



BUSINESS PLAN
CEN/TC 191
FIXED FIREFIGHTING SYSTEMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business Environment

TC191 is responsible for standardization in the field of components, extinguishing media and systems for fixed firefighting systems. This includes the design construction and maintenance of fixed firefighting systems and smoke and heat control systems in buildings.

Benefits

TC191 produces standards relating to suppression systems, components and media that are essential for ensuring the fire protection of buildings and their occupants. There are currently over twenty TC191 standards cited in the EU Official Journal with a similar number of harmonized standards currently under development.

Priorities

To produce harmonized European standards that meet the essential safety requirements of the EU Construction Products Directive (89/106/EEC).

There are currently about forty TC191 published standards, most of which are, or will be harmonized. There are about twenty draft standards currently under development.

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:

TC191 is responsible for standardization in the field of:

- components for fixed firefighting systems;
- the design, construction and maintenance of fixed firefighting systems primarily for installation in buildings and other construction works with recommendations for other possible applications;
- components for fixed smoke and heat ventilation systems;
- the design, construction and maintenance of fixed smoke and heat ventilation systems for installation in buildings;
- fire extinguishing media for use in fixed systems and other firefighting equipment.

Fixed firefighting systems standards are used across a wide range of applications. Stakeholders include: Industry (both users and manufacturers), contractors, government and testing facilities.

The majority of the TC191 work programme is produced under a Mandate from CEN to meet the essential safety requirements of the EU Construction Products Directive.

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 total market for EU Construction Products is estimated at 200 Billion Euros per year and intra-EU trade accounts for approximately 20% of this. For most Construction Products, the EU is a net exporter.

With the introduction of CE marking, there is a direct reduction in the trading costs for producers. This is related to the reduction in costs of multiple testing and production of multiple product variants to meet different national standards. These costs are offset by initial costs for setting up CE marking and possible additional costs if the CE marking requirements are stricter than the previous requirements.

However, there are also savings to users relating to cost and delivery time. Competition effects make companies reduce prices and increase efficiency. Customers are able to select products from the most economical source.

It is estimated that the initial costs involved with CE marking of products are outweighed by the benefits in the long term.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

Effective suppression systems, components and media are essential for ensuring the fire protection of buildings and their occupants. This is shown by the requirement in the Construction Products Directive for safety in the case of fire.

There are currently about forty TC191 published standards, most of which are, or will be harmonized. There are about twenty draft standards currently under development.

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

CEN/TC 191 will continue to work on the elaboration of standards for fixed firefighting systems to meet the requirements of the European fire suppression market and the requirement of the Construction Products Directive.

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

CEN/TC 191 has concentrated on the drafting of component standards to meet Mandate M/109. These will be supported where required by design standards. In some cases, the Vienna Agreement has been used to reduce the duplication of effort. Now that there is a wider use of electronic means, CEN/TC 191 will increasingly work by correspondence instead of technical meetings. The majority of the meetings will be held at Working Group and Task Group level. CEN/TC191 will normally hold one plenary meeting per year. All working groups and task groups will work in English and the main drafting of texts will be in English.

CEN/TC 191 has found that it is more efficient to concentrate the drafting of the standards in the Working Groups and allow the TC to concentrate on procedures and strategies for developing the work programme. The TC also serves as a forum for resolving any technical or procedural difficulties experienced by the Working Groups. This method of working has now been established in CEN Optimization.

CEN/TC 191 has established and will maintain strong liaisons with the following committees and organisations:

CEN Committees

- CEN/TC70 “Manual means of fire fighting equipment”
- CEN/TC72 “Fire detection and fire alarm systems”
- CEN/TC114 “Safety in machinery”
- CEN/TC127 “Fire safety in buildings”
- CEN/TC133 “Copper and copper alloys“
- CEN/TC156 “Ventilation for buildings”
- CEN/TC192 “Fire Service Equipment”
- CEN/TC197 ”Pumps”
- CEN/TC305 “Explosive atmospheres”

ISO Committees

- ISO/TC21/SC5 “Fixed firefighting systems using water“
- ISO/TC21/SC6 “Foam and powder media and fixed firefighting systems using foam and powder”
- ISO/TC21/SC8 “Gaseous media and firefighting systems using gas” (Where the Vienna Agreement is operating)
- ISO/TC21/SC11 “Smoke and heat control systems”

Organisations

- Comité Européen des Assurances (CEA)
- European Committee of the Manufacturers of Fire Engines and Apparatus (Eurofeu)
- European Group for Rooflights and Smoke Ventilation (Eurolux)
- European Committee of Air Handling and Air Conditioning Equipment Manufacturers (Eurovent)

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

CEN/TC 191 foresees the following factors affecting the timely production of its work programme:

1) Work Programme

TC 191 has a very large work programme, which has been increased by the requirements of Mandate M/109. The committee recognises CEN's requirement to respect the target dates agreed with the Commission and under the Three Year Timeframe and will apply all available resources to this end. It also recognises that these resources are not unlimited. The development of drafting tools has helped to some extent as has the effective support by NSBs to working groups. This is strictly limited by the resources available to all NSB's.

Whilst the availability of experts to work in the core activities of TC 191 is satisfactory, future demands for liaison in areas such as fire safety engineering will necessitate the involvement of more experts from the industry and end users.

2) "Kits" and "Systems"

The production of installation standards for Fixed Firefighting Systems has become subject to recent reconsideration by the responsible Working Groups. In some cases this has been because of the relatively small industry involvement and the perceived cost of subjecting these systems to the Mandate. In other cases, problems have been identified with the interpretation of "Kits" as defined in the guidance notes for the CPD. Procedures have been invoked which may remove some of the systems standards from the Mandate.

3) Fire Safety Engineering

CEN/TC 191 finds that the lack of a coherent strategy for Fire Safety Engineering in CEN could lead to a number of CEN/TC's claiming control of this area of work.

At the present time there is no need for CEN to write any specific standards on FSE.

We note that the existing CEN Fire TCs (CEN/TC 70, CEN/TC 72, CEN/TC127, CEN/TC 191 and

CEN/TC 192) have the requisite expertise and experience to ensure any fire safety engineering principles are incorporated in their own standards.

However, we feel that Fire Advisory Network should be responsible for any CEN wide co-ordination following the task assigned to it by CEN/BT.