



Machinery regulation: Commission commits to digital instructions

IMAGE SOURCE: CECE - Committee for European Construction Equipment

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The recent Machinery expert group meeting, held on 12th April, provided valuable insights, among other things, into the Machinery Regulation (MR), Draft Standardisation Request, and the digital format of instructions for use and Declaration of Conformity.

During the discussions, the European Commission (EC) presented the draft guidance regarding the collection of data and information mandated by Article 6(5) of the new Machinery Regulation. Concerns were expressed by some stakeholders about consistency and complexity in collecting machine accident data, with the EC highlighting the importance of accurate data for improved product safety.

On standardisation, a comprehensive presentation was delivered by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN-CENELEC), reporting on gap analysis processes and challenges in determining coverage by existing standards. Moreover, the EC confirmed that they are in the process of finalising a thematic approach to standardisation under the new Machinery Regulation, focusing on key areas instead of individual standards. Once finalised, the draft will be used to develop a Standardization Request by the standardization unit in DG GROW. The expected adoption timeline is September 2024.

Additionally, the EC confirmed their plan to start work on a Guide to application of the new Machinery Regulation in summer 2024. The editorial group will be re-established, and stakeholders will be involved in the process.

During the meeting, discussion also revolved around the proposed updates to facilitate digital formats of instructions for use and the EC Declaration of Conformity. Stakeholders highlighted the need for clarity on essential safety information, language requirements, and access to paper copies for non-professional users. The EC acknowledged these concerns and committed to refining proposals based on stakeholder feedback.

CEMA presented a data collection template related to contact with overhead power lines. Together with CEMA, **CECE** also emphasised the importance of member states completing the entire template, stressing the need for consistent data, including figures and references to relevant national legislation. Achieving this requires cooperation from all member states, given the inherent challenges of the task, especially for manufacturers.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 17th October 2024, where further progress and discussions are expected to take place.

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