



THE NEXT GENERATION OF STANDARDS DEVELOPERS

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Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung (KAN)



KAN – Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung



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Peer-Oliver Villwock

Chair of KAN

Federal Ministry of Labour
and Social Affairs (BMAS)

Your country needs ... new standards developers

Standards help to promote innovation and simplify trade, and can now be found in almost all areas of life – including occupational safety and health, where they are also highly beneficial. Standards have a significant function in supporting the requirements for the safety of products set out in EU directives and regulations. Owing to the presumption of conformity with the relevant EU legislation to which they give rise, harmonized standards make a key contribution to product-related occupational safety and health, and help to prevent accidents at work. It is therefore in the interests of all parties involved to promote standardization actively and help shape it at national, European and international level.

This presents a challenge, as suitable experts must be recruited at all levels for the work. DIN alone has over 3,000 technical working committees; a further 700 ISO committees exist on which experts from Germany are members. Companies are often unwilling to commit the human and financial resources required for participation on these committees. In addition, the effects of demographic change have become apparent in recent years. The initiatives and schemes launched by DKE and DIN for promoting young talent are therefore an important step in the right direction. Initiatives at European level, such as the EDU4Standards project, can support these national measures. The same applies to the WIPANO funding programme of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), which is intended to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises in particular to participate in standards development. The activities of KAN in the occupational safety and health field are a further example.

To ensure that Germany maintains its strong position in standardization in the future, the course for the coming decades must be set now. «

Support for the next generation of standards developers

Standardization is facing an upheaval. Many stakeholders face declining resources. In addition, many long-serving experts are leaving the committees for reasons of age, and replacements must be found. The standards organizations are seeking to support this transition in a number of ways.

Over 35,000 experts are currently working on standards and other standardization documents at DIN and DKE. Their work is crucial, since they provide the expertise for the content of these documents. Participation in standardization activity offers advantages, but also comes at a cost in terms of money and human resources. Demographic change and other factors are creating a shortage of skilled personnel that is also affecting standardization. In the coming years, thousands of experts will retire. At the same time, recruiting new experts is becoming increasingly difficult, in particular because the seconding bodies, e.g. companies, themselves have less and less capacity to participate in standardization activity. This makes it increasingly difficult for them to take part in the numerous committees, particularly at the important European and international levels. Finally, the situation also jeopardizes Europe's pioneering role in standardization, one which the European Commission committed to in 2022 in its Standardisation Strategy.

This topic also affects the world of occupational safety and health. Numerous representatives of the German Social Accident Insurance and other stakeholders are engaged in establishing the topics of safety and health in standards. To maintain the high level of protection in the long term, it must be ensured that when participants in standardization leave, others move in to fill the gap.

The standards organizations, both in Germany and at European and international level, make provision in a number of ways for new experts to be recruited to standardization activity and given the best possible support during their induction period.

Are you new to standardization? This is where you can find support.

Getting started in standardization may be difficult. Imagine that your company has decided that you should join a standards committee in order to advocate there for its interests. But how does standardization activity actually work? What actually



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happens at a meeting of a standards committee, and what rights and obligations do its members have? Standards organizations both in Germany and at European and international level offer support. This ranges from e-learning programmes and seminars to various formats for dialogue and networking.

The Next Generation DKE

The German Commission for Electrical, Electronic and Information Technologies (DKE) is the platform for standardization in this sector in Germany. With its Next Generation DKE¹ network, it offers support on all topics relating to standardization. Next Generation DKE was created to enhance the influence of young people in the DKE and to provide them with information and support. The community offers an opportunity for people to create their own personal network in which they can pool ideas and support each other directly. Examples of Next Generation DKE's provision are a one-day boot camp where participants learn how a standard is created, and a mentoring programme.

“Next Generation DKE is both a contact point and a network for anyone wishing to learn about electrical standardization, to become involved and to help shape it.”

Annette Frederiksen, Head of Next Generation DKE

DIN Young Professionals

Through its DIN Young Professionals² network, DIN also offers a wealth of support. A selection: the podcast with the title “Humans are not ants – what you’ve never wanted to know about standardization, but really ought to know” is a great way of learning about the basics of standardization whilst on the move. The network’s LinkedIn group, which is very active, offers opportunities for dialogue and provides information on events at DIN. An e-learning course culminating in a quiz³ is also available, dealing with the background to standards, their benefits, the standards development process and participation in standardization work.

“‘Young’ doesn’t mean young in years, but new to the topic of standardization. Anyone interested (however casually) in #DIN or #standardization or wishing to network with other interesting people is invited to join the group.”

