



Brussels, 14.11.2017
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 14.11.2017

on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation and to the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation as regards use of flammable refrigerants in refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment

(Text with EEA relevance)

(Only the English, French and German texts are authentic)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on European standardisation, amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decision 87/95/EEC and Decision No 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council,¹ and in particular Article 10(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council² provides for reduction of the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), in particular in refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment, in order to reduce the emissions of fluorinated gases and lower their impact on the climate. In order to achieve that goal the use of alternative climate-friendly technologies should increase, which includes the use of flammable refrigerant alternatives, in particular hydrocarbons.
- (2) The safety of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment is regulated by the general product safety requirements, in particular in Directive 2014/68/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pressure equipment,³ Directive 2014/35/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits⁴ and Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council 2006 on machinery⁵. These requirements are further specified in harmonised standards⁶.

¹ OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p. 12.

² Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on fluorinated greenhouse gases and repealing Regulation (EC) No 842/2006 (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 195).

³ OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 164.

⁴ OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 357.

⁵ OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 24.

- (3) The Consultation Forum established under Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 concluded at its meeting on 10 September 2015 that existing standards ensure a high level of safety as required by the product safety legislation, but would not allow sufficient use of flammable refrigerant alternatives, in particular hydrocarbons, to achieve the objectives of Regulation (EU) No 517/2014. Barriers to a wider uptake of flammable refrigerants were also observed in information on national codes, standards or legislation provided by Member States to the Commission for purpose of preparing the synthesis report⁷ pursuant to Article 11(6) of Regulation (EU) No 517/2014.
- (4) Whilst the drafting and review of harmonised standards should continue under the standardisation requests issued in support of the relevant product safety legislation, a new European standardisation deliverable with other technical specifications than European standards, as defined in Article 2 point (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, for the installation and operation of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment containing flammable refrigerants, complementing existing harmonised standards, should be requested. These technical specifications should provide guidance on how to allow a wider use of flammable refrigerants without compromising health and safety of consumers, workers and property and could also serve as basis for the development of national codes, standards or legislation in the Member States.
- (5) The European standardisation deliverable should be developed on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of the status of existing standards, including harmonised standards, relevant to refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment, and of the ongoing work such standards at international level and in third countries.
- (6) Standardisation needs in support of Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 were identified in point 3.4.1 of the annual Union work programme for European standardisation⁸ for 2015.
- (7) The Commission has established guidelines for the execution of standardisation requests⁹ and the European standardisation organisations have agreed to apply those guidelines.

⁶ The following CEN/Cenelec standards address specifically refrigerating systems and heat pumps:

- EN 378-2:2008+A2:2012: Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements - Part 2: Design, construction, testing, marking and documentation
- EN 12178:2003: Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Liquid level indicating devices - Requirements, testing and marking
- EN 12263:1998: Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety switching devices for limiting the pressure - Requirements and tests
- EN 12284:2003: Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Valves - Requirements, testing and marking
- EN 12735:2016: Copper and copper alloys - Seamless, round tubes for air conditioning and refrigeration - Part 1: Tubes for piping systems
- Part 2: Tubes for equipment
- EN 13136:2013: Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Pressure relief devices and their associated piping - Methods for calculation
- EN 12693:2008: Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements - Positive displacement refrigerant compressors
- EN 60335-2-89:2010/A1:2016 - IEC 60335-2-89:2010/A1:2012 (Modified): Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-89: Particular requirements for commercial refrigerating appliances with an incorporated or remote refrigerant condensing unit or compressor

⁷ Report from the Commission on barriers posed by codes, standards and legislation to using climate-friendly technologies in the refrigeration, air conditioning, heat pumps and foam sectors, COM(2016)/0749 final of 30 November 2016.

⁸ COM(2014)500 final of 30 July 2014.

- (8) The European standardisation organisations, the European stakeholders' organisations receiving Union financing and the Consultation Forum established under Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 have been consulted.
- (9) The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (Cenelec) have indicated that the work covered by the request falls under the scope of CEN and Cenelec.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1
Requested standardisation activities

CEN and Cenelec are requested to draft a European standardisation deliverable with technical specifications for the use of flammable refrigerants, in particular those classified as A3, in refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment. The European standardisation deliverable shall meet the requirements set out in Annex I and deadlines for adoption set out in Annex II.

Article 2
Establishment of the work programme

CEN and Cenelec shall prepare the joint work programme indicating all the requested deliverables, the responsible technical bodies and a timetable for the execution of the work in line with the deadlines set out in Annex II. CEN and Cenelec shall submit the work programme to the Commission by 15 February 2018 and provide it with access to an overall project plan.

Article 3
Agreement on the work programme

In its work programme, CEN and Cenelec shall follow any priorities expressed by the Commission for the execution of the request referred to in Article 1.

CEN and Cenelec shall inform the Commission of any amendments to the work programme.

Article 4
Reporting

CEN and Cenelec shall report annually to the Commission on the execution of the request referred to in Article 1. They shall submit the first joint annual report to the Commission by 17 December 2018.

Subsequent annual reports shall be submitted by 30 December each year.

CEN and Cenelec shall provide the Commission with the joint final report by 15 February 2021.

⁹ SWD(2015) 205 final of 27 October 2015.

Article 5
Validity of the standardisation request

If CEN or Cenelec do not accept the request referred to in Article 1 within a month of receiving it, that request may not constitute a basis for the drafting of European standardisation deliverables.

The request referred to in Article 1 may no longer constitute a basis for drafting European standardisation deliverables once the joint final report referred to in the third paragraph of Article 4 has been submitted.

Article 6
Addressees

This Decision is addressed to CEN and Cenelec.

Done at Brussels, 14.11.2017.

For the Commission
Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE
Member of the Commission

