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1994-2004

Years On – The Commission for
Occupational Health and Safety
and Standardization (KAN)

IMPRESSUM

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Eugen Müller, BDA

**Chairman of KAN
Managing Director and Head of the BDA's
Social Security Department**



In its ten years of existence, the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization (KAN) has played a major part in representing German OH&S interests in the field of standardization and ensuring that they are taken into account in standards. It has thus also become a key element in Germany's OH&S-related prevention system.

Ten years have passed since KAN was set up and began its work on 11th February 1994. Its establishment was preceded by a phase of intensive discussion concerning the structure and tasks of such an institution. Ultimately, this led to a body which, through its inclusion of all the stakeholders and, primarily, through its work, has won considerable respect in Germany and the rest of Europe.

KAN has become a permanent fixture in the sphere of OH&S-related standardization. People take its advice seriously, seek its guidance and expertise and its official comments carry significant weight.

Of course, like other institutions, KAN is subject to the influences of political and economic developments and has to react to changing circumstances. One of its reactions has been to become increasingly involved in international standardization in addition to European standardization and to ensure, via DIN, that Germany's national OH&S interests are taken into account in that standardization from an early stage. The current debate regarding the possibility of standardizing Corporate Social Responsibility, an idea which KAN completely rejects, is just one example of the useful work it does.

In the future, the most important task will be to make sure that standards are geared to workplace needs, particularly OH&S requirements, and thus

to help maintain and strengthen the competitiveness of the German economy in the European and global context. With standardization becoming more and more internationalized, it is essential to align European OH&S standpoints as much as possible and work to ensure that international standards are prepared in such a way that they can be incorporated into the European body of standards without modification.

Origins and Mandate

In Article 5 (3) of the 1989 Machinery Directive, the Council of the European Union called upon the member states to “ensure that appropriate measures are taken to enable the social partners to have an influence at national level on the process of preparing and monitoring the harmonized standards”, thus underlining the necessity for new participation structures in standardization. That call was a major catalyst in the establishment of Germany’s Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization (KAN) in 1994.

The establishment of KAN was triggered by the heightened importance which standards have gained within the European Union’s body of legislation. Since the introduction of the “New Approach” in 1985, EC single market directives (based on Article 95 of the EC Treaty) have only stipulated very general health and safety requirements for products which are to be placed on the EU market. These abstract requirements are then fleshed out in harmonized European standards. As a result of the New Approach, requirements governing product characteristics are no longer allowed in national or “Berufsgenossenschaft” (BG)¹ regulations since national differences could otherwise prevent free movement of goods. Consequently, the German government (at the Federal and Laender levels) and the BGs have a great interest in harmonizing European standards in line with the protection objectives of the single market directives at a high level.

In contrast, the European legal system does not provide for complete harmonization in the area of social security. The EC OH&S directives (based on Article 137 of the EC Treaty) specify minimum requirements which can be exceeded when implemented nationally. Since harmonized European standards cannot accommodate national differences, they are not suitable for supplementing the directives in this area. In Germany, the requirements are implemented by means of laws and ordinances but also by BG regulations. Germany’s fundamental standpoint on the function of standardization in the area of health and safety at work is laid out in the German Consensus Statement (GDS) on Standardization in the Field of Directives Based on Article 118a of the EC Treaty.

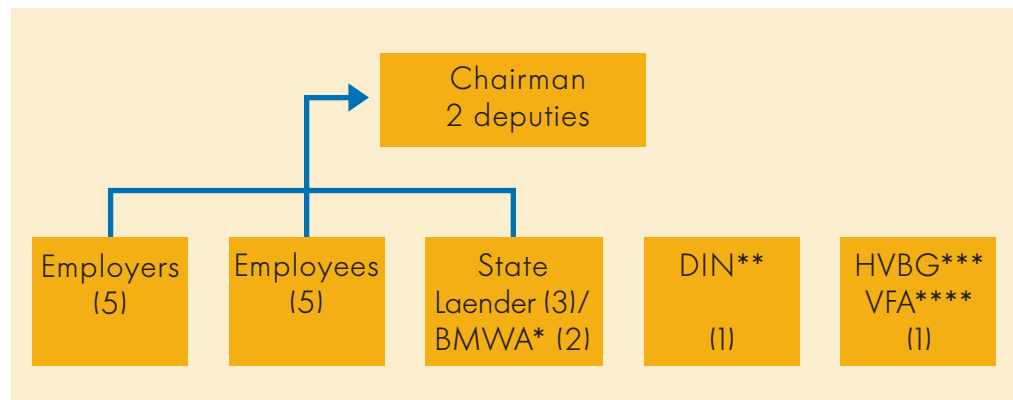
KAN’s main task is to help both sides of industry (the “social partners”) and the OH&S circles in Germany arrive at a common opinion with regard to standardization issues and then to ensure that opinion is taken into account in the standardization process. Such issues concern both ensuring that standards appropriately implement the essential health and safety requirements prescribed by the European directives and preserving national freedom to regulate the field of OH&S in accordance with the principles described in the GDS.

¹ Institutions for statutory accident insurance and prevention

Composition and Operation

KAN is comprised of representatives of the social partners (employers and trade unions), the State (Federal and Laender levels), the BGs and DIN (for a list of KAN's members, see **Annex 1**).

Distribution of Seats in KAN



- * BMW A Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour
- ** DIN German Institute for Standardization
- *** HV BG German Federation of Institutions for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention

The chairmanship rotates every two years between the state, employers and employees.

KAN Chairmen – Past and Present	
1994 – 1996	Wolfram Weinmann, BMA
1996 – 1998	Eugen Müller, BDA
1998 – 2000	Bruno Zwingmann, DGB/ Stefan Schaumburg, IG Metall
2000 – 2002	Ulrich Becker, BMA
2002 – 2004	Eugen Müller, BDA

Responsibility for KAN and its secretariat lies with the Association for the Promotion of Occupational Safety in Europe (VFA), which was founded by the 35 BGs. 51% of KAN's funding comes from the BGs and 49% from the federal government.

The Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization cannot and is not intended to draft standards itself. Rather, its task is to support standardization experts in their work, formulate a common German position on OH&S matters in standardization projects and ensure that position is taken into account, via DIN, in standardization processes.

Establishment and Development

Once the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization was established in 1994, work got underway setting up the KAN secretariat. One special feature was the "employers' liaison office" and "employees' liaison office". These offices made it possible to involve the social partners directly in the consensus-building processes via their representatives at the secretariat so that they can bring their interests to bear on standardization quickly and effectively – a system which has proven very successful over the years.

Managers of the KAN Secretariat	
1994 – 1999	Dr. Bodo Pfeiffer
2000 to date	Dr.-Ing. Joachim Lambert

Having begun its work, the most important thing for KAN was to obtain a systematic overview of past and current activities in standardization. To this end, in the first two years alone, 15 external studies were conducted on fields of standardization of particular relevance from the point of view of OH&S, such as machinery, PPE, ergonomics, noise, vibrations and radiation. All KAN studies are supervised by project groups including experts provided by the social partners and OH&S institutions. The advantage of this set-up is that the studies' findings and the recommendations derived from them are based on a broad consensus amongst the circles involved. The studies are usually published in the form of KAN Reports (**Annex 2**). KAN's work now takes in the entire range of OH&S matters that play a role in standards.

