
CEN-CENELEC GUIDE 13

The concept of a Companion
Standardization Body with
CEN and CENELEC

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European foreword

CEN and CENELEC believe that technical alignment is a key driver for ensuring a level-playing field in the global trade landscape. Therefore, both organizations first encourage the worldwide adoption of ISO and IEC deliverables. Bilateral cooperation frameworks are powerful complementary means of boosting the global competitiveness of European industry and stakeholders. They similarly facilitate access to the European and global markets for industry and stakeholders of the NSBs and NCs that enter into such a cooperation with CEN and/or CENELEC.

Besides their dedication and commitment to international standardization through their memberships and the Vienna (with ISO) and Dresden agreements (with IEC), CEN and CENELEC as European Regional Standardization bodies have always been open to cooperation with other standardization bodies worldwide, since they clearly acknowledge the importance of the European Standards they develop for trade and welfare, both inside and outside the European Economic Area.

The significance of European Standards is growing not only because there is a link with EU policies but first and foremost because European Standards reflect a high level of quality regarding key issues such as safety, health and environment.

CEN and CENELEC receive increasing numbers of requests to establish a formal relationship with National Standards Bodies outside their membership. In 2016, CEN and CENELEC undertook to revise their partnership models. The goal of this exercise was to take a look at the existing concepts and come up with new or revised concepts that would better fulfil the expectations of CEN and CENELEC partners and support the strategic objectives of CEN and CENELEC in a more effective manner.

This exercise was carried out with a clear intention of continuing to offer a high level of support to the European Union international policy objectives, notably when it comes to supporting the technical harmonization efforts of countries that are candidates or potential candidates to EU accession. It aimed to revise and update the models described previously in the CEN-CENELEC Guide 12 “The concept of Affiliation with CEN and CENELEC” and CEN-CENELEC Guide 13 “The concept of a Partner Standardization Body with CEN and CENELEC”, in order to better serve the interests of CEN and CENELEC and those of their existing and potential foreign partners. It additionally aimed to offer a more valuable and coherent set of tools to national standardization organizations that are interested in establishing or further developing their relations with CEN and/or CENELEC, but which are not eligible or in a position to become a CEN and/or CENELEC Member or Affiliate.

As a result, two revised models of cooperation are put forward by CEN and CENELEC:

- the concept of a CEN and/or CENELEC Affiliate Standardization Body
- the concept of a CEN and/or CENELEC Companion Standardization Body (CSB)

In exceptional cases, other forms of agreements may be developed on an ad hoc basis, mainly with regional standardization organizations that are the natural counterparts of CEN and CENELEC. Such agreements are based on the reciprocity principle and driven by the expectations expressed by CEN and/or CENELEC Members. The present guide does not provide details about such agreements, the text of which is often made available on the CEN and CENELEC website.

The objectives of this revised CEN-CENELEC Guide 13, the title of which is now “The concept of a Companion Standardization Body with CEN and CENELEC” are to enable increased technical

alignment and strategic engagement with Europe for its trading partners, as a complementary activity to the essential cooperation taking place within the framework of ISO and IEC, by offering an enhanced interaction framework and targeted tools supporting an easier uptake of CEN and CENELEC deliverables and greater access to their technical activities. It will serve European industry and stakeholders' interests, creating market access opportunities in the countries concerned.

The status of Companion Standardization Body (CSB) is offered to an NSB/NC member of ISO or IEC respectively, that represents all parties concerned in an evolving market economy of a country, and is not eligible to become a CEN and/or CENELEC Member or Affiliate.

The details regarding the Companion Standardization Body (CSB) status are laid out in the present CEN/CENELEC Guide 13. A summary table offers an overview of the features of this concept and of related rights and obligations in Annex A.

The transition from the previous to the new version of the CEN-CENELEC Guides 12 and 13 will be progressively implemented, in view of an effective entry into force in 2017.

1 Definition

The Companion Standardization Body (CSB) status is a cooperation framework with CEN and CENELEC offered to National Standardization Bodies (NSBs) and National Electrotechnical Committees (NCs) that are not eligible to become a CEN and/or CENELEC Member or Affiliate. It enables technical alignment with the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) in a flexible manner, allows participation in CEN and/or CENELEC standardization work and contributes to facilitating trade between the country of the applicant NSB/NC and Europe.

2 Conditions for granting the Companion Standardization Body status

In the spirit of the above definition, the following conditions shall be met by an applicant for Companion Standardization Body (CSB) status:

- Recognized as the only National Standards Body/National Electrotechnical Committee from the country,
- Member or corresponding member of ISO/Member or associate member of IEC,
- Registered in the ISO-IEC List of Standardizing Bodies having notified acceptance of the WTO Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards.

A dedicated Agreement formalizes the CSB status and specifies its commencement date.

3 Rights and obligations of Companion Standardization Bodies (CSB)

3.1 Rights

- To participate, without voting rights, in the CEN and/or CENELEC General Assembly (AG) and, with the agreement of AG, in identified bodies with an open character;
- To participate in an unlimited number of Technical Bodies as an observer, upon agreement by the Technical Bodies concerned. Requests for such participation should be addressed to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre (CCMC) and will be processed in coordination with the Technical Bodies concerned;
- To reproduce and sell, within its own country, drafts stemming from those Technical Bodies where they have observership and which are submitted to Enquiry, UAP and Formal Vote;
- To have direct access to CEN and CENELEC repositories of standards and other publications;
- To adopt European Standards (EN) as national standards in one of the official languages of CEN and CENELEC, or in another language in accordance with the relevant provisions of CEN-CENELEC Guide 10 "Policy on dissemination, sales and copyright of CEN-CENELEC Publications";
- To enter into an agreement with the relevant CEN and/or CENELEC Member in order to act as distributor of national implementations that they, as a CSB, have not adopted as a national standard, in accordance with Clause 6 of the CEN-CENELEC Guide 10 "Policy on dissemination, sales and copyright of CEN-CENELEC Publications";

- To receive and sell corporate publications of CEN and/or CENELEC, in accordance with CEN and/or CENELEC practices. These publications include, amongst others, the Annual Work Programme, the Guides, the Internal Regulations, Press Releases (freely reproducible with acknowledgement of the source) and any future corporate publication.

