BUSINESS PLAN
CEN/TC 93
Ladders

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business Environment

- Different regulations in Europe are causing trade barriers;
- No legally binding European Directive for ladders is existing;
- Mandate M 285 in the framework of safety of consumer and children has been given to CEN/TC 93 by the European Commission;
- Parties involved:
  - Ladder manufacturer;
  - Safety authorities;
  - Consumers.

Benefits

To define the necessary standards for a free trade of ladders in Europe.

- Provide safety for the user of the ladder;
- Standard test methods and marking applicable in Europe;
- Removal of trade barriers;
- Standard for step stools (EN 14183) is already available.

Priorities

- Standards for terminology, types and dimensions (prEN 131-1), test methods and requirements (prEN 131-2) and hinge-joint ladders (prEN 131-4);
- Standards for user information (prEN 131-3) and ladder-accessories (prEN 131-5);
- Standard for loft ladders (prEN 14975);
- Review of standard for step stools (EN 14183)
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:

An European Directive which could be the basis of a legally binding harmonized European Standard for ladders does not exist until now. The Council Directive 92/59/EEC of 29 June 1992 on general product safety cannot be such a basis but has to be taken into account as far as relevant.

A Mandate M 285 in the framework of safety of consumer and children has been given to CEN by the European Commission in 1999.

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:

There is a significant amount of cross-border trade of ladders in Europe but exact figures are not available. No statistical data is available on market shares, turnover of the market or percentage of EU or EEA Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

- Provide a high level of safety of ladders for the user;
- Removal of technical barriers to trade and open markets throughout Europe;
- Harmonisation of national 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

Already when we prepared the last edition of the standard the objective of our standardization work was to design a ladder which is safe for the user. This has been achieved in 1993 by the publication of EN 131-1 and EN 131-2. Unfortunately EN 131 was not completely implemented by all the public authorities and private organisations which are responsible for safety in the CEN member countries.

The objective of the revision of EN 131 is not only to fix a common quality level but also to subsequently implement it in Europe.

Thus the objective is to have one standard for the common market, one set of test methods which is applicable in the whole of Europe. The national marks such as NF-mark or GS-mark should be replaced by a European CE-mark. However a decision concerning this issue has neither been taken by the Commission nor by the Technical Committee. For the benefit of the user a high quality ladder tested according to a common set of test methods applicable in the whole of Europe should be the objective of the standard.

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

In order to come to results quickly, working groups have been installed to prepare proposals for certain items. The final technical discussion and decision will take place at the TC 93 plenary level. Two ladder classes (domestic, professional) have been introduced.

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

The elaboration of the first edition of EN 131 lasted extremely long because it was very difficult to reach consensus. At the reconstitution of TC 93 in March 1998 the following points were emphasized as essential in order to avoid the same problems at the revision:

- documents have to be sent in due time (two months) before meetings, only these documents will be considered;
- the number of delegates should be restricted to three per member country;
- delegates should continuously attend the meetings, fundamental changes of positions have to be avoided;
- points which have been settled and voted on should not be rediscussed again.