Expansion of Collaboration

KAN has been expanding its relations with the federal government's, Laender, accident insurance institutions' and social partners' OH&S representatives in the sphere of standardization ever since its foundation. It does this by such means as collaboration in project-supervising work groups, through events and congresses and regular information in print and electronic media.

With the parties responsible for OH&S in Germany being systematically involved right from the preparation of comments regarding standards projects and draft standards, a close collaboration has evolved with the OH&S experts concerned with standardization. KAN serves as a platform for them to exchange views and develop consensus-based OH&S standpoints on standardization issues – a significant aid in ensuring those standpoints are incorporated in the standards.

In Germany, responsibility for market surveillance resides with the Laender. In view of the fact that market surveillance can also provide an insight into how standards are complied with in practice, KAN's collaboration with the relevant Laender authorities has been given a broader basis. The Commission for Occupational Safety and Safety Engineering of the Federal States (LASI) and KAN have signed a cooperation agreement, the main points of which concern the following:

- standards-related information to be provided by KAN,
- exchange of information on inadequate OH&S specifications in standards and
- establishment of a system of regular exchange of experience.

These activities are intended to support the standardization process and thus contribute to greater safety at the workplace.

KAN Members' Reflections

Ulrich Becker, BMWA

"The federal government has a significant interest in KAN as a means of strengthening and concentrating representation of OH&S concerns in the realm of European standardization."



The New Approach to European single market directives raises the significance of European standards, including standards relating to occupational health and safety. However, overall responsibility for OH&S in Germany still remains with the government and the statutory accident insurance institutions. Consequently, the public OH&S interest needs to be asserted in European standardization processes – and that's where KAN and the circles represented in it come in.

By founding KAN, Germany's federal government also fulfilled its duty, arising from various EC directives, to ensure that the social partners are directly involved in standardization.

Attempts are being made to develop standards for the field of OH&S too, in the same vein as the directives pursuant to Article 95 of the EC Treaty. However, standards can only play a limited role in the field of health and safety of workers at work because national regulatory discretion remains in place and national law applies as well as the BG rules and regulations. It is thus in the public interest that standards should not contain any specifications with regard to issues of health and safety of workers at work, which fall within the government's and the BGs' remit. Protecting that regulatory freedom and countering the above-mentioned attempts are thus also part of KAN's tasks.

KAN provides a forum for the clarification and coordination required between state bodies, statutory accident insurance institutions, the social partners and DIN when it comes to OH&S-related standardization. At the same time, KAN does a great deal to ensure that OH&S standpoints are aligned at the national level and effectively presented in standardization.

Since its establishment in 1994, KAN has gained increasing influence on the standardization work crucial to OH&S in Europe. It has made a name

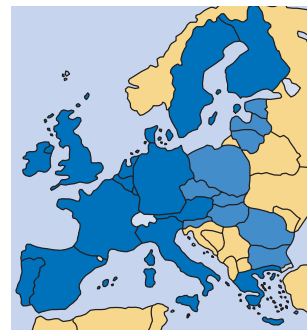
for itself in Europe and is frequently consulted on important issues. Today we can see that KAN provides a vital impetus in efforts to guarantee a high level of protection in standards whilst at the same time strengthening competitiveness.

Having said that, the rapid progress of globalization means that a more international orientation will be required in the future, which in turn will necessitate better alignment of OH&S interests in Europe

2 European and International Activities

European Level

From its very inception, there was consensus within KAN that bringing German OH&S standpoints to bear in European standardization would require close cooperation with the European partner institutions. That cooperation is becoming even more essential, in view of the fact that standardization is becoming increasingly international. So, from the outset, KAN began creating structures and working together with other European institutions dedicated to OH&S and/or standardization.



KAN established contact with OH&S institutions in France (Ministry of Social Affairs, Eurogip and INRS) and in the United Kingdom (DTI, HSE and HSL) and deepened relations with them through working meetings, exchange of publications and elaboration of common positions on standardization matters. In addition, it developed working contacts with Czech, Finnish, Italian, Polish and Spanish OH&S institutions. The heads of the KAN social-partner offices became involved in committees and cooperation projects thanks to KAN's contact with the European social-partner organizations UNICE and ETUC. Working relations with the European establishments TUTB (employees), NORMAPME (small and medium-sized enterprises) and ANEC (consumers) were also expanded. These institutions were created with financial support from the EU Commission in order to intensify participation in the European standardization process by the circles they represent. In their capacity as associate CEN members, they perform important information and clearing tasks. In July 2000, KAN opened an office in Brussels to make it easier to exchange information with representatives of European partner organizations in Brussels.

From 1998 to 2000 and 2001 to 2004, KAN posted employees from its secretariat to the European Commission, thus considerably stepping up its collaboration with the Enterprise Directorate General – an institution crucial to the implementation of the New Approach. During their time there, the KAN employees worked on European standardization policy and the revision of the Low Voltage Directive.

KAN provided much of the impetus behind the creation of the CEN sector forum "OH&S" in 1997, which was set up as part of the restructuring of CEN, and has been following and supporting in the work of that forum ever since.

A European expert network, "EUROSHNET" (**EUR**o**pean O**ccupational **S**afety and **H**ealth **NET**work), is currently being expanded to bolster collaboration between Europe's OH&S circles. The main communication component, an Internet platform, enables registered OH&S experts to exchange views with fellow experts in Europe in forums covering a range of topics. It also includes a database which participants can use to search for experts anywhere in Europe and to contact them directly. This makes it possible to develop common European positions on questions relevant to OH&S. The

initiative for the network stemmed from a European conference staged by German and French OH&S institutions in Dresden in autumn 2001. So far, EUROSHNET's members include experts from OH&S institutions in Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom. The intention is to include other European states in the near future.

International Level

As markets become global, international standards are gaining in significance. This has an effect on OH&S because requirements concerning safe product design are now increasingly covered by international standards. Attempts are also being made to have health and safety of workers at work standardized at the international level. KAN has reacted to these developments by drafting a strategy for international standardization from the point of view of OH&S.

The strategy document explains that in order for an international product standard to be adopted as a harmonized European standard and to give rise to a presumption of conformity by publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities, it is essential that it adequately support the essential requirements of European directives. Should this prove not to be the case, the member states' representatives have the option of accepting the standard internationally but modifying it for European purposes. Allowing differences between the European and international versions is, however, an inferior solution as they force companies competing in the international arena to manufacture their goods in accordance with different standards. It is therefore preferable to make every effort to ensure that the international version of the standard satisfies the requirements of European law. So it is important that OH&S representatives have a say in international standardization too.

Where possible, provisions in international standards concerning the health and safety of workers at work should be reformulated as requirements for the user information to be produced by the manufacturer. Alternatively, product requirements and workplace issues should be dealt with in separate parts of the standard. This would make it easier to incorporate the product-related parts into the European body of standards. At the same time, it must be ensured that the parts governing workplace arrangements are not submitted to the European voting process. The advantage of this solution would be that each national standards organization would be free to adopt the workplace-related part of an international standard as a national standard should it, for example, lack regulations of its own on the subject.