3.2 Obligations

- To commit to comply with the rules set or to be set in the future by the CEN Statutes and/or CENELEC Articles of Association, the CEN and CENELEC Internal Regulations and other relevant resolutions taken by the General Assembly and Administrative Board of CEN and/or CENELEC, including financial obligations;
- To endeavour to withdraw the national standards conflicting with any European Standards adopted;
- To notify all national implementations of European Standards, the effective withdrawal of conflicting national standards if applicable, and report on the sales of the resulting national standards in line with guidelines received from the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre (CCMC);
- To strictly apply CEN-CENELEC Guide 10 “Policy on dissemination, sales and copyright of CEN-CENELEC Publications” and the CEN and CENELEC policy to only have one definitive language version of any CEN or CENELEC standard or other publication;
- To endeavour to adopt as national standards the ENs developed by the Technical Bodies in which the CSB participates, in accordance with the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 2, and endeavour to withdraw conflicting national standards;
- To report in writing to Technical Bodies observed on an annual basis, providing detailed information on the current state of play as regards standardization activities in their country, on the use made of the Technical Bodies’ documents to which observers have had access, and on the planning of activities within the mirror Technical Bodies of the CSB;
- To respect the agreements established between CEN and ISO and/or between CENELEC and IEC;
- To sign and abide by the terms of the CSB Agreement, the template of which is to be provided by the CEN and CENELEC Management Centre;
- To pay an annual fee, the level of which is defined in accordance with section 5 below.

4 Procedural aspects

Organizations that want to apply for the status of Companion Standardization Body with CEN and/or CENELEC shall submit to the CEN and CENELEC Director General a written application in which it shows proof of its compliance with the applicable conditions (see section 2 above).

Upon approval by the CEN and/or CENELEC governance, a dedicated Agreement shall formalize the Companion Standardization Body status and specify its commencement date.

5 Annual Fees

Among the obligations of CSBs, mention is made of the financial obligations. These include the payment of an annual fee.

The definition of the annual fee is based on the following principles:

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- the annual fee shall be linked to the GNI at current prices in US dollars of the country of the (candidate) CSB, as indicated in the online database of the World Bank (most recent data available),
- the fee levels are defined as follows:

GNI intervals (in billion USD)	Fee (€)
< 20	12 000
20 - 50	15 000
50 - 100	20 000
> 100	25 000

The General Assembly of CEN and/or CENELEC may decide to revise the fee levels and related amounts applicable to CSBs, should inflation or other circumstances justify such a decision.

Annex A

Rights and obligations of Companion Standardization Bodies

	Companion Standardization Bodies (CSBs) concept
Definition	Cooperation framework offered to NSBs and NCs in countries that are not eligible for the status of Affiliate, supporting the facilitation of trade with Europe.
Eligibility criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only national, recognized organization in the country • Member of ISO and/or IEC • Acceptance of the WTO Code of Practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards
Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To participate without voting rights, in the General Assembly (AG), and identified bodies with an open character • To participate in an unlimited number of Technical Bodies as an observer, upon agreement by the Technical Bodies concerned • To reproduce and sell, within its own country, drafts stemming from those Technical Bodies where they have observership and which are submitted to Enquiry, UAP and Formal Vote • To enjoy direct access to CEN and CENELEC repositories of standards and other publications • To adopt ENs as national standards • To enter into an agreement with the relevant CEN and/or CENELEC Member in order to act as distributor of national implementations that they, as a CSB, have not adopted as a national standard, in accordance with Clause 6 of the CEN-CENELEC Guide 10 "Policy on dissemination, sales and copyright of CEN-CENELEC Publications"; To receive and sell corporate publications of CEN and/or CENELEC in accordance with the CEN-CENELEC Guide 10
Obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To commit to comply with the rules set by the CEN Statutes and/or CENELEC Articles of Association, Internal Regulations and other relevant resolutions taken by the AG and CA of CEN and/or CENELEC, including financial obligations • To endeavour to withdraw the national standards conflicting with European Standards adopted • To notify all national implementations of ENs, the voluntary withdrawal of conflicting national standards (if applicable) and report on sales of the resulting national standards • To endeavour to implement as national standards ENs developed by Technical Bodies in which it participates • To provide a yearly report in writing to Technical Bodies observed • To strictly apply CEN-CENELEC Guide 10 "Policy on dissemination, sales and copyright of CEN-CENELEC Publications" and the CEN and CENELEC policy to only have one definitive language version of any CEN or CENELEC standard or other publication • To respect the agreements established between CEN and ISO and/or between CENELEC and IEC • To sign and abide by the terms of the Companion Standardization Body Agreement

	Companion Standardization Bodies (CSBs) concept
Documentation received	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate documentation, e.g. Work Programme, Guides• prENs submitted to Enquiry, UAP and Formal Vote stemming from Technical Bodies where they have observership• Ratified texts of ENs
Subscription	Annual fee the level of which is linked to the national GNI