

Paper 7 - Standardisation

Manufacturers in the UK continue to comply with European legislation to be able to 'CE' mark their products and therefore export to continental Europe. At the moment, particularly in the industrial products sector, the UK is very active and influential in the drafting of harmonised standards. The drafting of these standards defines the 'state of the art' for product safety and performance and so it is therefore vitally important that we continue active involvement. The alternative is that we will be working to standards which the UK has not written to be able to 'CE' mark UK products. UK industry requires full membership of CEN and CENELEC to be retained to continue leading and influencing European standards. With the rapid digitalisation of industry, buildings and energy networks and the evolution of low carbon energy production, products and systems, this has become even more important. 100% compatibility with European standards is vital for the UK economy.

Standardisation Process

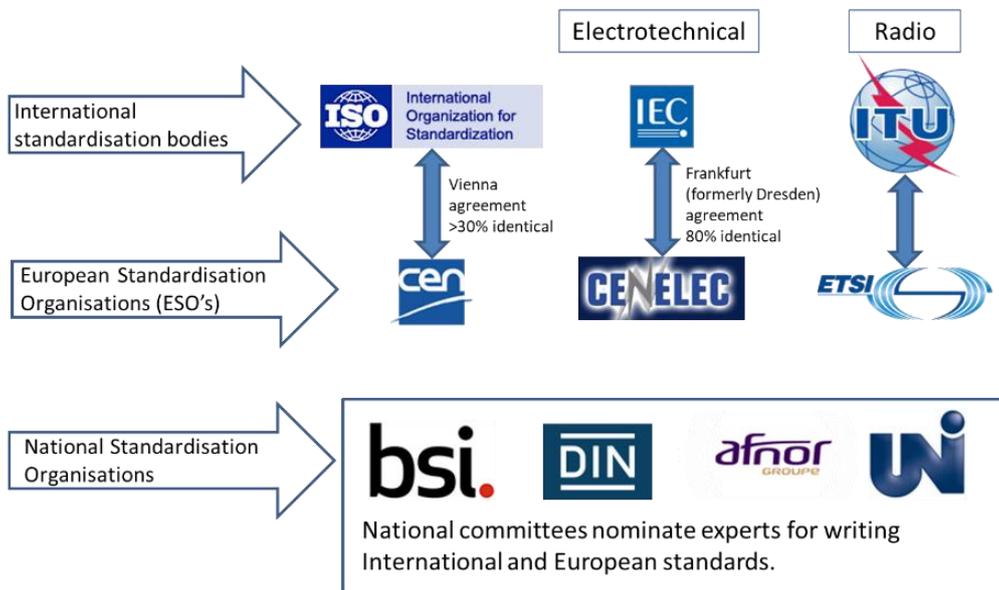
The New Approach legislative technique was approved by the Council of Ministers on 7 May 1985 in its Resolution on a new approach to technical harmonisation and standards. It includes the following principles:

- Legislative harmonisation should be limited to the **essential requirements** (preferably performance or functional requirements) that products placed on the EU market must meet if they are to benefit from free movement within the EU;
- The technical specifications for products meeting the essential requirements set out in legislation should be laid down in harmonised standards which can be applied alongside the legislation;

Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 on European Standardisation gives the Commission the ability to invite, after consultation with the Member States, the European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) to draw up harmonised standards and also establishes procedures to assess and to object to harmonised standards.

Industry writes standards when there is a market demand for them and their use is voluntary. This is done by paying for experts' time and travel to attend Working Groups and Technical Committees all over the world. Generally, these WGs are under the control of TCs within one of the European or International standardisation bodies.

The standard is drafted in Europe or alternatively international standards are adopted by the ESOs and, if applicable, offered to the European Commission as providing presumption of conformity to certain directives. National standards bodies, for instance, British Standards Institution (BSI) in the UK, also then adopt these European or International standards.



Electrotechnical standards are within the remit of the International Electrotechnical Commission and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC). Nomination to these technical committees and working groups is through national committees which for the UK is BSI.