KAN Members' Reflections

Alexander Gunkel, BDA

"In the view of the BDA, the Confederation of German Employers' Associations, one of the important functions of (KAN) is to oppose over-regulation of occupational health and safety, and thereby to help achieve the much-needed reduction in German bureaucracy. Deregulation leads to greater transparency and ease of use, and thus has a direct bearing upon the competitiveness of the German economy in a European and international context."



European standards govern the safety characteristics of work equipment. The EU no longer sets forth details of safety characteristics in its directives, leaving this task instead to the European standardization committees. European standardization is fast growing in importance as a result. Awareness of the **quality of standards**, i.e. their suitability for practical application in particular, must be increased in this area. This applies to the readability, transparency, and user-friendliness of the standards.

Issues concerning the **health and safety of workers at work** are not the subject of standardization activity where they address the duties of employers, the rights and duties of employees, and the organization of occupational health and safety. These aspects are governed comprehensively and conclusively by binding regulations at European and national level. Standards governing the health and safety of workers at work must be rejected by KAN in accordance with the German Consensus Statement.

Employers regard KAN as an intelligent instrument by which the escalating trend towards standardization, which impacts particularly negatively upon small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), can effectively be opposed, and by which a consensus can be found more easily with regard to OH&S issues in standardization. The employers also regard KAN as an institution which strengthens the participation by the two sides of industry in standardization, and as a body responsible for improving the flow of information on the mandating of standards, by which in particular errors may be prevented concerning the standardization of the health and safety of workers at work.

Developments in the area of "OH&S management systems" have shown the importance of KAN for the coordination and implementation of common OH&S interests. This task can be expected to increase in importance. The growing trend towards non-material standards (corporate social responsibility; standards governing services, quality assurance, mental stress, and

in the area of ergonomics etc.) necessitates even greater participation in the area of standards policy, not only at national, but also and in particular at European and international level.

KAN can also contribute towards opposing over-regulation in occupational health and safety, and thereby help achieve the much-needed reduction in German bureaucracy. Deregulation leads to greater transparency and ease of use, and thus has a direct bearing upon the competitiveness of the German economy in a European and international context.

Standardization relieves the legislator of the duty to draw up detailed statutory regulations. This has been achieved in Europe with the New Approach. It is in the interests of business to transfer this approach to the international level.

To summarize, employers' representatives regard KAN as:

- an institution for strengthening the involvement of the two sides of industry in standardization and for improving the flow of information concerning standardization projects;
- a body concerned with avoiding misguided policies in standardization relating to the health and safety of workers at work;
- an effective instrument for the formation of national opinion in the area of OH&S-related standardization;
- an instrument by means of which the national position on occupational health and safety can be carried through at European and international level;
- a means of opposing over-regulation of occupational health and safety.

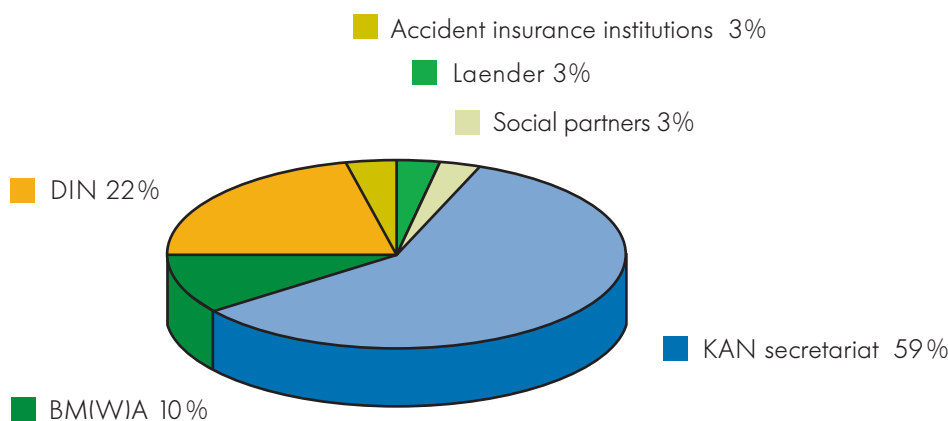
KAN Resolutions

The Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization sets out the results of its technical and political discussions in resolutions. The resolutions constitute "Consensus Statements and Declarations of Intent by the Groups Represented in KAN" on standardization issues related to OH&S. They are drawn up either at KAN meetings or by means of a written feedback procedure.

KAN resolutions can deal both with far-reaching issues of standardization policy and specific technical details. They are intended to be translated into practice by the parties represented in KAN and/or the KAN secretariat. Taken as a whole, the resolutions provide a record of the Commission's activities over the past ten years and serve as the basis for the KAN secretariat's work.

The following chart gives an approximate breakdown of which members the resolutions, 324 in total, have addressed.

Addressees of KAN Resolutions



74% of the KAN resolutions adopted thus far have already been translated into practice; 26% are still being worked on by the members and the secretariat.



Comments on Standards

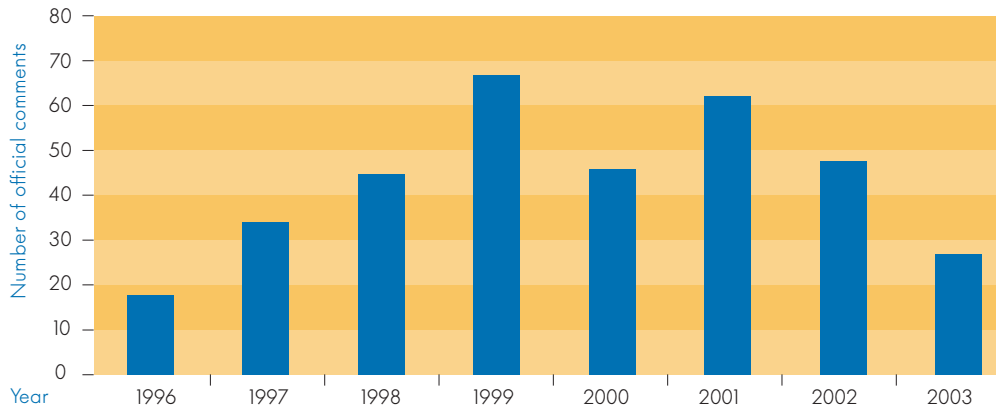
KAN uses official written comments to express its opinions on specific work items. Such comments become necessary if a standard contains OH&S aspects which require improvement or if a standard conflicts with the political framework described in the GDS.

Official comments concerned with OH&S aspects are usually the result of a comprehensive consultation process with German and sometimes with other European OH&S experts on the subject in question. The KAN secretariat coordinates the process of pooling that expertise and presenting the comments to the national bodies, and later informs the experts as to the extent to which the standards body has taken the comment into account.

