

in 60 seconds



The content of this leaflet is inspired by material published by KAN, the Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung (www.kan.de)



ANEC is supported financially by the European Union & EFTA



ANEC@2015

How are European standards developed?

In principle, anyone can propose for work that may lead to a (full) European Standard (EN) or other "standards deliverable" (e.g. Technical Specification (TS) or Technical Report (TR)). In CEN-CENELEC, most work is proposed by members i.e. National Standardisation Bodies or National Committees. ETSI is structured differently – for more information on ETSI and its processes, please contact the ANEC Secretariat.



If a sufficient number of CEN-CENELEC members are willing to be involved in the development work, and if the financing is secured, CEN-CENELEC assigns the project to a **Technical Committee (TC)**, which delegates the drafting to one of its **Working Groups (WGs)**. At the national level, mirror committees of stakeholders determine their national contributions to the development of the standard.

The CEN-CENELEC members appoint delegates to the TC to act as a bridge between the European and national standardisation levels and to represent the national view. Experts appointed by a TC to its WGs primarily express their opinions as individuals.

As consumers are underrepresented in the standardisation process in most countries, ANEC WGs set positions in the European consumer interest which ANEC presents directly to the TCs and/or WGs.

The WG drafts the text of the standard. The TC decides when the draft is sufficiently advanced to be passed to the national members for the public Enquiry stage as a draft European standard ("prEN").

During Enquiry, anyone may comment on the draft. National members also vote on the draft and it may be adopted automatically if there is enough support. Otherwise, the WG considers comments submitted, revises the draft, and the TC usually sends it as an "FprEN" to the national members for the Formal Vote. If the draft achieves at least 71% of a weighted vote, the EN is adopted and must be implemented as a national standard in all countries of the CEN-CENELEC memberships. ANEC does not have a vote but has some rights as a "Partner Organisation" in decisions of the TC.

If the EN was drafted in answer to a mandate/standardisation request of the European Commission/EFTA, the publication of the EN reference in the Official Journal provides manufacturers with a "presumption of conformity" to legislation (e.g. the Toy Safety Directive).

The standardisation process

1. Proposal & acceptance

Any interested party can introduce a proposal for new work. Once a proposal for an EN is adopted, national work within the scope of the EN work item is frozen in the countries of the CEN-CENELEC memberships ("standstill").

2. Drafting

3. Enquiry

The EN is developed under the responsibility of a Technical Committee (TC). Once the TC considers the draft (prEN) ready, it is released for Enquiry, a public commenting stage open to everyone and vote of the national members. If the draft gains enough votes, it may be published immediately as an EN.

4. Adoption by weighted vote

5. Publication

Otherwise, the draft is revised to reflect the comments and the TC approves a final draft (FprEN), then sent to national members for Formal Vote. If adopted, the EN must be given the status of national standard in all 33 member countries, and conflicting national standards withdrawn. An EN is reviewed by the TC after a maximum of 5 years.

6. Review