



BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 208

Elastomeric seals for joints in pipework and pipelines

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

— Business environment

The 5 standards published by CEN/TC 208 since 1996 are used throughout the countries of the EU and also in Eastern Europe and by prospective EU members.

— Benefits

Standards have been published and Harmonized for material requirements and test methods for elastomeric seals for joints in pipes for the conveyance of fluids; cold and hot water, waste water, gas, hydrocarbons and other fluids.

— Priorities

The TC needs to attend to possible further amendments or full revisions of the existing published suite of standards in order to take into account any changes to technology, directives, drafting rules, and normative cross references etc.

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 order to carry out standardisation in the field of joint seals, CEN/TC 208 has to address the following EU Directives:

- **CPD: Pipes,tanks and ancillary.) M/131** Mandate to CEN/CENELEC concerning the execution of standardization work for harmonized standards on pipes, tanks and ancillaries, not in contact with water intended for human consumption
- **Regulation (EU) No 305/2011** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC
- **Regulation (EU) 426/2016** of the European Parliament and of the council of 9 March 2016 on appliances burning gaseous fuels and repealing Council Directive 2009/142/EC.

Economic factors:

A high cost would be incurred by industry if specifiers and regulators insisted on products of the highest safety classes when risk analysis demonstrates this is not justified. Most applications for seals involve joints on pipelines carrying gas, water and other liquids where leakage must not

occur. To avoid sub-standard production reaching the market, consistent technical specifications are of the utmost importance.

Social factors:

Authoritative European standards that demonstrate products are manufactured to consistent specifications where safety in use is an imperative, gives consumers assurance and confidence in the industry that will in turn facilitate appropriate product choice.

Legal factors:

The harmonized standards being drafted by CEN/TC 208 will provide consumers, distributors and manufacturers with a well-founded basis for questions of health, safety and environment.

International trade and standardisation factors:

Without European specifications for seals, each EU member country would be justified in requiring testing for imports and approval in accordance with national requirements. As trade developed, this testing would become an increasing overhead to the manufacturer. The use of European standards therefore constitutes an annual saving of several million Euros.

European trade without product standards would have serious consequences for product quality and potential health and safety and environmental risks. Strong commercial competition compels serious manufacturers to comply with recognised specifications to meet market needs. There are manufacturers who would choose a different path.

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 elastomeric seal industry supplies seals for all pipeline uses; most seals being incorporated into pipe joints. The following quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the CEN/TC:

Production is throughout the EU and is measured in the hundreds of millions of Euros per annum. The industry is a mixture of small to medium sized companies primarily selling to pipe manufacturers. The market for 80% of the production is within the EU. The remainder of the production is sold around the world.

The greater awareness on the impact of greenhouse gases on climate change has led Member States to implement a programme to investigate the use of nonconventional gases. Natural gas distributors are implementing strategies to incorporate proportions in volumes of nonconventional gases into the existing and future networks.

CEN/TC 208 and their Working Groups dealing with elastomeric seals standards for gases applications should investigate the consequences of using proportions of nonconventional gases into natural gas streams, especially hydrogen, in addition to biomethane, bioLPG's or biogases and the effect these blended natural gases will have on fittings using elastomeric sealing e.g. upon tightness and durability.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

The TC has published 5 European Standards to date on material requirements and test methods for elastomeric seals for joints in pipes for the conveyance of fluids; cold and hot water, waste water, gas, hydrocarbons and other fluids. Amendments helped to keep them up to date pending the formal five-yearly reviews. The standards were harmonized under the terms of the Construction Products Regulation (EU) No 305/2011.

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

The elaboration of standards in the Construction Products sector for the material requirements and test methods for pipe joint seals used in water, drainage, gas and hydrocarbon fluids applications.

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

CEN/TC 208 has established four Working Groups to work on different aspects of the work programme. This division allows the appropriate expertise to be deployed efficiently.

WG 01 Elastomeric seals for hot and cold water and waste water

WG 02 Elastomeric seals for gas, hydrocarbons and other fluids

WG 03 Test methods for elastomeric seals

WG 04 Seals and diaphragms for gas appliances and gas equipment

Policy and common procedural issues for the WGs are dealt with by the TC. The TC and the WGs resolve matters by a system of physical meetings, some drafting work by correspondence and increasing use of IT tools. It has been agreed to use English as the working language to minimise the need for interpretation/translation.

Liaison with other TCs

Liaison with other TCs in the general fields of water and gas transmission is seen as vital to establish coherence for the product. The established formal liaisons are with TCs listed below under interested parties.

Interested parties to the standardisation process are:

Pipe manufacturers
Public utilities
Building industry
Test houses
National standards bodies
National legislative bodies

Technical Committees in liaison:

CEN/TC 133	<i>Copper and copper alloys</i>
CEN/TC 181	<i>Dedicated liquefied petroleum gas appliances</i>
CEN/TC 235	<i>Gas pressure regulators</i>

Organisations in liaison:

AQUA Europa

4.3 Environmental aspects

CEN/TC 208 will consider environmental aspects during the preparation and revision of standards and recommended consideration of an environmental checklist as informative annex to the standards.

Potential environmental indicators include:

During manufacture:

- resources used
- energy consumption
- emissions to air
- emissions to water
- waste

During use and at end of life:

- emissions to air
- emissions to water
- emissions to soil
- risk to environment by accident or misuse
- migration of dangerous substances

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

Questions have been raised by CEN, arising from the Construction Products Regulation, on the subjects of (i) items in contact with drinking water and their potential effects on that water and (ii) response to fire. These questions, and how they are or are not dealt with in the existing suite of standards might affect the timing or content of any revisions to the standards.