LinkedIn DIN Young Professionals group

At international level, ISO and IEC also provide support for “young professionals”⁴. The national standards organizations can obtain material from them for training courses, or send experts working on committees in person to international training events. Online courses providing a quick introduction to standardization topics are also available, as are other forms of support for the Young Professionals network.

Support by KAN

The programmes of the standards organizations naturally focus on standardization as a whole rather than on occupational safety and health. KAN fills this gap with information, seminars and practical guidance of its own (see article on p. 19). Occupational safety and health experts active in standards development can also contact KAN to obtain advice and support regarding their specific concerns.

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1 www.dke.de/en/services/next-generation-dke

2 www.din.de/de/mitwirken/young-professionals/ueber-das-netzwerk

3 <https://e-learning-dyp.din.de/story.html>

4 www.iso.org/strategy2030/young-professionals-in-standards,
www.iec.ch/young-professionals

Occupational safety begins with vocational training

All too often, people are not conscious of occupational safety and health until they are faced with it in practice: when they pay their company's accident insurance premiums, when they receive instruction at the workplace on occupational safety and health or, in the worst-case scenario, when accidents or occupational illnesses occur. For occupational safety and health to be made an integral part of workplace culture, the subject must be raised much earlier.

Over 780,000 reportable workplace accidents occurred in Germany in 2023. Although the trend is falling, this is still a high number. The view of the occupational safety and health community is that awareness must be raised of work-related risks and instruction provided in their avoidance whilst future workers are still undergoing vocational training. The preventive combating of accident risks by products and work equipment being made safe by design must also become an integral part of the curriculum. This includes knowledge of technical standardization.

Training provision in occupational safety and health

Occupational safety and health is already addressed specifically by some training courses. Graduates of degree courses with terms such as occupational safety, health, occupational health and safety or safety technology in their titles can contribute significantly to making workplaces safe and healthy when they are employed in companies' OSH departments.

KAN has been involved for many years now in a range of training and degree courses, for example at a number of universities and associations. In doing so, it highlights the importance of standardization for occupational safety and health. Standards form the basis for the design of safe work equipment and are a source of information for companies seeking to source safe and healthy work equipment. The KAN Secretariat has created a repository of knowledge modules and interactive training modules. It offers interested institutions and students the opportunity to present the subject of standardization as a means of prevention, for example as part of a course with between one and four teaching units. Together with the Institute for Work and Health of

the DGUV (IAG), KAN also regularly holds its seminar on the principles of standardization work in occupational safety and health¹. In this seminar, new and experienced OSH experts alike are introduced to the procedures and, above all, the various means that exist for influencing the standardization process.

E-learning provision can be used to good effect both during training and later at work. The German Social Accident Insurance Institutions offer a wide range of materials on the subject of safety and health, geared to specific sectors and activities². DIN and DKE use a range of channels to provide insights into the world of standardization, such as the Young Professionals' series of conferences on getting started in the sphere.

Initiatives also exist at European level that aim to increase the value accorded to standardization in training. One example is the EDU4Standards project³, funded by the European Union, which aims to improve the transfer of knowledge concerning standardization at European universities.

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- 1 https://asp.veda.net/webgate_dguv_prod/570044 (in German)
 - 2 See for example: <https://public-e-learning.dguv.de> (in German)
 - 3 <https://edu4standards.eu>

University of Wuppertal: keeping sight of occupational safety and health

It goes without saying that standardization should be included in the curricula of engineering or technically oriented degree courses as part of product-related occupational safety and health (product safety). This cannot be taken for granted, however. It is important that this key aspect be made an integral part of the course content and not treated as a peripheral aspect.

One example is the approach taken by the School of Mechanical Engineering and Safety Engineering at the University of Wuppertal (BUW). The BUW's various degree courses systematically incorporate the topics of standardization and product safety and standardization and the safety and health of workers at work (<https://fk7.uni-wuppertal.de>).

The KAN Praxis ergonomics lecture modules were also presented at the BUW's 179th safety colloquium on 26 April 2024. They are intended to ensure that knowledge of ergonomics in the area of product safety and product ergonomics is integrated appropriately into training and is subsequently available to designers of work equipment and machinery (www.institut-as-er.de/out.php?idart=2091).

*Professor Dr Ralf Pieper,
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KAN involved in consultation on the EU Standardisation Regulation

On 2 May 2024, the European Commission published a public consultation¹ concerning evaluation of the Standardisation Regulation (EU) 1025/2012².