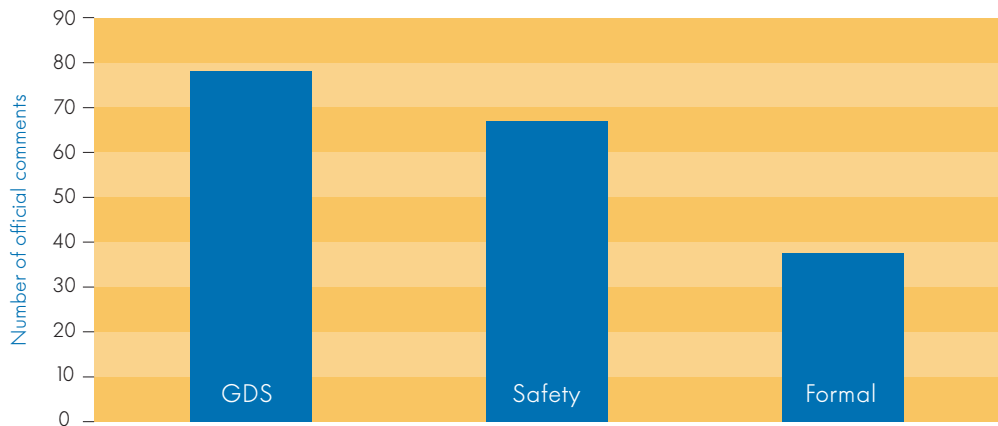
Those KAN comments which relate to conflicts with the political framework are usually based on Article 137 of the EC Treaty, the "German Consensus Statement" and the CEN/CENELEC and ISO/IEC resolutions on the relationship between standardization and national legislation. All of these documents state that aspects of health and safety of workers at work should be regulated by national legislators and should thus not be standardized.

19 studies, published in the form of KAN Reports, have analysed and assessed individual fields of standardization, looking at some 2,900 standards, draft standards and work items. Every month, the KAN secretariat examines roughly 30-40 new OH&S-related draft standards, supplied by DIN, making around 4,000 draft standards since 1994. In addition, OH&S experts advise it of any flaws in specific standards. From 1996 to 2003, the KAN secretariat issued 347 comments on draft standards.

Official KAN Comments 1996 – 2003



Subject Matter of Official KAN Comments¹ 2001 – 2003



- GDS: Standard contradicts the German Consensus Statement on Standardization in the Field of Health and Safety of Workers at Work
- Safety: Standard does not comply with the safety level required by the EC directive
- Formal: Editorial changes required; standard has formal flaws

¹ Comments may be included more than once since they can cover more than one of the three aspects

Unanimous Vote

In 1996, the DIN Presidial Board strengthened the principle of consensus in standardization work, whereby the parties concerned endeavour to arrive at a common opinion based on harmonized viewpoints, by establishing what might be called a system of "minority protection" at the national level. The way this works is that, in accordance with the Board's resolution no. 4/1996, if a standard is passed to the standards body to be voted on, contrary to the consensus principle, it is not possible to adopt a decision that goes against the unanimous vote by a party with a key interest in standardization.¹

Consequently, if they are based on a unanimous vote by the OH&S circles represented in KAN, the Commission's resolutions and comments also carry significant weight. KAN has occasionally used this instrument, thereby raising the influence of the OH&S sphere on standardization work in Germany.

Formal Objections

Formal objections (previously also referred to as "standards safeguard clauses") are raised in respect of a standard's presumption of conformity. They can be presented by a member state or by the European Commission whenever essential requirements specified in a directive are not sufficiently taken into account in a harmonized standard. After consulting the member states, the European Commission decides whether the reference to the standard concerned should be withdrawn completely or only partially from the EU's Official Journal.

The Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization can take this route via Germany's federal government, which is represented in KAN, whenever OH&S requirements are not taken into account in European standardization. One case in which it opted to do so, for example, concerned a standard for mobile cranes (see page 22).

¹ Cf. "DIN-Mitteilungen" 1/1997, page 5

KAN Members' Reflections

Marina Schröder, DGB

"The trade unions see KAN as an important step towards democratizing private standardization. KAN is a forum for those interest groups which are otherwise weakly represented on standards committees."



In the European Union, standards have gained considerably in significance since the introduction of the "New Approach". In the new system, the legislator only stipulates the essential requirements. Responsibility for the details – for example, the requirements for safe machinery – lies with the standardizers.

In establishing KAN, Germany chose its own particular way of fulfilling the EU requirement that national social partners should be given the possibility to exert more influence on standardization. Rather than attempting to get as many employees as possible involved in as many committees as possible, the KAN approach focuses on systematic observation of and influence on current OH&S-related standardization by what is essentially a tripartite commission.

Looking back, the foundation of KAN was itself an important step towards democratizing private standardization – which was moulded by manufacturers' interests – democratization which the DGB Federal Congress had called for as early as 1975. The "Social-Partners Liaison Office for Employees" at the KAN secretariat institutionalised the standardization-advice service for trade unions and works councils.

The activities carried out in the first few years, i.e. the series of extensive KAN studies which looked at the main fields of standardization, laid the foundations for better assessment of standards (and their shortcomings) from the point of view of OH&S and the workforce. As well as resulting in documents, over the years that work has led to a wide network of experts and users. The network has proven efficient in handling the comments, which often have to be submitted at short notice, and as an ad hoc means of obtaining workplace-based expertise, helping trade unions form opinions on particular standardization projects and bolstering the notion of participation throughout Europe.

KAN's work has dealt with a whole range of topics which the trade unions had suggested or in which they have a special interest. These have included ergonomics and product safety but also the prevention of a standard for OH&S management systems. Despite a number of minor and major successes, with an eye to the future it should be pointed out that the process of exerting influence could be made even more effective.

In this process, the primary objective for the trade unions is that KAN should strengthen its mediator function by providing an even better means of transporting the experiences of workplace users to the designers and standardizers and by supporting the various bodies' OH&S experts in their standardization work.

4 Examples of KAN's Work

The KAN secretariat's main tasks include preparing comments, bringing about a common German OH&S opinion on specific issues, conducting research, commissioning projects and publishing the findings of KAN's work. This chapter presents a few examples of the secretariat's work.

Main Areas of KAN's Activities

Generic subjects	Accreditation / certification OH&S organization Workplaces / use of working equipment Services Ergonomics Standardization policy
Product safety	General product safety Construction products Pressure vessels / gas appliances Electrical equipment Machinery Medical devices / laboratory equipment Personal protective equipment Rail traffic
Hazards	Biological hazards Fire hazards Chemical hazards Electrical hazards Explosion hazards Noise Radiation Vibrations

OH&S Management Systems

One example of a KAN resolution with far-reaching consequences in standardization policy is the resolution concerning OH&S management systems. KAN rejects the idea of standardizing such systems because use of certain management systems should be voluntary and not entail any bureaucratic constraints, especially in the case of SMEs. Nor should incorporating OH&S into the work process oblige a company to undergo certification.

Following KAN's resolution on OH&S management systems, DIN voted against the adoption of work items on such systems at the ISO and CEN levels. At the same time, the social partners and what was then the Federal Ministry of Labour (BMA), supported by the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA), called on the ILO to have a guidance document prepared on the systems. The guide was then presented in 2001.


