

CEN-CENELEC GUIDE 1

Status of European Standards

Edition 1, December 2001

The CEN Administrative Board decided to replace CEN/CENELEC Memoranda by CEN/CENELEC Guides with the corresponding document number (resolution CEN/CA 18/2001). As a result, CEN/CENELEC Memorandum 1 was converted into CEN/CENELEC Guide 1. No change was made to the text of the original document (1988). The CENELEC General Assembly agreed by correspondence to convert the CEN/CENELEC Memoranda listed in the CENELEC Catalogue into CEN/CENELEC Guides with the corresponding document number. As a result, CEN/CENELEC Memorandum 1 was converted into CEN/CENELEC Guide 1. No change was made to the text of the original document (1988).



European Committee for Standardization

Tel: +32 2 550 08 11

Fax: +32 2 550 08 19

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization

Tel: +32 2 519 68 71

Fax: +32 2 550 08 19

Avenue Marnix 17
1000 Brussels – Belgium

www.cen.eu

www.cenelec.eu

www.cencenelec.eu

CEN/CENELEC Guide 1 (Edition 1)

Status of European Standards

European Standards result from the work of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electro-technical Standardization (CENELEC). They constitute a collective contribution by the members of CEN/CENELEC¹ to the harmonization of national standards within Western Europe on the basis of the application of the principle of consensus.

European Standards are, inter alia, a means for the uniform implementation of International Standards throughout Western Europe.

Article 1

A European Standard (abbreviated to EN) is a standard approved by CEN/CENELEC in accordance with the Internal Regulations.

European Standards are "regional standards" within the sense of the ISO/IEC definition.

Article 2

European Standards exist in their own right and are as a general rule issued in the three official languages, English, French and German, with uniform numbering and presentation.

The CEN/CENELEC Central Secretariat is the guardian of the authoritative versions of the European Standard and is responsible for keeping master texts in written or other media form.

Article 3

The CEN/CENELEC Central Secretariat is responsible for making European Standards available to the Commission of the European Communities, the EFTA Secretariat, applicants from countries outside the CEN/CENELEC membership and recognized international organizations and European Institutions.

CEN/CENELEC members are responsible for making European Standards available on the national level either in English, French or German original text or translated into one of the other languages of CEN/CENELEC member countries.

CEN/CENELEC and CEN/CENELEC members are responsible for implementing and updating European Standards and for interpreting their content.

¹ Note : When the expression "CEN/CENELEC" appears it refers, according to the context, to CEN or to CENELEC or to CEN and CENELEC jointly.

Article 4

Approval of a European Standard results from a vote in which CEN/CENELEC members are all entitled to take part.

The CEN/CENELEC voting rules require that any European Standard is based on a sufficient agreement among the countries represented in order to ensure the widest possible applicability of its content.

Article 5

Approval of a European Standard implies for CEN/CENELEC members the obligation to give it the status of a national standard and to withdraw any conflicting national standard within agreed periods, in accordance with the Internal Regulations.

Article 6

If a CEN/CENELEC member is prevented from implementing a European Standard by regulations or conditions outside its competence to alter, it shall nevertheless do everything in its power to bring about the changes necessary to allow implementation.

Article 7

CEN/CENELEC members have an obligation not to publish new or revised national standards which are not completely in line with a European Standard approved or in preparation. Derogations from this obligation may be granted only with the agreement of CEN/CENELEC.

In urgent cases relating to safety or health, a CEN/CENELEC member may publish an amendment to an existing national standard but is obliged to notify this action to CEN/CENELEC immediately, together with full justification. The necessary CEN/CENELEC action to remedy the situation will be initiated without delay.