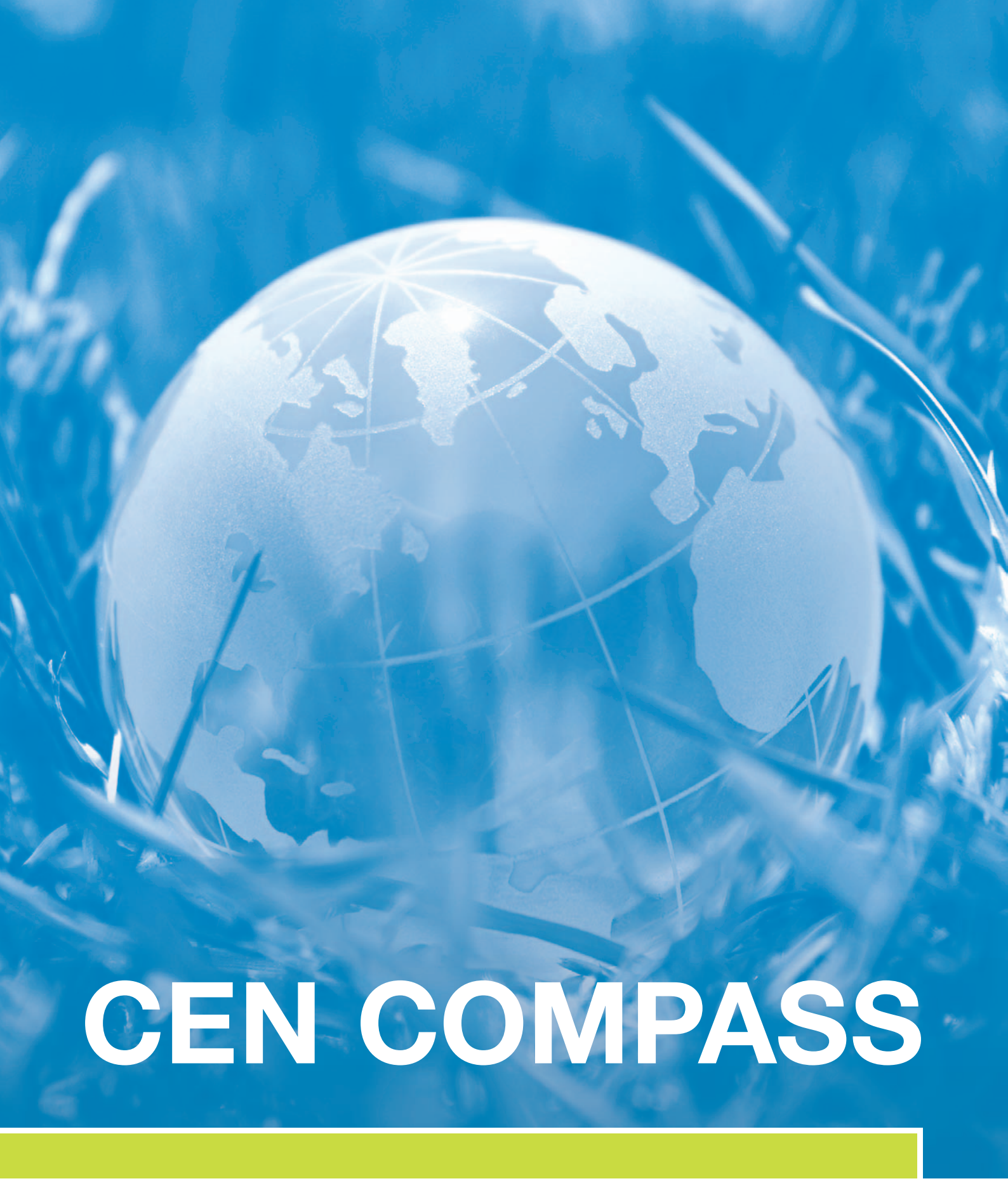

CEN COMPASS

THE WORLD OF EUROPEAN STANDARDS

STANDARDS WORK

Can you imagine…

a Europe with different credit card sizes, a Europe where you couldn't be certain that petrol was the same in every country or where Genetically Modified Organisms in food were classified differently? A Europe like that would be chaotic for all of its citizens and daily life would be far more complicated.

> *"Standardization facilitates the exchange of goods and services by eliminating technical barriers."*

Fortunately, the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is smoothly becoming a reality in today's single market Europe. Trade barriers are being eliminated through the development of common European Standards. It is CEN's mission to develop European Standards. In this role, it is joined by its sister European Standards Organizations: CENELEC (specializing in electrotechnical standardization) and ETSI (specializing in standardization for information and communication technology).