Mobile Cranes

One of KAN's recommendations to the BMWV to initiate a formal objection to a European standard related to mobile cranes. The recommendation was issued, after thorough discussion in German OH&S circles, because the draft standard did not give adequate consideration to the significant risk of the crane tipping over. The objection was that crane operators could misuse the provided "load torque limiter" protection system since they could easily deactivate it. As a result of a series of KAN resolutions, the German side informed the European Commission that it intended to contest the presumption of conformity for the future EN 13000 standard because of this point. The aim is that the standards body responsible should incorporate more extensive design solutions to reduce the risk.

Foreseeable Misuse

As well as considering "intended use" of products, standards also have to cover "reasonably foreseeable misuse" (previously known as "foreseeable abuse"). This term refers to those cases in which a machine is used in a way other than that specified by the manufacturer but which can arise from easily foreseeable human behaviour. Manufacturers and standardizers have to take such behaviour into account when assessing the risks. Any risk-reducing measures required must be based on the following three-level hierarchy:

1. an intrinsically safe design aims to avoid hazards occurring in the first place;
2. if that is not possible, additional measures are to be taken, e.g. installation of guards or, in the case of a noisy machine, an enclosure; and
3. finally, the manufacturer must inform the user about any residual risks which the first two steps were not able to eliminate. The manufacturer might recommend protective measures for the user, e.g. use of suitable personal protective equipment.



KAN has developed concrete proposals on this subject and ensured their incorporation in generic standards on safety of machinery, e.g. EN ISO 12100 (successor to EN 292). Consideration of foreseeable misuse is also an important topic of discussion in the current revision of the Low Voltage Directive.

Emissions

In many cases, the emissions aspect of the Machinery Directive is not adequately complied with since standards concerning machinery safety and electrical tools often do not give sufficient consideration to the machinery emissions (noise, vibrations, hazardous substances and radiation).

KAN's comments on this subject address various areas of standardization, i.e.

- safety standards for particular machines (C standards),
- improvement of EN 292 (or the future ISO 12100) with regard to the consideration of emission hazards,
- harmonization of measuring methods for similar machines and tools and
- support for standardization of measuring methods and emission-based methods for estimating exposure.

However, emissions do not only play a role in the field of machinery and electrical tools. Other examples include consideration of emissions of hazardous substances in standards on personal protective equipment (e.g. latex gloves, chromate in gloves and shoes) or construction products (chromate in cement, dispersion adhesives for flooring).



Ergonomics

Many product standards do not yet pay adequate attention to ergonomic aspects. KAN is striving for uniform requirements in European standards (EN) and international standards (ISO/IEC) in order to raise acceptance for existing ergonomics standards relating to product design. In addition, KAN and the DIN Standards Committee on Ergonomics have developed a strategy for structuring ergonomics standards, which has been largely accepted by CEN and ISO.

OH&S Aspects within the Operator's Responsibility

Standards frequently also deal with aspects which are important for the safe operation of a product and concern the working environment and the employer's or employee's duties. In some standards, such requirements address the operator directly. Since operators will usually not have a copy of the standard, they will not receive the important safety-related information. What's more, it cannot be ruled out that such requirements might conflict with OH&S regulations.

The proposed solution developed by KAN and published in collaboration with DIN suggests that the standard should require the manufacturer to include such safety-related data in the user information. The latter is an important link and often the only channel of communication between the manufacturer and the operator. It gives the operator the information necessary for ensuring safe operation as well as information on residual risks.

KAN Members' Reflections

Dr. Joachim Breuer, HVBG/VFA

"The chief factor that has enabled the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization to achieve such a great impact in the ten years since its foundation is that the key players involved in OH&S issues agreed to work together on standardization matters."



There are two main areas in which the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization performs important tasks and effectively supports and lightens the load on the BGs.

The first is the area of health and safety at work, which is not harmonized at the European level and in which the State and BGs are free to regulate as they feel fit. KAN took on the task of bringing to life the "German Consensus Statement on Standardization in the Field of Health and Safety of Workers at Work (GDS)", which had already been adopted before KAN was set up, and ensuring that the standards bodies adhere to the contents of the Statement so as to maintain the State's and BGs' regulatory freedom. KAN also contributed to resolutions passed by the European CEN and CENELEC standards organizations, setting out the conditions under which standardization can occur within the scope of Article 137 of the EC Treaty and where it should not. Finally, it is thanks to KAN's efforts that the European Commission and the Council took on board the principles embodied in the GDS and confirmed them in their own statements concerning European standardization policy.

The second area is concerned with specifications for product characteristics in standards designed to implement single market directives based on Article 95 of the EC Treaty.

Whereas it used to be taken for granted that BG accident-prevention regulations also contained requirements governing the characteristics of machinery, appliances and equipment, such requirements have been removed from the BG rules since the harmonization of Community law relating to the single market. Today, under the "New Approach", harmonized European standards supplement the essential requirements laid out in the European single market directives. The BGs lend considerable support to this process both by providing expertise and supplying funding, the primary aim being

to achieve a high level of protection at the European as well as the German level. However, the BGs' standpoint is not always given appropriate consideration in the European standardization process. This is an area in which KAN has taken on an important role as a platform upon which to align German OH&S positions, be it in the usual procedure for opposing draft standards or in the preparation of a "formal objection" to standards being listed in the EU's Official Journal. By virtue of its make-up, KAN can bring about a consensus between the key players in OH&S and represent that consensus opinion effectively at the national, European and also the international level.

Events and Presentations

KAN events and publications help to ensure that the impact of the Commission's work and interest in the issues with which it is concerned go far beyond those who are actually involved in OH&S. KAN also participates in other institutions' events and trade fairs and congresses to the same end. The numerous presentations held by secretariat staff are testimony to the wide range of KAN's external activities.

Year	Number of presentations
1995	10
1996	22
1997	13
1998	3
1999	13
2000	15
2001	10
2002	27
2003	16

KAN and the BG Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (BGAG) in Dresden regularly stage joint courses for OH&S experts as well as events at which they can share findings. State bodies and accident insurance institutions are also increasingly engaging KAN representatives to speak at their events and report on issues concerning OH&S-related standardization.



KAN Reports

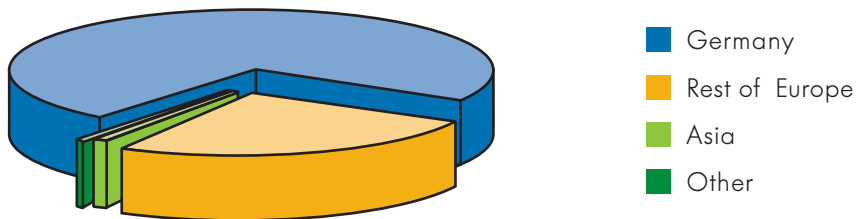
By the end of 2003, KAN had published over 30 reports (**Annex 2**) on a variety of standardization areas. Each report contains a trilingual summary (in German, English and French) as well as the recommendations decided on by KAN. In order to satisfy the growing European and international interest in KAN's findings, KAN reports are increasingly being published in English as well. All of the reports are available via the Internet.

