

BUSINESS PLAN

CEN-CLC/JTC 23

HORIZONTAL TOPICS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business Environment

CEN-CLC Joint Technical Committee 23 (CEN-CLC/JTC 23) has been established to address horizontal topics within the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) sector that transcend the scope of individual product-specific Technical Committees (TCs). Historically, standardization in this sector has been managed by product-specific TCs, each focusing on different types of PPE. However, this approach has resulted in gaps in addressing overarching concerns that apply to multiple products across the sector.

CEN-CLC/JTC 23 fills this gap by focusing on horizontal topics, ensuring a neutral and comprehensive standardization process. This committee will coordinate closely with existing PPE TCs, providing guidelines on horizontal issues while leaving product-specific standardization to the relevant TCs. Additionally, CEN-CLC/JTC 23 aligns its work with ISO TC94, ensuring harmonization of international standards and coherence in addressing PPE-related challenges.

The committee will support European legislation, including EC standardization request M/571, and various directives and regulations related to PPE, medical devices, chemicals, and other areas. This alignment with significant public policies, such as the "EU Green Deal," the "circular economy action plan," and the "EU strategy for sustainable textiles," highlights the importance of collaboration between CEN and CENELEC experts, particularly in addressing emerging hazards like those associated with electric risks.

Benefits

The creation of CEN-CLC/JTC 23 offers several significant benefits to the PPE sector:

Harmonization of Standards: By focusing on horizontal topics, CEN-CLC/JTC 23 ensures that these critical issues are addressed fairly and without bias, facilitating global alignment through collaboration with ISO TC94. This enhances the credibility and global acceptance of European PPE standards.

Enhanced Safety and Protection: The committee's work will lead to better-integrated PPE solutions that offer enhanced protection for end-users by addressing the complex needs of users who require protection from multiple hazards simultaneously.

Support for Legislation and Policies: CEN-CLC/JTC 23 aligns with and reinforces European legislation and policies, promoting sustainability and ensuring that PPE standards meet regulatory requirements.

Promotion of Innovation and Sustainability: By integrating sustainability principles and supporting technological advancements, CEN-CLC/JTC 23 encourages the development of eco-friendly and innovative PPE products...

Priorities

CEN-CLC/JTC 23 has set several key priorities:

1. **Development of Horizontal Standards:** Focus on compatibility, sustainability, and ergonomics across different PPE types, ensuring a neutral approach.
2. **Global Alignment:** Collaborate closely with ISO TC94 to harmonize European standards with global practices.
3. **Coordination with Existing TCs:** Provide guidelines for horizontal topics while ensuring that product-specific standardization remains within the appropriate TCs.

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4. Support for European Legislation: Align with initiatives such as the "EU Green Deal" and related sustainability strategies.

1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN-CLC/JTC 23

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-CLC/JTC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

The PPE industry is evolving rapidly, driven by advancements in technology, emerging hazards, and a growing emphasis on sustainability. The traditional approach, centered around product-specific TCs, has proven insufficient in tackling issues that transcend individual product boundaries. CEN-CLC/JTC 23 represents a shift towards a more inclusive and adaptive standardization framework, focusing on horizontal topics that affect multiple PPE categories.

By fostering collaboration among experts from diverse TCs, CEN-CLC/JTC 23 provides a neutral platform for developing standards that address the needs of various stakeholders, including under-represented PPE users. The committee also recognizes the transformative impact of integrating smart textiles, electronics, and wearables into PPE and aims to provide a framework that accommodates innovation while ensuring compatibility and coherence across different types of PPE hazards, and a growing emphasis on sustainability. Traditional approaches, characterised by product-specific Technical Committees (TCs), are facing challenges in addressing the holistic needs of the sector. CEN-CLC/JTC 23 recognises the dynamic nature of the PPE landscape and the need for a paradigm shift towards a more flexible and adaptive standardization framework.

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-CLC/JTC 23:

Market Demand

There is a growing demand for standardized solutions that address broader challenges across diverse PPE categories. Industries are seeking a unified approach that considers the simultaneous use of multiple PPE types, particularly in sectors with complex hazards such as CBRN scenarios.

Technological Advancements:

The rise of Smart Personal Protective Systems (smart PPS) and developments in AI and IoT are reshaping the PPE landscape. CEN-CLC/JTC 23 aims to develop standards that address these innovations, ensuring safety and functionality.

Sustainability Trends:

There is increasing pressure on the PPE industry to adopt environmentally responsible practices. CEN-CLC/JTC 23 will develop standards that align with societal expectations for sustainability, such as circular economy principles and modular design..

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2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN-CLC/JTC 23

The work of CEN-CLC/JTC 23 is expected to deliver significant benefits:

Harmonization of Standards:

By aligning with ISO TC94, CEN-CLC/JTC 23 will contribute to the harmonization of European and international standards, reducing trade barriers and ensuring global recognition of PPE products.

