BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 167
STRUCTURAL BEARINGS

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 state of the art in the field addressed by the scope of the CEN committee

EN 1337 actually represents the most updated technology in the field of structural bearings, worlwide and is suitable for most of the civil engineering structures.

Recent or expected technological changes and major innovations related to the industry sector, products or materials addressed by the scope of the CEN committee

PTFE as described by EN 1337-2 may become inadequate for very long span bridges (over 1000 m span) or where the repetition of loads is very high (High Speed Railways). This kind of structures is built more and more frequently, worldwide. Under these circumstances the wearing resistance of the PTFE may be inadequate.

Recent or expected changes and major innovations in the disciplines or practices addressed by the scope of the CEN committee

The most important technological innovation in the field is represented by the development of innovative sliding materials that may be used in alternative to the PTFE as described in EN 1337-2, providing higher wearing resistance and compressive strength.

Categories of relevant stakeholders (for example, industry, government, public interest groups, investors, lending institutions, employees, customers, suppliers, contractors, media, consumers, local communities)

Stakeholders are mainly goverment institutions building infrastructures. Minor stakeholders are industry and private investors.

The concerns and perceptions of relevant stakeholders

One of the main concerns of the relevant stakeholders is maintenance and expected service life. Products with minor maintenance problems and longer or even unlimited service life would be welcome.

Other relevant international, regional or national standards or voluntary initiatives
The most important International Standard in the field is the AASHTO that is used in many important projects worldwide. EN 1337 however represents a valid alternative and is becoming more and more used also outside Europe.
National Standards of other extra-European countries have normally only local influence for national tenders only.

Real or potential technical barriers to trade related to the scope of the CEN committee, due to diverging national, regional or other standards and/or technical regulations. If possible, an estimation of their financial impact on trade should be provided

Technological barriers may be re-established by some European or extra-European country by setting some additional requirements for the approval of the products. To avoid this, the Standard should be regularly updated to the latest technological innovations.
An example is given from the corrosion protection as described in EN 1337-9. The given requirements seems to be inadequate for certain environment conditions. This Standard should be improved to prevent the specification of additional requirements from some Member State.

The extent of existing or pending patents related to the industry sector addressed by the scope of the CEN committee

Valid patent related to EN 1337 no longer exists.

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:

Total international trade in the industry sector/products/materials (in €) over the last 3 years

May be estimated in 200 M€ per year.

Imports and exports in the industry sector/products/materials (in €) by major geographical regions and/or by countries over the last 3 years

Import is negligible. Export may be estimated 30% of the total volume, mainly from Italy, Germany and France.

Estimated number of companies (European-wide) operating in the industry sector or producing the products/materials over the past three years

There are approximately 10 European companies in the field.

Estimated employment (European-wide) in the industry sector over the last 3 years

The estimated employment may be estimated 1000 persons as direct employes and 1000 indirect.

Estimated percentage of products in the marketplace self-declared or certified to the CEN committee's European Standards over the past 3 years

The percentage of CE marked products is still not relevant as the CE marking is not yet compulsory in all Member States and for all type of structural bearings.

Indication of cases where organizations (European-wide) require compliance with the CEN committee's European Standards by suppliers, contractors and other service providers

The relevant parts of the EN 1337 are harmonized, so compliance with them will gradually become compulsory in all Member States.

Indication of cases of governmental adoption of the CEN committee's European Standards into legislation, regulations or procurement requirements

Same as above.

Indication of cases where CEN committee's European Standards are cited as normative references in European Standards of own and other CEN committees

EN 1337 is cited as normative reference in several parts of Eurocodes, normally in Part-2 on bridges.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

This list could include descriptions of how the CEN committee's standards:

Respond to or are expected to respond to recent changes and major innovations in the field addressed by the scope of the CEN committee

CEN TC 167 is currently revising the EN 1337. The recent changes or innovation will be incorporated in the revision of the EN 1337 series subject to a wide agreement within CEN/TC 167.

Removed or are expected to remove technical barriers to trade and open markets throughout Europe

This target will be achieved introducing in the Standard all the necessary improvements to prevent some European or extra-European country setting some additional requirements for the approval of the products.

