

BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 168

CHAINS, ROPES, WEBBING, SLINGS AND ACCESSORIES - SAFETY

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 products that CEN/TC 168 are concerned with are used world-wide in virtually every sector of industry, in particular the transport, construction, mining, manufacturing, offshore and leisure industries.
- Many of these products are manufactured outside of the EU by manufacturers who supply worldwide.
- It is a very competitive market with price being a very significant factor.
- The overriding 'safety' nature of the committee's work items is reflected in that the vast majority of the standards are mandated and directly address the relevant essential safety requirements of EU directive 2006/42/EC.
- Actively involved in CEN/TC 168 are multinational and national companies, insurance and government health and safety organisations, representative national and multinational associations and national standard organisations.
- The progressive introduction of these standards should have a direct effect on safety by reducing accidents caused by faulty lifting equipment in all sectors of industry.

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:

- European product directives address matters concerning safety. It is recognised that the introduction of European Standards will enhance the directives and assist to develop the single European market.
- CEN/TC 168 ensures that the standards for which they are responsible address the relevant essential safety requirements of the directive 2006/42/EC. The importance of this work has been recognised by the commission by its decision to mandate and fund the vast majority of the committees work items.
- The economy of scale has resulted in fewer manufacturers of these products with a consequent growth in international trade.
- Many of the products within the scope of TC 168 are manufactured outside of Europe by manufacturers who supply worldwide.
- The quality of the European Standards is such that they are increasingly being specified worldwide.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

- The main objective of the committee is to deliver and maintain a series of harmonized European Standards for lifting accessories and components that meet the essential safety requirements of EU directive 2006/42/EC.
- The committee also deliver and maintain a series of standards for lashing equipment.
- All of the standards developed by the committee are safety related, with attendant benefits.
- Many of the component standards are invoked in other harmonized European product standards.
- Progressively, as the committee's standards are used, technical trade barriers will be removed and the economic benefits of needing only one product for all markets will be realised.
- The standards published by the committee are used as the basis for improving the related ISO standards, the ultimate benefit being harmonized EN ISO standards.

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 committee has already produced over 40 standards covering the subjects of:

- 1) welded round steel link chains and chain slings;
- 2) steel wire ropes, their terminations and wire rope slings;
- 3) fibre rope slings, flat textile slings and roundslings;
- 4) hooks and other accessories;
- 5) load restraint assemblies.

The majority were also cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC and therefore confer presumption of conformity with Essential Requirements of that Directive.

The focus of the committee's work has changed to one of maintenance. The committee now monitors developments in technology and will publish amendments or revisions as necessary.

The committee also monitors work in ISO with a view to aligning EN and ISO standards under the Vienna Agreement.

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

- Each working group has a scope of work which is a logical sub-division of the scope of the Technical Committee.

- Working groups as against sub-committees were chosen so that experts could meet free from national views/constraints to discuss and resolve technical issues.
- When the technical committee and working groups were established the majority of the work items on the work programme were registered. The intention was to develop standards in parallel across the working groups.
- The technical committee agreed to work in English only during meetings, eliminating the requirement for parallel translation. Only resolutions are routinely translated, which the secretary organises after each meeting.
- Technical committee meetings are convened only when necessary. In-between working groups convene their own meetings. All other matters are resolved by correspondence via the secretary.
- Each working group will be responsible for the drafting of amendments and revisions to standards that they originated.
- To work in harmony with the work of ISO committees in particular ISO/TC 96, 105 & 111.

4.3 Environmental aspects

- The majority of products within the scope are manufactured from steel produced by conventional methods. Some products are manufactured from textiles and aluminium.
- There are no significant environment aspects when these products are in service.
- They have a long service life and can be 100% recycled at the end of life.
- Single use disposable products are not within scope.

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

The current work programme of the committee is complete.