KANBRIEF

"KANBRIEF", a quarterly newsletter for the field of OH&S and standardization, has become a central element of KAN's publicity work. One distinguishing feature is its multilingual form (German, English and French). All past and present issues can be viewed on the KAN website (www.kan.de), where Italian versions are also available. This newsletter gives KAN and Germany's OH&S representatives in the realm of standardization an excellent opportunity to disseminate their findings at the European level.

Launched in 1998, KANBRIEF now has a print-run of 9,000 and permanent subscribers in 82 countries. It has helped to make KAN known in Europe and beyond and its concise articles whet people's appetite for the subject of OH&S and standardization (**Annex 3**).

KANBRIEF Subscribers



Publications in Specialist Journals

KAN also publishes articles in specialist journals, including "DIN-Mitteilungen", "Die BG", "Bundesarbeitsblatt", "Sicherheitsingenieur", "Der Arbeitgeber" and "Arbeit & Ökologie-Briefe", in order to make its views known to a wider audience (**Annex 4**).



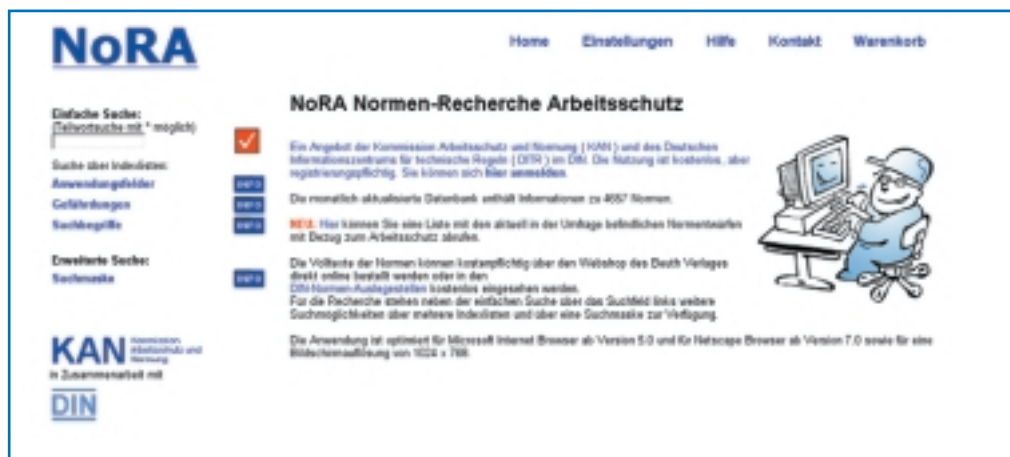
KAN Website (www.kan.de)

The website outlines KAN's structure, tasks and fields of activity and offers access to all KAN publications and other important documents concerning OH&S and standardization. The number of visitors is constantly on the increase with some 60,000 hits per month currently being registered.

"NoRA" OH&S Standards Research Tool

KAN's launch of "NoRA" in October 2002 was an important step towards satisfying the need for rapidly accessible information on OH&S-related standards. A comprehensive keyword system was developed for NoRA to help users search for relevant standards. The idea for this search tool, created in collaboration with DIN, stemmed from a study which KAN commissioned on the subject of SMEs' information on OH&S and standardization (KAN Report 25). The NoRA tool, which anyone can access free of charge via the KAN website, eliminates the gap in the information supply.

NoRA Start Screen



NoRA Home Einstellungen Hilfe Kontakt Warenkorb

NoRA Normen-Recherche Arbeitsschutz

Ein Angebot der Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung (KAN) und des Deutschen Informationszentrums für technische Regeln (DIN) im EM. Die Nutzung ist kostenlos, aber registrierungspflichtig. Sie können sich hier anmelden.

Die monatlich aktualisierte Datenbank enthält Informationen zu 4057 Normen.

NEU: Hier können Sie eine Liste mit den aktuell in der Umfrage befindlichen Normenartikeln mit Bezug zum Arbeitsschutz abrufen.

Die Volltexte der Normen können kostenpflichtig über den Webshop des Deutscher Verlag der Technik bestellt werden oder in den DIN Normen-Punktgeschäften kostenlos eingesehen werden. Für die Recherche stehen neben der einfachen Suche über das Suchfeld links weitere Suchmöglichkeiten über mehrere Indizes und über eine Suchmaske zur Verfügung.

Die Anwendung ist optimiert für Microsoft Internet Explorer ab Version 5.0 und für Netscape Browser ab Version 7.0 sowie für eine Bildschirmauflösung von 1024 x 768.

KAN Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung
in Zusammenarbeit mit
DIN

KANMAIL

At the end of 2000, KAN set up an e-mail information system with which to provide quick accounts of the latest news on special subjects and events. **KANMAIL**, published in German, English and French, is currently sent out to 2,300 readers in 38 countries.

KAN Members' Reflections

Dr. Peter Kiehl, DIN

Collaboration between KAN and DIN – a vital contribution to OH&S



In the last two decades, the focus of standardization has shifted away from the purely national to the European and international levels. Today, more than 85% of DIN's work items are already of European or international origin. A major reason for this is that European standards are fundamental to the functioning of the European single market.

It was not least this aspect that led Germany's key players in OH&S to establish the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization in 1994, with the primary goal of aligning OH&S interests and ensuring the aligned standpoints were taken into account, via DIN's committees, in the work on current and new standards projects. DIN backed those efforts, a fact reflected by, amongst other things, its involvement as one of the partners in KAN.

From the project studies which KAN was concerned with at the start of its work to its present support of standards projects (from the initiation of the project right through to the publication of the finished standard), KAN and the DIN committees have learnt a great deal over the years about how they collaborate. The insights thus gained, especially with regard to the incorporation of the OH&S experts' comments in DIN's standardization work, have been documented in guidelines produced by both institutions. They provide a practical aid for the OH&S representatives and all others who work in standardization. The important thing is that this set-up enables all of the stakeholders, including OH&S experts, to put forward a common opinion and have it taken into account in national standardization work at an early stage and thus also in European and international standardization.

The work performed by KAN and its members has helped to make sure that moving standardization to the European level has not led to the feared decline in product safety and other fields, e.g. personal protective equipment, in Germany. The joint forces of KAN and DIN have substantially

improved the results of standardization work – especially European standardization – in a whole range of cases.

