total, but many of those may be to other parts of the body. In total numbers, footwear related injuries account for about 35 % of work related injuries.

In the UK in 2012-13, slips, trips and falls were responsible for more than half of all major (56%) and approximately one-third of over seven day injuries to employees, making up 37 % of all reported injuries to employees. 95 % of major slips result in broken bones.

As well as the incalculable price paid by unfortunate individuals who suffer a work-related accident, it is estimated that slips and trips cost UK businesses more than £500 million a year.

Values for accidents reported in the UK in 2012/13 are as follows:

Injury	Slips and trips	Falls from height	Combined STFs
Fatal	-	25	25
Major	8 416	2 522	10 938
Over seven day	15 184	2 727	17 911
Total	23 600	5 274	28 874

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 of standards for safety, protective, occupational and other specific job related footwear and lower leg protection (e.g. forestry footwear, fire-fighters footwear).

CEN/TC 161 will

- develop and maintain test methods and requirements for protective footwear products and materials;
- adjust the work programme as necessary to meet market needs;
- work in co-ordination with ISO/TC 94/SC 3 on appropriate projects through the Vienna Agreement to avoid duplication of effort.

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

Where there are inadequate or inefficient test methods and performance standards available for any safety features needed by the users, the TC will bring together groups of experts to quantify the need, facilitate the development of test methods and encourage work to establish performance guidelines.

CEN/TC 161 Business Plan

Date: 2014-05-01

Page: 4

To work with other TCs to assist in the development of requirements not previously called up in technical standards, such as ergonomic features to be built into the footwear and guidance on the selection and use of PPE.

The TC meets annually and the WGs meet two or three times a year each as the work requires. The Secretariat produces regular work programme reports and ensures progress on the work.

Currently three working groups report into the parent TC:

- PPE footwear – Test methods
- PPE footwear – Requirements
- PPE footwear – Test methods for slip resistance

4.3 Environmental aspects

CEN/TC 161 is aware that some of its methods have an impact on the environment. In writing or rewriting standards the use of toxic chemicals is avoided as detailed in the REACH Directives.

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

The objectives of the CEN/TC can only be met with the voluntary support from manufacturers, RTOs and user groups. This support will only be forthcoming if these groups see that the necessary external support is provided to ensure that action is taken to effectively use the standards in the market place.

Currently many contributors doubt that enforcement agencies have the capability or willingness to ensure that the PPE Directive is enforced.

There also continues to be doubt that sufficient attention is being applied to ensuring consistent application of the Directives across the EU. This doubt must be eliminated to ensure continued support to the standards making work. There continues to be too many instances where national interests are given priority.

Most of the basic items of footwear are now covered by the EN ISO 20344 to EN ISO 20347 range of standards.

The main factors affecting completion of the work programme and the development of particular standards are as follows.

- 1) Limited availability of expertise: Only a limited number of experts are willing or able to devote their time to standardization activities often resulting in an imbalance of relevant stakeholders.
- 2) Cost: The costs of hosting or attending any meeting are becoming more prohibitive and may result in difficulties finding a member to host a TC/WG meeting and in reduced levels of participation.
- 3) Lack of resources: Lack of funding will obviously affect the number of laboratories able to participate in interlaboratory trials required for validating any test methods.