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ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Regulatory Policy
Standardisation

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" STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS " 98/34 CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

WRITTEN PROCEDURE : **Deadline: 10th October 2006**

Standardisation mandate under the Low Voltage Directive 73/23/EEC (LVD) addressed to CENELEC for the revision of relevant safety standards for electrical household appliances with respect to the safety of children, older people and people with disabilities.

X	Information
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	Discussion
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X	Consultation
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1. Procedure

The members of the Committee will find attached, for their information and comment at the latest on 10th October 2006, the text of the mandate to CENELEC in the field of the Low Voltage Directive 73/23/EC . Any comments should be addressed to:

David Eardley (david.eardley@ec.europa.eu) and
Richard Collin (richard.collin@ec.europa.eu)

2. Follow up

Comments will be taken into account as far as possible.

Originating service: DG ENTR H/5

Responsible person: David Eardley

Mandate to CENELEC in the field of the Low Voltage Directive 73/23/EC

1. Title

Standardisation Mandate under the Low Voltage Directive 73/23/EEC (LVD) addressed to the European Standards Body CENELEC for the revision of relevant safety standards for electrical household appliances with respect to the safety of children, older people and people with disabilities.

2. Purpose

To review the European standard series EN 60335 and amend where relevant part 1 and parts 2 with respect to reasonably foreseeable situations where children, older people and people with disabilities come into contact with electrical household appliances .

3. Rationale

The Low Voltage Directive (LVD) requires that all products placed on the market do "... not endanger the safety of persons ... when properly installed and maintained and used in applications for which it was made" (art. 2 Directive 73/23/EEC). However, EN 60335 Part 1 used , where necessary together with the relevant part 2, to support the LVD contains the clause that the standard "does not in general take into account the use of appliances by children and infirm people without supervision".

CENELEC has elaborated European Standards for the safety of many types of electrical equipment. In these standards, the consideration of the needs of children, older people and people with disabilities has already been taken into account to different extents, including some cases where there is no limitation in scope (e.g. EN 60335-2-82 "service machines and amusement machines").

There is growing recognition a number of safety standards for electrical household appliances do not fully address the needs of children or older and/or disabled people¹.

¹ ANEC Child Exclusion Clauses Survey Report 2003. European survey on the use of electrical appliances by children; UK DTI Child Appealing Products Research Report 2003; BSI Exclusion Clauses and Ageing Survey 2004. European survey on the use of electrical appliances by children; ANEC Legal Study 2004, Exclusion clauses in standards under the EU Low Voltage Directive 73/23/EC (Children and 'infirm people' using electrical appliances).

It is commonly accepted that elderly populations are growing in size in many parts of the world and that, increasingly, products and services will need to be designed with them in mind. The gradual loss of vision, flexibility and coordination that elderly people experience can make certain models of household appliances unsafe in use.

The EN 60335 series of standard was written in the social and educational context where it was taken for granted that children and “infirm people” did not use the products covered by its scope without supervision. However, nowadays it can be expected that domestic appliances are being used by children, older people and people with disabilities even without supervision .

It is therefore desirable to evaluate safety standards for electrical household appliances in order to more satisfactorily address this situation . This work would be carried out with a view to harmonise the approach to safety for children, older people and people with disabilities in all relevant European harmonised standards providing a presumption of conformity for household electrical appliances to the LVD.

This can only be completed if part 1 and (where relevant) parts 2 of the standard cover expected hazards for persons using (including handling) the appliances. Where appropriate, risks encountered by children, older people and people with disabilities when coming into contact with household appliances need to be assessed, and, where necessary, the relevant parts 2 of EN 60335 complemented by provisions addressing these risks.

The work already done within IEC also needs to be taken into account in order to avoid contradiction and undue deviations from international safety standards

In addition, the revision of standards in the light of CEN/CENELEC Guide 6 “Guidelines for standards developers to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities” (transposing IEC/ISO Guide 71) has been explicitly mentioned in the Mandate 283 on safety and usability of products for elderly and people with disabilities issued in 1999.

In recognition of this growing phenomenon and in response to the ANEC Report, in its June 2005 meeting, CENELEC TC 61 (Safety of household and similar electrical appliances), decided to set up WG4 “Use of appliances by vulnerable people, including children”. The Chairman of CENELEC TC 61 is the convener of the WG.

4. Description of the mandated work

1. The Commission requests CENELEC to review and amend EN 60335 part 1 and relevant Parts 2 with respect to the safety of children, older people and people with disabilities.

In particular, it shall be reflected in the scope of part 1 of the standard EN 60335 that it covers all safety aspects of household appliances. This includes the consideration of reasonably foreseeable situations where children, older people and people with disabilities are coming into contact with these appliances. If necessary, explanatory information on this could be provided in the introduction of Part 1 as well as the relevant Part 2 where this exists

Where relevant, risks encountered by children, older people and people with disabilities when coming into contact with household appliances shall be assessed, and, where necessary, the relevant parts 2 of EN 60335 shall be complemented by provisions addressing these risks.

In undertaking this work it is recognized that some risks (e.g. the hot surfaces of cooking appliances, cutting parts of electrical knives) as well as severe disabilities may be impossible to address by technical means. In such cases, in line with risk management techniques, specific warnings or instructions may be introduced to ameliorate the residual risks .

2. The Commission requests CENELEC to consider alignment and interface with the work done in IEC in order to avoid contradiction and undue deviations from worldwide recognized safety standards .

Where possible, the tasks are to be done simultaneously.

5. Execution of the work

In carrying out the mandate, appropriate coordination and liaison with relevant activities and organisations shall be established at international, European and national levels.

It shall also take into account:

- The work initiated by CENELEC/TC 61;
- ISO/IEC Guide 50: Safety aspects – Guidelines for child safety;

- the work done by ISO/TC 159/WG2 “Ergonomics for people with special requirements”;
- CEN/CENELEC Guide 6: Guidelines for standards developers to address the needs of older persons with disabilities.

Within 6 months after the acceptance of this mandate, CENELEC shall deliver to the Commission a programme of work including the time schedule envisaged for its execution and a list of relevant Parts 2 of EN 60335 which need to be reviewed and amended.

Within 36 months after acceptance of this mandate, CENELEC shall deliver the revised Parts for publication in the OJEU.

At 12 and 24 months, CENELEC shall provide a Report to the Commission on progress to-date.

6. Standstill clause

Acceptance by CENELEC of this mandate starts the standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 (OJ N° L 204 of 21.7.1998).

7. Titles of standard

CENELEC will forward to the Commission titles of the standard in the official languages of the European Union, along a copy of the standards in the working languages of CENELEC

8. Bodies to be associated

CENELEC should include in the standardisation work the relevant standardisation stakeholders at European level, such as ANEC, CECED, ECOS, NORMAPME and ETUI-REHS as well as other interested parties, in particular the Swedish National Electrical Safety Board.