



**BUSINESS PLAN**  
**CEN/TC 162**  
**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING INCLUDING HAND AND ARM PROTECTION**  
**AND LIFEJACKETS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Business Environment**

CEN/TC 162 is preparing standards on:

- Protective clothing – General requirements
- Protective clothing against heat and fire
- Protective clothing against chemical hazards
- Protective clothing against radioactive contamination
- Protective clothing against cold and rain
- Protective clothing against mechanical impact
- PPE against drowning
- High-visibility warning clothing
- Protective gloves
- Motorcycle rider's protective clothing
- Buoyancy aids for swimming instruction
- Body protection for sports
- Diving suits

The total European market potential of products covered by CEN/TC 162 standards amounts to several billion Euro/year.

**Benefits**

European Standards developed by CEN/TC 162

- remove barriers to trade in Europe,
- provide a high level of safety for PPE throughout Europe,
- support European legislation

**Priorities**

To make European standards available related to:

Confidence of consumers and professional users

## **1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT of the CEN/TC 162**

### **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 and legal factors

Standards of CEN/TC 162 are prepared under mandates given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association to provide a means of conforming to Essential Requirements of the New Approach Directive 89/686/EEC of 21 December 1989 concerning PPE (amended by Directives 93/95/EEC; 93/68/EEC and 96/58/EEC).

This directive requests that protective clothing, hand and arm protection and lifejackets meets the essential requirements as specified in Annex 2 of the directive. Harmonized standards as drafted by CEN/TC 162 delineate the parameters for compliance according to requirements of this directive and are designed to eliminate trade barriers in the EU.

Once a standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Communities under that Directive and has been implemented as a national standard in at least one Member State, compliance with the clauses of this standard given in table ZA of this standard confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding Essential Requirements of that Directive and associated EFTA regulations.

Another EC Directive is relevant to protective clothing, hand and arm protection and lifejackets.

- Council Directive 89/656/EEC of 30 November 1989 concerning the use of PPE by workers at the workplace.

This directive contains employers' obligations, including the need to carry out a risk analysis, which is the basis for the subsequent selection of the correct PPE. The selected PPE has to comply with Directive 89/686/EEC.

It has been supplemented by a Commission Communication for its implementation concerning the assessment of the safety aspects of personal protective equipment with a view of the choice and use thereof (89/C 328/02).

The manufacturers may refer to European Standards developed by CEN/TC 162 for certification purposes. The standards may also give him some assurance as to the usability for the intended purpose.

#### Liaisons

The following organisations in liaison with the CEN/TC 162 should be mentioned:

- EDANA European Disposable and Nonwovens Association
- ETSA European Textile Services Association.

### Social factors

CEN/TC 162 regards a high level of safety of PPE as a fundamental social factor. This level of safety can be ensured by specifications contained in European Standards. The definition of improved ergonomic design and comfortable physiological parameters in the standards can increase the acceptance of protective clothing, hand and arm protection and lifejackets. The number of accidents and the related injuries can be reduced considerably.

### Technical factors

The technical factors influencing the elaboration of standards for protective clothing, hand and arm protection and lifejackets is based in particular on the following technological developments:

- advances in the materials used;
- the further development of legislation in the field of occupational safety;
- the awareness of the professional as well as the non-professional user, that the use of PPE can help to ensure his quality of life;
- scientific knowledge of human physiology and ergonomic factors
- further development / improvement of test methods

Standardization in line with these views is seen as a key component of the European market.

### International aspects

In the field of protective clothing there is remarkable international activity in standardization, which has led to close co-operation of CEN/TC 162 and ISO/TC 94/SC 13 "Protective clothing", with joint standards being produced under the Vienna Agreement.

The ISO/TC 94/SC 14 has been created to draft standards for PPE for firefighters, the scope of which is partly covered by CEN/TC 162/WG 2 regarding protective clothing.

Co-operative work is also undertaken in the field of PPE against drownings (ISO/TC 188 "small craft") and in the field of test methods for textiles materials (ISO/TC 38 "Textiles").

## **1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment**

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

Health and safety precautions necessitate the use of protective clothing, hand and arm protection and PPE against drowning in a large number of work places and leisure time activities. Protective clothing, hand and arm protection and lifejackets has to comply with the requirements of the PPE directive 89/686/EEC, which presents the basis for standardisation work in the field. Examples of products for which standards of CEN/TC 162 are available:

- Protective clothing against heat and fire
- Protective clothing against chemical hazards
- Protective clothing against radioactive contamination
- Protective clothing against cold and rain
- Protective clothing against mechanical impact

PPE against drowning  
High-visibility warning clothing  
Protective gloves  
Motorcycle rider's protective clothing  
Buoyancy aids for swimming instruction  
Body protection for sports  
Diving suits

The total european market potential of products covered by CEN/TC 162 standards amounts to:

- Protective clothing several billion EURO/year;
- Protective gloves about 1 billion EURO/year;
- PPE against drowning and body protection for sports several 100 million EURO/year.

