BUSINESS PLAN
HEAD PROTECTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business Environment

This technical committee prepares standards for all types of protective helmets. Helmets are designed to protect the wearer from the hazards of falling onto hard ground from a height or from being struck from above by falling objects.

Benefits

The European Standards that have been introduced replaced existing national standards among the nineteen member countries of CEN. This replacement has either maintained or improved on existing levels of performance in those countries having a national standard. For those countries where no such standard existed, levels of performance have been introduced and hence safety increased.

Surveys of accident data for head injuries have been carried out for some of the helmet applications listed and these have been made available to the responsible working group drafting the standards.

Since 1988, 30 standards and other deliverables have been published.

Priorities

To make harmonized standards available related to directives.
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:

Protective helmets are classified as personal protective equipment (PPE) and their sale in the European Union is to a large extent covered by the PPE Directive 89/686. Helmets are designed to protect the wearer from the hazards of falling onto hard ground from a height or from being struck from above by falling objects. In contrast to some other forms of PPE, helmets are purchased by domestic consumers as well as by employers. According to figures supplied by the European Safety Federation (ESF), the annual sales volume for helmets in the EU is in excess of 80M ECU and there are 40 manufacturers in the EU. European Standards for helmets describe in their titles the intended application, e.g. ‘helmets for airborne sports’ and there is less need for additional guidance on selection as might be the case for, for example, respirators.

The principal markets are as follows:

1) Industrial safety helmets, for use on construction sites and many other premises.

2) Fire-fighters’ helmets.

3) Helmets for vehicle users.

4) Helmets for pedal cyclists, also applicable for roller skaters.

5) Horse riders’ helmets.

6) Helmets for other sports such as skiing, luge, canoeing, mountaineering, para-gliding and ice hockey.

7) Helmets for young children

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:

Political, economical, social, technical, legal and international factors that either directly require some or all of the standardisation activities proposed by the CEN/TC, or significantly influence the way these activities are carried out are the following.

EU Directive 89/656/EEC concerning the use of personal protective equipment by workers at the workplace.

This Directive concerns employers’ obligations, including the need to carry out a risk analysis, which is the basis for the subsequent selection of the correct equipment.

EU Directive 89/686/EEC concerns personal protective equipment. The purpose of this Directive is to eliminate barriers to trade and to maintain or improve the level of protection given by equipment.
The following mandates and order vouchers were allocated to CEN/TC 158:

BC/CEN/03/1988
BC/CEN/02/90
BC/CEN/03/031/93/30

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

The first set of standards written consisted of product specifications for helmets for all these applications, with the exception of motorcyclists’ crash helmets which were excluded from the PPE Directive and hence no European Standard was written. These standards were published (except for mountaineering and luge) between 1994 and 1997, with the support of the mandate from CEC/EFTA. The second set of standards is a set of ten test methods, which are designed to be uniform for all helmet applications. Subsequent revisions of the first set of product specifications, some of which have already been started, will make reference to these standard test methods when required.

The European Standards that have been introduced replaced existing national standards among the nineteen member countries of CEN. This replacement has either maintained or improved on existing levels of performance in those countries having a national standard. For those countries where no such standard existed, levels of performance have been introduced and hence safety increased.

Surveys of accident data for head injuries have been carried out for some of the helmet applications listed and these have been made available to the responsible working group drafting the 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

To revise existing standards where necessary, and to draft new ones if required. Any new standards have to be relevant to the essential requirements of the PPE Directive. Additional considerations have arisen in some cases because of direct representations from the European Parliament.

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

To follow closely the CEN rules in drafting and preparation.
Use of available national, regional or international source documents on which to base European Standards.

4.3 Environmental aspects

The standards prepared by TC 158 are product standards. The potential environmental effects of manufacturing these products will solely be down to the manufacturers who are expected to conform to current environmental legislation requirements. However, with respect to disposal/recycling the product standards will require that the product marking and or “information to users” documentation conforms to the current and accepted recycling marking requirements. TC 158 and its working groups will bear in mind the environmental impact(s) of their meetings and documentation.

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

Limited numbers of member states are interested in some of the applications, e.g. snowmobiles, ice hockey.

Validation of proposed new test methods and the creation and updating of accident data surveys both require voluntary contributions, which are not always, available.

Legal/regulatory issues such as uncertainties regarding EC Directives which may necessitate modifications of the content and target dates for projects in the work programme.