GOOD NEWS FOR CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS

Consumers and producers alike benefit from standardization through increased product safety and quality as well as lower prices. With one common standard for 30 European countries, a product can reach a far wider market with much lower development and testing costs. Manufacturers benefit from being able to use a broader basis of external suppliers, from greater quality assurance, and increased efficiency. Customers are more likely to accept a product or service which they can trust.

> *"Standards belong to the knowledge economy that underpins European industry and society."*

With its commitment to reflect innovation and the results of research and development, CEN is able to respond to new market demands and European policies.

THE PROCESS

European Standards are based on a consensus which reflects the economic and social interests of 30 CEN Member countries channelled through their National Standards Bodies. Most standards are initiated by industry. Other standardization projects can come from consumers, Small and Medium Enterprises or associations, to name some other sources.

In addition, many standards are developed to support European legislation. 'Reference to standards' within a legislative text is viewed as a more effective means of ensuring that products meet the essential health and safety requirements of legislation than the writing of detailed laws. This allows both processes to support each other, without causing a slowdown.

Besides European Standards, CEN produces other reference documents which can be developed quickly and easily: Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, and Workshop Agreements.

BEYOND EUROPE

European Standards are drafted in a global perspective. CEN has signed the 'Vienna Agreement' with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through which common European and international standards can be developed in parallel. More than 30% of the European Standards adopted by CEN are identical to international standards. These EN/ISO standards have the dual benefits of automatic and identical implementation in 30 CEN Member countries, and global applicability. In addition to the EN/ISO Standards, a number of ENs developed by CEN are closely linked to ISO standards.

WHAT STANDARDS DO FOR YOU

- Standards enhance the safety of products
- Standards encourage economies of scale
- Standards enable manufacturers to comply with European legislation
- Standards promote the interoperability of products and services
- Standards facilitate the uptake of innovation in the marketplace
- Standards encourage greater competition
- Standards facilitate trade by diminishing trade barriers
- Standards support environmental sustainability
- Standards reflect the outcome of research and development
- Standards promote common understanding

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN STANDARDIZATION

Standards are driven by business and drafted by experts in the field. In building European consensus, industry, trade federations, public authorities, academia and NGO representatives are invited to contribute to the standardization process. It is this open participation which accounts for the strength of European standardization.

"A European Standard is shaped by those who contribute to its development."

The route for participating in the development of European Standards is through National Standards Bodies (NSBs). They send balanced delegations to represent the concerned interests in a standardization project. European trade associations and interest groups – representing environmentalists, consumers, trade unions, as well as small and medium enterprises, amongst others – also have the opportunity to contribute to the development of a standard.

PARTICIPATION COUNTS

Participation in the process allows a stakeholder to anticipate changes to standards in their sector as well as have a say in the content. A manufacturer wishing to participate in the CEN process contacts his National Standards Body, either directly or through a trade association. Through the National Standards Body, the manufacturer can become involved in a national 'mirror committee' which is responsible for developing the national position on a particular standard and presenting this position to the relevant CEN Technical Committee. It may also be possible to become a member of the national delegation to the CEN Technical Committee or to be nominated to serve as an expert in one of the Working Groups.

"One European Standard is identical from Portugal to Finland and from Cyprus to Iceland."

NEW STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVES

CEN actively pursues standardization activities in new and diverse areas. We are keen to identify new subjects and areas to which we can offer our standardization services. Technology develops, spreads and transforms rapidly and in innovative areas standardization can be of considerable help to develop new markets. If you would like to see standardization activities in your field, please address your enquiry to **infodesk@cen.eu**.

DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN STANDARD

Starting the work

A proposal for a European Standard may come from any interested party. Most are presented by the National Standards Bodies and, where European legislation is concerned, the European Commission (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Taking into account the time required and the resources available, the appropriate CEN Technical Committee makes a decision on the adoption of the proposal. An adopted standardization project is allocated to one of the Working Groups for the drafting of the standard. Working Groups respond to the Technical Committee.

If the proposal is for a new field of standardization activity, a decision is first made by the CEN Technical Board, who then sends the work to a new or existing Technical Committee.

One of the values of CEN is that, once a standardization project has been adopted, the National Standards Bodies put all national activity within the scope of the project on hold. No new projects are initiated, nor are revisions of existing standards undertaken at a national level. This obligation is called 'standstill' and allows efforts to be focused on European harmonization.

