



BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 163

SANITARY APPLIANCES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business Environment

Sanitary appliances are used in all civil, industrial and commercial building for personal hygiene (or for preparation of food, the washing of dishes and the discharge of domestic waste water in case of kitchen sinks).

Benefits

To define the necessary standards to be used to perform the desired level of commercial interoperability in Europe.

To allow free circulation of products in Europe under the Construction Products Regulation 305/2011 (CPR).

28 standards were adopted.

Priorities

To make European standards available related to:

- Harmonization of essential characteristics in the Construction Products Regulation 305/2011 (CPR);
- Harmonization of connecting dimensions;

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 production of sanitary appliances is dependent on the construction market, which went through a crisis in these last years, in many European countries. The recent trend shows that for the construction of new buildings lower middle products are preferable, while for the refurbishment of existing ones upper middle products are used.

A new challenge for the sanitary appliances industry is represented by the energy efficiency of the products, measured as water saving.

Sanitary appliances are products normally made of ceramics or plastics (resin materials), but also products made of steel (for example kitchen sinks), glass, natural stones and other composite materials are on the market.

European countries have always exported sanitary appliances, but in these last years products import from China has grown.

As far as legal factors influencing the market are concerned, the Construction Products Regulation 305/2011 (CPR) must be taken into consideration. CEN/TC 163 is one of several CEN technical committees involved in the preparation of technical specifications supporting the CPR.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC 163

Standards elaborated by CEN/TC 163 are expected to:

- remove technical barriers to trade and open markets throughout Europe;
- address relevant safety and health concerns;
- harmonise national standards;
- support the Construction Products Regulation 305/2011 (CPR): 11 standards are cited in the OJEC.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC 163

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 CEN/TC 163

The TC will elaborate a set of European Standards in the sanitary appliances sector, irrespectively of the material of which they are made, including aspects relating to mechanical performances, hygiene, dimensions, testing, but excluding aspects relating to slipperiness and noise (as

slipperiness and noise are not sufficiently developed yet for standardization purposes); as far as noise is concerned, a co-operation with CEN/TC 126 was established. The TC agreed that the following products are not included in the work programme because there is no common experience or expertise in the committee's constitution: earth, chemical and composting toilets, modular public toilets, preformed toilet modules, prefabricated toilet pods, macerating toilets. Squatting toilets are also excluded.

Official liaison was established with:
AQUA Europa
CERAME-UNIE.

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

Priorities:

- Completion of existing program of candidate harmonised standards in order to meet the requests of M/110;
- Completion of existing program of voluntary standards;

4.3 Environmental aspects

The ecological pillar requires preserving of resources. For ceramic sanitary appliances sustainability means saving of resources, optimized exploitation of raw materials, (energy-) optimized production and optimized transport (delivery chain).

The sanitary ceramic industry uses raw materials composed of natural mineral resources. Extraction of these raw materials causes a considerable intrusion in the environment of the respective country of origin, sometimes with far-reaching ecological consequences. Due to this, the extraction procedure should be handled in a sustainable way by subsequent restoration to a natural state.

The program of strong sustainability in the extractive industry describes the efficient use of deposits e. g. the least deposit loss and the highest yield in processing and further procedure steps, including the provision that as few additives as possible are processed.

It is in the nature of raw materials extraction that in the course of time deposits are economically exhausted.

In principle the life cycle can be divided in four periods of time. First the deposit is explored, followed by the phase of development which basically comprises machinery or necessary infrastructure. This is followed by the operational phase i. e. the real extraction of raw materials. The operational phase ends with the post treatment, typically referring to the shutdown of the mine, dismantling of sites and re-cultivation of waste tips and processing pools and last of all re-cultivation of the open pit.

Sustainable production of sanitary appliances will reduce emission and will have a positive impact on climate

change. Efficient production technologies (e. g. in terms of energy) deal with natural resources in a responsible way.

In addition renewable energy and other ecologic technologies will minimize negative environmental impact. Ecological transport reduces environmental impact by using new integrated traffic concepts and coordination system for vehicles and infrastructure.

Reduction of waste material and a more efficient utilization of natural resources are considered as major targets of sustainable development.

In order to protect people and the environment, hazardous substances have to be evaluated. Emissions of hazardous substances emitted from saleable ceramic sanitary appliance are deemed to be non-existent.

Economic sustainability requires a practicable and sustainable economic system with a specific focus on the use of natural resources. The impact of the use of natural resources combined with the costs for the user will be evaluated.

It is in the general interest to save water. WCs and urinals have to fulfil two conflicting requirements: on one hand to use as little water as possible for cleaning the appliance and on the other hand to use as much water as necessary for flushing the drainage system(s). Different drainage systems are in use in various European countries. This again leads to specific requirements for sanitary appliances.

The behaviour of the end user has an equally important influence on water saving.

The type of power supply as well as the energy consumption of a product during its life time has a major economic influence.

The social and functional aspects of ceramics sanitary appliances cover various aspects of user friendliness, safety in use and maintenance.

CEN/TC 163/WG 3 has prepared a standard on this subject EN 16578 to provide requirements and classification values for the assessment of the sustainability of ceramic sanitary appliances.

5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC 163 WORK PROGRAMME

The persistence in maintaining out-of-date definitions of essential requirements has been identified as a hindering factor in the course of the work so far carried out.

There is a general lacking of knowledge of the real meaning of slipperiness, a fundamental criteria for users safety, as well as of noise; this even more emphasises the need for the implementation of suitable pre-normative studies upon it.