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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

SBS upcoming events

SBS has organised many events in 2016 and more are planned before the end of the year.

On 4th October in Berlin, SBS is organising, with the support of the German Skilled Crafts Association (ZDH), its first twinning event between the German Institute for Standardisation (DIN) and the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing (ÚNMZ). During this event DIN and ÚNMZ will share experiences and identify good practices in reaching out and involving SMEs in standardisation.

SBS Annual Conference will take place in Brussels on 19th October. The theme of this 2nd edition is "Reinforcing the cooperation amongst the standardisation community" and will feature panel discussions on topics such as "Standards as a means for smaller companies to go international" and "How to ensure the voluntary nature of standards" among others. Representatives from the European Parliament, European Commission, European Standardisation Organisations, stakeholders and SBS members will be amongst the panellists.

Policy-makers are keen to see more standards for services. SBS is therefore organising an event focusing on standards and services. The event will take place in Brussels on 15th November. Participants will include representatives from the European Commission, CEN-CENELEC who is in charge of developing the standards and stakeholders representing various services.



First national seminar in Spain

On 22nd September, SBS held its first national awareness seminar in Madrid, Spain. The event was co-organised with SBS' member organisation EFESME and focused on SMEs' sectoral representation in the EU standards making process, particularly in the Lifts Sector. The seminar was structured in two parts: a general one aiming to inform SMEs and national horizontal and sectorial associations of the European Standardisation Systems and the tools available for SMEs, and a second part focusing on the Lifts Sector. Representatives from the European Commission, CEN-CENELEC and AENOR (Spanish Standardisation Organisation) intervened as speakers. As the event was SBS' first activity in Spain, the seminar constituted an excellent opportunity to

present the association's activities to Spanish standardisation organisations, stakeholders and SMEs.



National Seminar in Italy

After a very successful national seminar in Italy in 2014, SBS, with the support of its members, the National Confederation of the Craft Sector and Small and Medium Enterprises (CNA) and the Italian Association of Crafts and SMEs (CONFARTIGIANATO), and business organisation Unioncamere repeated the exercise on 26th September. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness among participants about standardisation, and more specifically set out the framework on how to involve SMEs directly into the process of standards' development. SBS experts, the national and European standardisation bodies and representatives from the European Commission shared their experience with working with standards.

Standards for circular economy

On 8th September, CEN-CENELEC organised a workshop on standards for circular economy. The objective was to understand the challenges and opportunities for the industry to act on waste management and the use of secondary raw materials.

Albeit standardisation solutions for circular economy might be significantly different according to the sector they are applied to, the role of standards was widely recognised in preventing and reducing waste, as well as in providing tools to facilitate the identification, management and treatment of waste and the reuse of valuable substances and materials. The input gathered during the event will shape the CEN-CENELEC standardisation solutions to achieve the objectives of the European Commission's 'Circular Economy' Strategy.

In Memoriam Lorenzo Accardo

SBS deeply regrets to announce that Lorenzo Accardo passed away in August. With nearly 10 years of experience in the consulting and project sector, he started working at NORMAPME in 2008. In 2013, he joined UEAPME and was one of the driving forces behind the creation of SBS. Despite his progressing illness he did not give up and continued to work until recently. We will remember him as a great, humble, caring colleague, always optimistic with a passion for life. Condolences can be sent to Lucia Zucchi who will forward them to the family. Donations can be made to Fight Against Cancer (IBAN BE53 0688 9242 2053, BIC GKCCBEBB – Lorenzo Accardo)

CONSTRUCTION

Assessment methods for regulated dangerous substances defined

One of the key priorities for the construction sector identified in the European Commission Annual Union Work Programme on EU standardisation for 2017 is the definition of assessment methods for regulated dangerous substances. Member States' representatives and construction stakeholders gathered on 30th August and defined the way forward for a classification on dangerous substances

that will reflect the performance of construction products related to three essential characteristics: Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOC) emission performance, formaldehyde emissions, and carcinogenic VOC emissions. SBS expert in TC 351 (Assessment of release of dangerous substances from construction products) will keep contributing to the proposal regarding threshold values for these substances within CEN TC 351 WG 2 (Emissions from construction products into indoor air).