The aim for the future remains to create national, European and international standards, based on a consensus, i.e. with the involvement of OH&S circles, which make a fundamental contribution to safety at the workplace, meet the needs of the market and appear in a timely fashion

Annex 1

As at 1.1.2004

STATE INSTITUTIONS (FEDERAL/LAENDER)	
FULL MEMBERS	SUBSTITUTES
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Prof. Hans-Jürgen Bieneck Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin	Dr. Karl-Ernst Poppendick Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin
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André Conrad Senatsverwaltung für Gesundheit, Soziales und Verbraucherschutz, Berlin	Ernst-Friedrich Pernack Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit und Frauen des Landes Brandenburg
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Rainer Irlenkaeuser Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung	Wolfram Jeiter Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin
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Dr. Siegfried Böhm Bayer Industry Services	Jörg Hagedorn Bundesvereinigung der Fachverbände des Deutschen Handwerks
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Max Angermaier Industriegewerkschaft Metall	Rolf Gehring Industriegewerkschaft Metall
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Prof. Dr. Siegfried Radandt Berufsgenossenschaft Nahrungsmittel und Gaststätten	Karl Ludwig Orth DKE Deutsche Elektrotechnische Kommission im DIN und VDE

Annex 2

NO.	TITLE	LANGUAGE
1	Promoting occupational health and safety in standardization. Conference organized by KAN on 17 November 1994 in Hennef, September 1995	DE
2	K.-H. Grass, Standardization in the field of safety and health at the workplace (Article 118a of the EC Treaty), September 1995	DE
3	T. Schenk, Definition of the need for standardization to establish vibration parameters, March 1996	DE ¹
4	F. Sasse, Crushing points – working basis for standardization, June 1996	DE ¹
5	European standardization in the field of health and safety of workers at the workplace, A practical guide for German representatives in European Standardization, July 1996	DE ¹
6	F. Kreuzkamp/F. Börner, Safety components – working basis for standardization, August 1996	DE ¹
7	C. Gutzmann/J.-H. Kirchner/K. Wolberg, European standards on ergonomics – status review and systematisation, August 1996	DE ¹
8	H. Lazarus et al., Noise protection for machinery and workplace – status of and need for occupational health and safety standardization, October 1996	DE ¹
9	S. Eggert/A. Frosch/P. Schreiber, Standardization in the field of non-ionizing radiation, 2nd, updated edition, November 2000	DE ¹
10	Report on the activities of KAN: 1 May 1994 – 30 April 1996, October 1996	DE
11	Standardization in the field of occupational health and safety management systems, 2nd edition, November 1997	DE
12	K.-H. Noetel, Standardization in the field of personal protective equipment, 2nd, updated edition, November 2001	DE ¹ , EN
13	G. Dannenberg/A. Diesel, Microorganisms in the workplace atmosphere – Actinomycetes; 2nd edition, February 1999	DE ¹
14	D. Ackers/H. Zieschang, Information systems in the field of occupational health, safety and standardization, September 1997	DE ¹

¹ In German; summary in English and French

NO.	TITLE	LANGUAGE
15	K. Wagner, Emissions of hazardous substances by machinery – European standardization and parameters, September 1997	DE ¹
16	A. and G. Çakir, P. Schäfer, Standardization in the field of work with display screen equipment, December 1997	DE ¹
17	PPE standards in practice, KAN seminar on "Standards on personal protective equipment" at the A+A Congress 97, December 1997	DE
18	A. Johannknecht, Requirements concerning instruction handbooks in product standards in support of the EC Machinery Directive, December 1997	DE ¹ , EN
19	D. Zimmermann, PPE against electrical risks, Nov. 1998	DE, EN ²
20	Report on the activities of KAN: 1 May 1996 - 30 April 1998, May 1998	DE
21	Information on emissions in machinery standards, January 2000	DE, EN
22	V. Eichener, Occupational health and safety experts in standardization – a survey, November 1999	DE ¹
23	H. Enderlein/W. Gläser/S. Weißflog, Consideration of non-electrical hazards in standardization in support of the Low Voltage Directive, January 2000	DE ¹
24	Report on KAN Activities: 1 May 1998 - 30 April 2000, August 2000	DE, EN
25	V. Eichener, Information on OH&S for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, May 2001	DE ¹
26	M. Braun/T. Schulz, Standardization Relating to the Pressure Equipment Directive, November 2001	DE ¹ , EN
27	H. Illhardt/W. Kölbel, Standardization relating to OH&S in the field of rail traffic, June 2002	DE ¹ , EN
28	Report on KAN Activities: 1 May 2000 - 30 April 2002, July 2002	DE, EN
29	J. Falke, International standards for the elimination of barriers to trade, May 2002	DE, EN, FR ³
30	J. Ernsthäler/M. Funk/R. Schultze, Accreditation of testing and certification bodies, October 2003	DE, EN, FR ³
31	U. Hölscher/W. Laurig, Ergonomics Guidelines for the Design of Medical Devices, March 2004	DE ¹ , EN ⁴

¹ In German; summary in English and French

² In German and English; summary in French

³ Short version German/English/French; German and English full texts available on the KAN-website

⁴ English full text available on the KAN-website

Annex 3

ISSUE	MAIN TOPIC
1/1998	Optimizing CEN
2/1998	Machinery emissions as a health hazard
3/1998	Prevention through ergonomic product design
4/1998	Standardization in the field of personal protective equipment (PPE)
1/1999	Standardization policy from the point of view of occupational health and safety
2/1999	Standardization in the field of machinery safety
3/1999	Electrotechnical standardization
4/1999	Information for use in machinery standards
1/2000	Information on emissions from machinery
2/2000	Information on occupational health and safety for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
3/2000	Electromagnetic fields
4/2000	Hazards from optical radiation
1/2001	Standardization of mental work-load
2/2001	Hazards presented by electric shock
3/2001	Safety of machinery (developments in standardization, revision of the Machinery Directive)
4/2001	Rail transport (hazards, need for standardization)
1/2002	European Conference "Standardization, Testing and Certification – A Contribution to Occupational Health and Safety"
2/2002	Personal Protective Equipment (Directive and standardization)
3/2002	Market surveillance in Europe
4/2002	Standardization of services
1/2003	Legal aspects of product standardization
2/2003	Accreditation of testing and certification bodies
3/2003	Enlargement of the European Union
4/2003	KAN events at A+ A 2003