Public comment – a further strength

Once the draft of a European Standard is prepared, it is released for public comment, a process known in CEN as the 'CEN Enquiry'. During the public commenting stage, everyone who has an interest (e.g. manufacturers, public authorities, consumers, etc.) may comment on the draft. These views are collated by the National Standards Bodies and analyzed by the CEN Technical Committee.

Adoption by weighted vote

Taking into account the comments resulting from the CEN enquiry, a final version is drafted which is then submitted to the CEN Members for a weighted formal voting.

1 European Standard = 30 national standards

After ratification by CEN, each of the National Standards Bodies adopts the European Standard as an identical national standard and withdraws any national standards which conflict with the new European Standard. Hence one European Standard becomes the national standard in the 30 member countries of CEN.

For example, the European Standard on toy safety, EN 71, has been adopted as NF EN 71 by AFNOR in France and as EVS EN 71 by EVS in Estonia. These standards are made available by the National Standards Body in each country.

MAKING A EUROPEAN STANDARD

STANDARDIZATION PROCESS

The flowchart shows the typical process for the proposal, development, adoption and publication of a European Standard by a Technical Committee. Other options exist, including the parallel development of common standards with ISO.

3 YEARS

Proposal

Any interested party is able to introduce proposals for new work to CEN.

Acceptance

Once the proposal is accepted national work is frozen in 30 countries (standstill).

Drafting

Development by appointed experts (Working Group).

CEN Enquiry

Triggering public enquiries in 30 countries. 420M European citizens have the opportunity to comment on the draft standards.

Adoption by weighted voice

The final draft standard is created considering the comments from the enquiry.

Publication of the European Standard (EN)

Each EN is published identically by the standards bodies in 30 countries and conflicting national standards are withdrawn.

Users

THE CEN SECTORS

Standards are everywhere in daily life each time quality, efficiency, security and compatibility are at stake. Tables, doors, paper sizes, and railway tracks are all produced according to a standard. Training and services, for example of call centre operators or translators, may also be carried out in accordance with a European Standard. CEN covers most areas of economic activity, and provides an individual response to sector needs. The CEN Management Centre in Brussels, which provides its services to the decentralized CEN network, also has specialists who can advise and support standardization activities.

OUR SECTORS ARE

Air and space - aerospace and aeronautics, air traffic management, and product assurance, safety and technical requirements relating to space systems and activities, etc.

ICT - application of information and communications technologies, eBusiness, eHealth, eLearning, etc.

Chemistry - fuels and biofuels as well as adhesives, wood preservatives, explosives for civil use, etc.

Materials - steel, copper, aluminium, lead, zinc, tin, paper, leather, textiles, plastic, etc.

Construction - structures, products, materials, equipment but also fire resistance, geotextiles, energy efficiency of buildings, etc.

Measurement - water, gas and heat meters or pressure gauges, etc.

Consumer products - toys, gymnastics, sports and playground equipment, textiles and fireworks, etc.

Mechanical engineering - safety standards for machinery, specifications for pressure equipment, boilers, pipes, tanks, etc.

Energy and utilities - gas and water supplies, power engineering, cogeneration, waste water and thermal solar systems, energy management, efficient and renewable energy sources, etc.

Nanotechnology - classification, metrology, specifications for reference materials, products and processes etc. for technology on an atomic scale.

Environment - water and air quality, waste management and eco-labelling, etc.

Security and defence - defence procurement, humanitarian mine action, security of the citizen, perimeter protection, emergency and crisis management, etc.

Food - analysis of ingredients in foodstuffs, animal feeding stuffs, detection of genetically modified organisms, quality assurance, packaging and logistics, etc.

Services - transport, tourism, facility management, translation, postal services, etc.

Health and safety - personal protective equipment (ears, eyes and respiratory tract), lighting, acoustics, vibration, etc.

Transport and packaging - interoperability of high-speed and conventional railways, aerospace, transport of dangerous goods by road and rail, packaging and packaging waste etc.

Healthcare - medical devices: implants, diagnostic devices, dental materials, etc.

Others - biotechnology, secure storage of cash, laboratory equipment and conservation of cultural property…

Heating, cooling, ventilation - gas appliances, oil and solid fuel appliances, refrigeration and heat pumps, etc.

CEN GLOSSARY

European Standard (EN) – the principal product of CEN. Developed by a Technical Committee, approved by the CEN Members and featuring a public commenting stage in its development, an adopted European Standard is published as an identical national standard by the National Standards Bodies.

CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) – a standardization document open to the direct participation of any interested party. CWAs are fast and flexible, usually finishing in 18 months. There is no requirement to adopt them as national standards in the CEN member countries, but they can be used as an alternative route towards a formal EN or taken up at international level within ISO.

CEN IS MORE THAN JUST STANDARDS

A key feature in the development of a European Standard (EN), and one from which it gains strength and legitimacy, is agreement of all interested parties. Consensus-building can be time consuming; however, in 2002, CEN implemented a system to deliver ENs in three years.

"European standardization adapts to the need of the customers."

In addition to ENs CEN produces CEN/Technical Specifications and CEN Workshop Agreements. These deliverables have streamlined processes and quicker adoption procedures.

CEN Technical Specification (CEN/TS) – can be used by CEN Technical Committees as a European Pre-Standard for innovative features of upstream technology, or when various alternatives need to coexist in anticipation of future harmonization. TSs do not have the status of a European Standard and are not adopted as national standards.

CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) – CWAs are developed in CEN Workshops open to anyone with an interest in the development of the deliverable. There is no geographical limit on participation and hence participants may come from outside Europe. The development time of a CWA is on average between 10-12 months. As with the CEN/TSs, CWAs do not have the status of a European Standard and there is no obligation for the National Standards Bodies to adopt them as national standards.

A separate brochure concerning CEN Workshops is available.

OTHER SERVICES

Certification

In a single European market there is a need for a single European mark: one standard, one test, one mark.

Independent assessment of the conformity of products and services to standards gives greater confidence to consumers and users. CEN offers the Keymark as the European mark of conformity to European Standards. Although CEN itself does not undertake assessment and certification activities, certification bodies may apply to CEN for the right to use the Keymark.

Use of the Keymark guarantees:
- compliance with the appropriate European Standard
- a sufficient level of factory production control

Keymark bearers agree to undergo periodic surveillance and audit by an independent external third-party.

Technical Assistance

CEN manages several regional and national Technical Assistance programmes financed by the European Union. The objective of these programmes is to facilitate trade through a system of mutually recognized bodies and procedures. The assistance aims to build a quality infrastructure (standardization, testing and metrology, conformity assessment and certification) in beneficiary countries. Activities range from strengthening the National Standards Bodies to strategies for developing technical regulations. CEN is currently managing programmes in Asia (ASEAN), in the Western Balkans (CARDS) and the Mediterranean countries (MEDA).

CEN is a non-profit technical organization set up under Belgian law. The membership is comprised of the National Standards Bodies of 30 European countries. Additionally, CEN has 7 Associate Members representing pan-European professional and trade federations as well as consumer and environmental interests. 17 National Standards Bodies from an EU neighbouring country with an Affiliate status. CEN also has a Partner Standardization Body (PSB) programme which links NSBs from outside Europe to CEN. The European Commission and the EFTA Secretariat act as CEN's Counsellors for policy issues.

CEN Management Centre (CMC) – the registered office of CEN which represents the hub of the organization. It is located in Brussels.

National Standards Body (NSB) – the standards body recognized at the national level is the national Member of CEN.

Technical Committee (TC) – the group of experts responsible for the development of standards in specific sectors, either in the form of a full Technical Committee or a streamlined Project Committee to deal with a single project. Participants in Technical Committees are concentrated in national delegations. The drafting of the standards themselves is done in Working Groups (WGs) under a Technical Committee. The Working Groups are comprised of experts in the specific product or service being standardized.

NATIONAL MEMBERS

SPAIN	FRANCE	ROMANIA	BULGARIA	UNITED KINGDOM	CZECH REPUBLIC
CYPRUS	GERMANY	DENMARK	GREECE	ESTONIA	LUXEMBOURG
PORTUGAL	ICELAND	LITHUANIA	LATVIA	MALTA	HUNGARY
BELGIUM	THE NETHERLANDS	IRELAND	AUSTRIA	POLAND	FINLAND
SWEDEN	SLOVENIA	NORWAY	SWITZERLAND	SLOVAKIA	ITALY

ASSOCIATES

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF CONSUMER REPRESENTATION IN STANDARDIZATION

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL

EUROPEAN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENS ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION

EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

EUROPEAN OFFICE OF CRAFTS, TRADES AND SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES FOR STANDARDIZATION

COUNSELLORS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

THE EFTA SECRETARIAT

GHOSH+NAYLOR