Support European legislation, in particular New Approach Directives

The following parts of EN 1337 are available standards already cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under the Construction Product Directive (CPD, Directive 89/106) and confer presumption of conformity with Essential Requirements of that Directive:

- Part 3 Elastomeric bearings
- Part 4 Roller bearings
- Part 5 Pot bearings
- Part 6 Rocker bearings
- Part 7 Spherical and cylindrical PTFE bearings

Part 8 “Guide bearings and restrain bearings” is a draft candidate harmonised standard.

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 scope of CEN/TC 167 is the standardisation of structural bearing device used for bridges, stadiums, industrial buildings etc. describing the various types and giving the recommendations for design, specifications for materials, manufacture and installation, criteria for acceptance and testing. Excluded, for example, are: connections between piers and columns obtained by reinforced concrete, welded or bolted connections.

Anti-seismic devices (covered by CEN/TC 340) are also excluded from the scope.

Based on the aforementioned considerations, it is proposed that the CEN/TC 167 would concentrate on the objectives and strategic directions indicated in this Business Plan.

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

<u>Prioritisation of projects</u>

Priorities of the work programme are the following:

Priority 1
- removal of editorial mistakes in EN 1337 series
- removal of technical mistakes in EN 1337 series
- updating of Eurocode references (ENV to EN)
- set up of a common layout of the content for all the Parts of EN 1337

Priority 2
- check of consistency with Eurocodes
- check of consistency among the Parts of EN 1337
- remove difficulties of interpretation, especially in respect of CE marking
- improving the technical content according to the new state of the art

<u>Co-operation and liaisons with other CEN committees</u>

In order to ensure the necessary coordination with other related activities, a strong liaison is to be set up with CEN/TC 250 “Structural Eurocodes” (especially in respect of the compliance of the EN

1337 series with the EC Guidance Paper L “Application and use of Eurocodes”) and CEN/TC 340 “Anti-seismic devices”.

A liaison with Sector Group 16 “Structural bearings” of GNB (Group of Notified Bodies) has been also agreed, starting on 2006-11-24.

Expected deliverables

The work programme would be based on the revision of the following 8 parts of EN 1337, for which is to maintain the EN status:

- Part 1 General design rules, including the subjects of the previous Part 9 Protection - Part 10 Inspection and maintenance and Part 11 Transport, storage and installation
- Part 2 Sliding elements
- Part 3 Elastomeric bearings
- Part 4 Roller bearings
- Part 5 Pot bearings
- Part 6 Rocker bearings
- Part 7 Spherical and cylindrical PTFE bearings
- Part 8 Guide bearings and restraint bearings

Any specific special/innovative structure and/or way of working in the CEN/TC

In order to simplify the work of revision of the existing parts of EN 1337, it is agreed to give the task to one single WG “Revision” (WG 1).
WG 1 will consist of members of which the participation at all meetings is required for the consistency of the work and in addition, members that can be relied on for specific aspects, the latter ones do not have to participate at all meetings.

NSBs have been requested to appoint their experts in WG 1 recommending the participation of members that already have been involved in this project in the past and thus combine their technical expertise in the field of bridge bearings with the historical background of EN 1337.

4.3 Environmental aspects

In line with the CEN policy on addressing environmental issues in product standards, CEN/TC 167 recognises the need to consider any potential impact by taking into account environmental issues in its standards. Therefore, it is necessary to understand how the product interacts with the environment during its life-cycle.

For this reason, standards under CEN/TC 167 should include processes, techniques and materials that can help to control, reduce or avoid negative environmental impacts, also involving material reuse, recycling and recovery at end-of-life.

CEN/TC 167 will encourage experts to include environmental issues, at any stage in the standard development process, in their comments or proposals inviting them to participate actively in developing robust and properly validated standards.

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

Expert resources are not sufficiently available (for certain projects)

Expert resources are considered sufficient for the completion of the work programme.

Specific expertise for a project is lacking, which could affect the project's development as well as the credibility of the resulting standard in the business community

The best expertise available throughout Europe is involved in the TC works.

Validation of a test method is dependent upon funding being available to undertake the necessary pre/co-normative research

Not applicable.

Legal/regulatory issues such as uncertainties regarding a possible EC Directive, which in turn may necessitate modifications of the content and target dates for projects in the work program

Not applicable.