CE-marking solutions for construction micro-enterprises

SBS recently published a [position paper](#) on 'simplified procedures' for construction micro-enterprises introduced by the Construction Products Regulation. Simplified procedures aim at reducing the burden for construction micro-companies to obtain the CE marking to trade construction products in the Single Market.

The paper identifies some of the issues that currently prevent the implementation of such 'simplified procedures'. It also proposes an operational scheme to CE marking the construction products when essential characteristics can be assessed through the use of computing software.

TECHNICAL NEWS

Protective clothing against hazardous biological agents (ISO TC 94 SC 13)

The SBS expert at ISO level (TC 94 SC13 WG6) is actively following the developments of a New Work Item (NWI) on personal safety and protective clothing, so-called "ISO 12345". This project has a previously published European equivalent, i.e. EN 13795 "Surgical drapes, gowns and clean air suits, used as medical devices for patients, clinical staff and equipment". Indeed, the NWI in drafting process includes significant content of the European standard.

Furthermore, the expert is working on this standardisation topic both at CEN and ISO level so as to ensure that at least the minimum performance requirements for products and processes set at EU level be reached at ISO level, or that both standards be kept in parallel for a certain period of time. The aim must be and is to maintain the high quality approach for European patient safety as EN 13795 is closely linked to European Medical Device Regulation. The expert is also involved in the process through his position as member of the related WG6 and its editing team –working on the development of a 2nd Draft Version at ISO level – and through his position as TC 205 chairman at EU level.

Respiratory Protective Devices (ISO TC 94 SC 15 & CEN TC 79)

The SBS expert in ISO TC 94 SC 15 has been following the developments of ISO 17420-1 (Respiratory protective Devices – Performance Requirements) and its impact on SMEs for many years. At the moment, the impact is quite heavy due to extremely high performances required and costly tests. The expert is currently preparing a forecast of costs of testing based on the latest drafts of the standards to be presented at the next TC meeting. The new suggested test of the complete RPD for Chemical Permeation with the "Smart Man" is a terrible burden for SMEs.

Similarly, the SBS expert in CEN TC 79 is working to avoid and prevent unnecessary and expensive tests for SMEs at EU level. In the framework of the related WG 4, the expert made a presentation on the Mechanical Stress Test Method of standard EN 12941. The WG decided to follow the recommendation proposed by the SBS expert and to update the standard accordingly. The WG also recommended the TC plenary to follow the recommendation.

Doors and windows (CEN TC 33)

SMEs need to benefit from test methods for doors and windows less onerous than those for assessing the performance of their construction products. In the case of standard EN 14351-1 (external windows and doors without fire/smoke characteristics), the SBS expert recommended performing a single test to assess the acoustic performance of the products and then interpolate the results obtained with tabulated values. However, the TC rejected this proposal and decided that two tests (for low and high values) will be implemented to determine the acoustic performance of the products, while intermediary results will be obtained through interpolation.

Glass in Buildings (CEN TC 129 WG 8)

Standardisation activities within CEN TC 129 WG 8 are currently focusing on standard prEN 16612 (glass in buildings - Determination of the load resistance of glass panes by calculation and testing). The discussion deals with the assessment of mechanical resistance of painted glass. The value to be declared is the characteristic bending strength as defined in the relevant product standard of the glass substrate. For the time being, various national schemes are compared in view of agreeing on a single method for the calculation of such characteristics. As long as on the concerned construction or building site standard prEN 16612 is not applicable for the design, the current method to determine mechanical resistance of painted glass in the country of destination shall be applied.

FUTURE EVENTS

04.10 - [Twinning exercise \(Berlin\)](#)

18.10 - 2nd experts meeting (Brussels)

19.10 - [Annual conference \(Brussels\)](#)



Small Business Standards (SBS) is a European non-profit association established in 2013 with the support of the European Commission devoted to representing and defending Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (SMEs) interests in the standardisation system at European and international levels. Its 22 members are national and European sectoral and inter-professional associations representing SMEs in 32 European countries.

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