#### Type and size of companies

It can be said, in a very general sense, that for these product types, a large proportion of products is manufactured in small and medium size companies.

Accident statistics show that more than 50% of all work accidents are to the hand, arm, leg and body area and necessitate absence from work (of at least 1 day). More than 40 % of work disabilities are caused by injuries to the hand, arm, leg and body area. The cost of such accidents across Europe amount to several billion EURO.

Industries at European and international level, public authorities, institutes, laboratories, users representatives and other non-governmental organizations such as trade unions are interested parties in the standardization process, since standardized specifications and test methods facilitate trade and help to reduce costs. Small companies, which produce a lot of products pertaining to the specified standards of CEN/TC 162, have the opportunity to draw on the knowledge of the standards for their manufacturing processes, although they may not be directly involved in the standardization process itself. All have a vested interest in a set of standards that creates a terminology for the industry sector, defines generally valid product requirements for protective clothing, hand and arm protection and PPE against drowning and describes the relevant test methods.

The economic value of the CEN/TC 162 standards is of high importance for the using and manufacturing industry because of the risk minimizing effects relating to users health and safety. A defect of a PPE can damage users health or even life. Consequently, high recompensations for the manufacturer or the insurer can arise.

## **2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC**

European Standards developed by CEN/TC 162

- remove barriers to trade in Europe,
- provide a high level of safety for PPE throughout Europe, thus leading to cost savings through reduction of the number as well as the severity of accidents both in professional and non-professional area
- support European legislation, in particular the New Approach Directive 89/686/EEC on PPE.

### **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**

Based on the considerations above, the CEN/TC 162 proposes the following objectives and strategic directions for its future work:

#### **4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC**

The objectives of the TC are:

- to develop standards for test methods and requirements relevant to PPE with regard to the improvements of the performance of products;
- to create a comprehensive structure of standards, taking into consideration standards of other TCs;
- to provide better information for users in relation to safety and health;
- to facilitate the application of standards by all interested parties;
- to promote further activities in international co-operative standardization.
- to revise the existing European Standards if the state of the art progresses.

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

CEN/TC 162 has set up different working groups reflecting the objectives given above:

- WG 1 General requirements for protective clothing
- WG 2 Protective clothing against heat and fire
- WG 3 Protective clothing against chemical hazards
- WG 4 Protective clothing against foul weather
- WG 5 Protective clothing against mechanical impact
- WG 6 Lifejackets
- WG 7 High-visibility warning clothing
- WG 8 Protective gloves
- WG 9 Motorcycle rider's protective clothing
- WG 10 Buoyancy aids for swimming instruction
- WG 11 Body protection for sports
- WG 12 Diving suits

The main set of current standards, standards under revision and in preparation under CEN/TC 162 covers performance requirements and test methods for protective clothing, hand and arm protection and PPE against downing.

Where there are inadequate or inefficient test methods and performance standards for any safety features needed by users, CEN/TC 162 will bring together groups of experts to quantify the need,

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facilitate the development of test methods and encourage work to establish and improve performance standards.

Further strategies adopted to reach the objectives are the coordination of work between CEN/TC 162 and other related TCs and the consideration of relevant requirements, test methods or information resulting from experience with testing, certifying and use of protective clothing, hand and arm protection and PPE against drowning.

CEN/TC 162 prepares standards wherever possible in cooperation with ISO/TC 94/SC 13 under the Vienna Agreement. In the field of PPE against drowning, standards are being prepared in cooperation with ISO/TC 188 under the Vienna Agreement.

### **4.3 Environmental aspects**

CEN/TC 162 will address environmental aspects in its standards when they arise.

CEN/TC 162 will also consider environmental aspects during the revision of standards and will include environmental provisions if needed.

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

Validation of test methods can be dependent upon funding being available to undertake the necessary co-normative research. Some projects particularly on certain test methods require co-normative research, which has turned out to be in conflict with the regular time schedule imposed by CEN for the preparation of standards.

In addition the integration of relevant test methods for an improved consideration of ergonomic specifications in future revisions of the TC's standards requires the definition of substantive details concerning the ergonomic aspects of personal protective equipment. The documents in preparation by CEN/TC 122/JWG 9 could be referenced to assist in the establishment of specifications.

Experts resources as well as specific expertise for some projects is lacking, which has led to the deletion of a number of projects in the past. For a few work items working groups are concerned about difficulties to ensure adequate representation of user groups in meetings.

CMC and the European Commission require an assessment by a CEN-consultant before publication of a harmonized standard and the delay is inevitable in case of a negative assessment.

The objectives of the CEN/TC can only be met with the voluntary support from all parties concerned. 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.

Where standards are processed under Vienna Agreement, any delay in ISO results in a corresponding delay in CEN/TC 162.