Annex 4

YEAR	TOPIC (ENGLISH TITLES IN ITALICS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
1996	Barz, N./Krieg, K./Waldeck, D./Weinmann, W.: Referate und Podiumsdiskussion "Normung und Arbeitsschutz in Europa" auf der A+A 1995, (<i>presentations and panel discussion "Standardization and OH&S in Europe"</i>) in: Die BG, 5/96, p. 4-12 and 15-19
	Coenen, W./Jansen, M./Kazmierczak, A./Zwingmann, B.: Bericht über den ISO-Workshop AMS (<i>Report on the ISO Workshop 'OH&S management systems'</i>), in: Die BG, 12/96, p. 805-827
	Pfeiffer, B./Sterk, W.: Organisation, Aufgaben, Ziel u. Arbeitsweise der Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung (<i>organization, tasks, objective and modus operandi of KAN</i>), in: Moderne Unfallverhütung, 40, 1996, p. 16-20
	Weinmann, W.: Die Bedeutung der Europäischen Normung für den Arbeitsschutz (<i>the significance of European standardization for occupational health and safety</i>), in: Moderne Unfallverhütung, 40, 1996, p. 9-15
1997	Ackers, D./Barz, N.: Conformity check of standards developed at the international level in relation to European legislation, in: ISSA (Hrsg.), Conference Proceedings of the 12th International Colloquium of the Electricity Section, Cologne 1997, p. 437- 439
	Janowitz, A.: Arbeitsweise der KAN am Beispiel Biotechnologie, (<i>modus operandi of KAN: the example of biotechnology</i>) Bericht über die Ergebnisse u. Empfehlungen aus der KAN-Studie Normung im Bereich Biotechnologie, in: Die BG, 4/97, p. 170-173
	Janowitz, A.: Die wachsende Bedeutung der Europäischen Normung für die Biotechnologie (<i>the increasing importance of European standardization in the field of biotechnology</i>), in: DECHEMA (Hrsg.), Internationales Treffen für Chemische Technik, Umweltschutz und Biotechnologie, Tagungsband, Achema 97, Frankfurt/M. (o.J.)
	Jansen, M./Meffert, K./Sterk, W./ Waldeck, D.: Kongressbericht zur Europäischen Konferenz "Kosten und Nutzen von Sicherheit und Gesundheit am Arbeitsplatz" (<i>report on the European conference "Costs and benefits of occupational health and safety"</i>) in Den Haag, in: Die BG, 9/97, p. 475-477
	Lazarus, H./Zimmermann, D.: Normungsbedarf für Lärmschutz an Maschinen und in Arbeitsstätten (<i>need for standardization relating to noise protection for machinery and workplace</i>), in: Die BG, 11/97, p. 611-618
	Sterk, W.: Sicherheit und Gesundheitsschutz in der Europäischen Produktnormung zu Lasten der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit? (<i>OH&S in European product standardization to the disadvantage of competitiveness?</i>), in: IVSS (Hrsg.), VI. Int. Kolloquium der Int. Sektion der IVSS für die Verhütung von Arbeitsunfällen und Berufskrankheiten in der Eisen- und Metallindustrie, Schlussbericht, Barcelona 1997, p. 33-36
	Zimmermann, D.: KAN – Commission for OH&S and Standardization, a

¹ Not including KANBRIEF

YEAR	TOPIC
	German project, in: 4th Seminar on PPE in Europe. Seminar report, 1997, p. 56-59
1998	Ackers, D.: Normen im Spannungsfeld von Maschinenrichtlinie und Niederspannungsrichtlinie (<i>standards in the area of tension between the machinery directive and the low-voltage directive</i>), in: Die BG, 3/98, p. 154-156
	Bamberg, U./Zimmermann, D.: Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung (<i>the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization</i>), in: F. Ecker/T. Kohstall/M. Marggraf (Hrsg.), Arbeitsschutz besser managen, Kap. 05710, Köln 1998, p. 1-17
	Lazarus, H./Zimmermann, D.: Noise Control Standards for Machinery and Workplaces, in: esn (<i>European Safety Newsletter</i>) Nr. 58, April/Mai 1998, p. 8-12
	Lazarus, H./Zimmermann, D.: Noise Control Standards for Machinery and Workplaces, in: Noise News, Nr. 4, 12/98, p. 201
1999	Ackers, D./Barz, N. (Hrsg.): Europäische Sicherheitsvorschriften für elektrische Betriebsmittel (<i>European safety rules for electrical equipment</i>). Leitfaden EG-Binnenmarkt (Loseblattsammlung), Berlin/Offenbach 1999 ff.
	Gémesi, O.: Arbeitsschutz und Normung (<i>Occupational health and safety and standardization</i>), in: EU-Informationsbrief Gesundheit, 6/99, p. 597-598
	Gémesi, O.: Arbeitssicherheit im Focus – Gebrauch von Latexhandschuhen kann Allergie verursachen (<i>OH&S in focus: use of latex gloves can cause allergies</i>), in: BioTec, 6/99, p.12
	Hilpert, G.: Normung im Bereich Maschinensicherheit (<i>standardization in the field of machine safety</i>), in: GIT Sicherheit + Management, 6/99, p. 597-598
	Janowitz, A.: Arbeitssicherheit im Focus – Mikrobiologische Sicherheitswerkbänke (<i>OH&S in focus: microbiological safety cabinets</i>), in: BioTec, 6/99, p. 12-13
	Mattiuzzo, C.: Die KAN – Schnittstelle vom Arbeitsschutz zur Normung (<i>KAN – interface between OH&S and standardization</i>), in: W. Eichen-dorf u.a. (Hrsg.), Arbeit und Gesundheit, Jahrbuch 2000. Innovation und Prävention, Wiesbaden 1999, p. 372-376
	Sterk, W.: Challenges to standardization, in: University of the Federal Armed Forces (Hrsg.), Report on the 'Second Interdisciplinary Workshop on Standardization Research', Hamburg 1999, p. 5-15
	Sterk, W.: Realisierung von Gesundheitsschutzanforderungen an Produkte durch Europäische Normung (<i>European standards as a</i>

YEAR	TOPIC
	<i>means to implement health and safety requirements on products</i>), in: BAuA (Hrsg.), Zukunft der Arbeitsbedingungen (Europäische Tagung), Tagungsbericht Tb 101, Dortmund/Berlin 1999, p. 133-138
2000	Ackers, D./Lambert, J.: Ein Grundsatzpapier für den Bereich Arbeitsschutz und Normung (<i>policy paper for the field of occupational health and safety and standardization</i>), in: Die BG, 2/2000, p. 90-95
	Ackers, D.: Ratsentschließung zur Rolle der Normung in Europa – aus Sicht der KAN (<i>Council resolution on the role of standardization in Europe – KAN's perspective</i>), in: DIN-Mitteilungen 4/2000, p. 254-255
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ANEC	European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation
BAuA	Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin (Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)
BDA	Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände e.V. (Confederation of German Employers' Associations)
BMWA (BMA)	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit (Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour) known as Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs until 2002)
CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CENELEC	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
DGB	Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (German Trade Union Federation)
DIN	Deutsches Institut für Normung (German Institute for Standardization)
DKE	Deutsche Kommission Elektrotechnik Elektronik Informationstechnik im DIN und VDE (German Commission for Electrical, Electronic and Information Technologies of DIN and VDE)
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry (UK)
EN	European standard (CEN, CENELEC)
ETUC	European Trade Union Confederation
GDS	Gemeinsamer Deutscher Standpunkt (German Consensus Statement on Standardization in the Field of Directives Based on
HSE	Article 118a of the EC Treaty)
HSL	Health and Safety Executive
HVBG	Health and Safety Laboratory Hauptverband der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften (German Federation of Institutions for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention)
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ILO	International Labour Organization
INRS	Institut national de recherche et de sécurité (French National Research and Safety Institute)
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISSA	International Social Security Association
NIWL	National Institute for Working and Learning (Sweden)
NoRA	Normen-Recherche Arbeitsschutz (OH&S Standards Research Tool)
NORM-APME	European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for Standardization
OH&S	Occupational health and safety
PPE	Personal protective equipment
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
TUTB	European Trade Union Technical Bureau for Health and Safety
UNICE	Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe
VDE	Verband Deutscher Elektrotechniker (Association of German Electrical Engineering Technicians)
VFA	Verein zur Förderung der Arbeitssicherheit in Europa (Association for the Promotion of Occupational Safety in Europe)



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