Enhanced Safety and Protection:

The development of horizontal standards will ensure consistency and interoperability across different types of PPE, improving overall effectiveness and user protection.

Support for Legislation and Policies:

CEN-CLC/JTC 23 will reinforce European legislation and policies, such as the "EU Green Deal," promoting sustainability and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.

Promotion of Innovation and Sustainability:

By integrating sustainability principles and encouraging technological advancement, CEN-CLC/JTC 23 will support the development of eco-friendly and innovative PPE products.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN-CLC/JTC 23

All the CEN/ CENELEC national members are entitled to nominate delegates to CEN/CENELEC 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 CEN-CLC/JTC 23, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEN-CLC/JTC 23 AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN-CLC/JTC 23

Horizontal Standardization:

Develop standards that transcend specific PPE product categories, focusing on horizontal topics such as compatibility, sustainability, and ergonomics. This ensures a neutral treatment of subjects without potential imbalances tied to individual product Technical Committees (TCs).

Integration of Past Deliverables:

Incorporate and maintain relevant standards and deliverables from CEN-CLC Joint Working Groups (JWGs) and ISO/IEC bodies (not currently mirrored by the scope of existing CEN/CENELEC TCs), preventing the loss of valuable insights and expertise. This integration ensures a seamless evolution of standards.

Global Alignment:

Collaborate closely with ISO/TC 94 to align European standards with global practices, fostering international harmonization. This strategic alignment enhances the credibility of European standards on a global scale.

Efficient Resource Utilization:

Optimize resources by consolidating efforts under a single horizontal CEN-CLC/JTC, fostering collaboration among experts from various product TCs. This approach ensures an agile and coordinated response to emerging industry challenges.

User-Centric Standards:

Prioritize the involvement of end-users and SMEs, ensuring that standards not only meet technical requirements but also address user needs, preferences, and safety concerns. This user-centric approach enhances the practical applicability and acceptance of PPE standards.

Anticipation of Emerging Hazards:

Proactively address emerging hazards by involving experts from both CEN and CENELEC. This anticipatory approach ensures that standards evolve in tandem with technological advancements, safeguarding against potential risks.

Contribution to Sustainability:

Develop standardization deliverables that align with the goals of the EU Green Deal, promoting circular economy principles, modular design, longevity, and recyclability. The CEN-CLC/JTC aims to provide guidance on sustainability, setting the stage for future product-specific documents.

Enhanced Collaboration:

Foster collaboration among different product TCs, ensuring a cohesive and comprehensive approach to standardization. This collaborative spirit aims to capitalize on diverse expertise and experiences within the PPE industry.

4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN-CLC/JTC 23 defined objectives.

Establishing a structure for the Joint Technical Committee

Establishing working groups dedicated to specific horizontal topics as mentioned in the objectives.

Participation of Experts

Ensuring that relevant experts from other relevant TCs participate in relevant subject areas, this does not necessarily mean that they must be experts in PPE, for instance for SMART PPE we would invite experts from technical committees with electronic expertise, and likewise experts from sustainability TCs for sustainable PPE.

4.3 Environmental aspects

The business plan of CEN-CLC/JTC 23 places a strong emphasis on addressing environmental impacts associated with PPE standardization. The following key environmental aspects will be considered within the committee's approach:

Sustainability and Circular Economy; Eco-Friendly Materials; Reduction of Carbon Footprint; End-of-Life Management; Environmental Impact of Innovative Technologies (SMART PPE); Compliance with Environmental Legislation; Environmental Awareness and Training.

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5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN-CLC/JTC 23 WORK PROGRAMME

The work program of CEN-CLC/JTC 23 will include the identification and adoption of documents not already covered by the scopes of existing CEN TCs. This approach ensures that efforts are not duplicated and that the CEN-CLC/JTC 23 focuses on horizontal topics that require a unified standardization approach.

DECISION C03/2024 taken by CEN/CLC/JTC 23 on 2024-09-03

Subject: CEN/CLC/JTC 23 Change of scope

CEN/CLC/JTC 23, Horizontal Topics for PPE confirm the scope of CEN-CLC/JTC 23 as follows:

Standardization in the field of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to develop horizontal frameworks, guidance, tools and requirements to complement and enhance the activities of existing product TCs ensuring engagement from all stakeholders to optimise the effectiveness of PPE and PPE combinations being placed on the market and its' usability. This can include aspects common across multiple types of PPE, such as: sustainability, compatibility, diversity, SMART PPE, and PPE that is subject to other product legislation(s) (this list is not exhaustive).

Excludes:

Product-specific aspects of single types of PPE that are already covered by scopes of existing technical committees and work programmes.