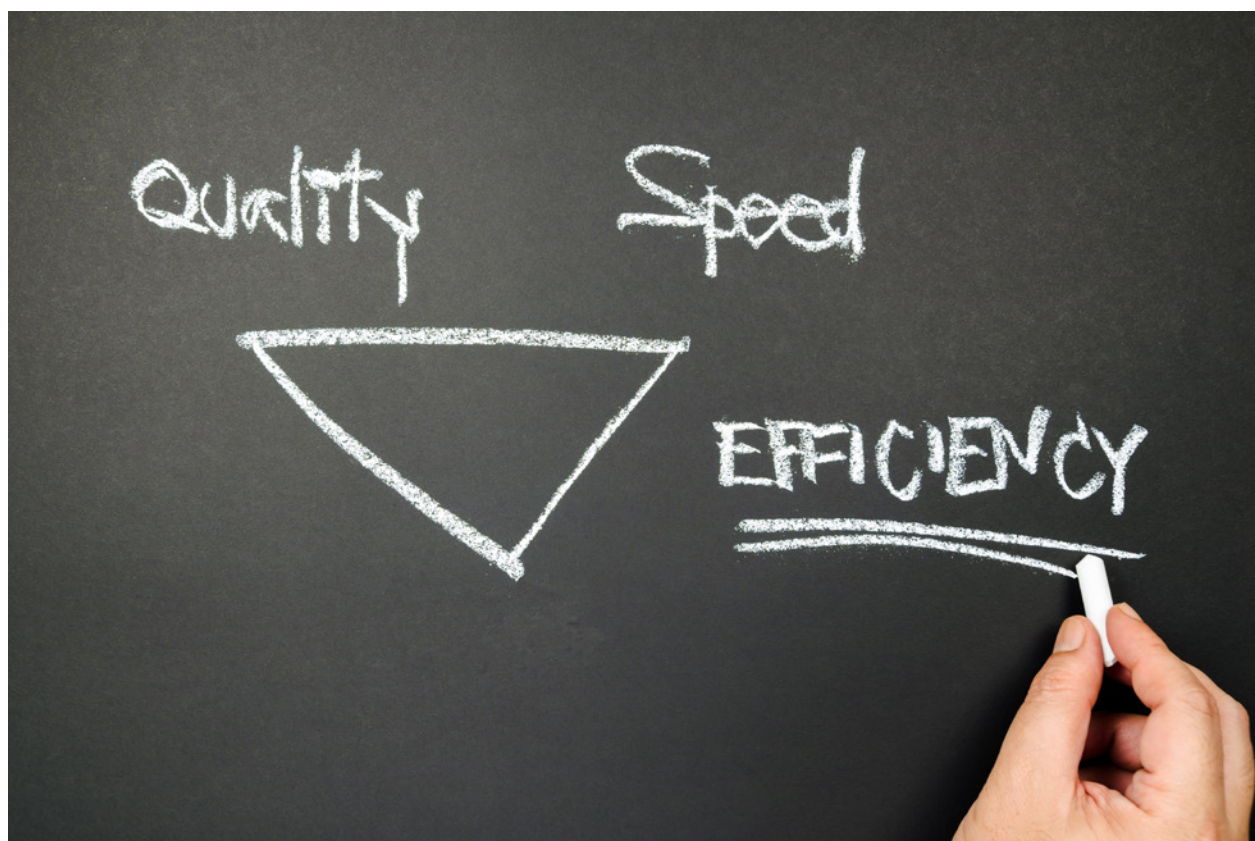
In its comment, KAN drew attention to a number of important points from the perspective of the occupational safety and health lobby.

The Standardisation Regulation is a cornerstone of the European standardization system. It sets out the legal framework for the development of harmonized standards in the European Union. As the European Commission had already announced in the EU Standardisation Strategy 2022³, the Standardisation Regulation was to be reassessed and reviewed to determine whether it is still fit for purpose after having been applied for over ten years, or whether adjustments are necessary in the light of developments in the standardization environment at national, European and global level. In a public consultation, the Commission therefore invited market players and stakeholders to comment by means of a questionnaire on various aspects of the European standardization system, such as its achievements, efficiency and added value, and also its shortcomings.

KAN provided comprehensive feedback in this consultation. In KAN's view, the European standardization system is a decisive factor for the Single Market's success. The principles enshrined in it, such as transparency, broad participation of all relevant stakeholders and the creation of standards by consensus, are indispensable. Despite these principles resulting in standards development being a protracted process, KAN advocates for their being maintained and developed further.

Reducing delays during the checking and listing process

Where standards are developed by the standards organizations in response to a European Commission mandate, the pressure to bring this development to a close within the specified time frame has become greater. The European Commission has an interest in standardization work delivering swift results. Although it is in principle desirable for standardization projects not to drag on excessively, KAN points out in its statement that further time pressure is not in the interests of high-quality results.



First of all, a fundamental distinction should be drawn between the time frame provided for the development of technical content in the standards committees, and that for review of harmonized standards and their listing in the EU Official Journal.

In technical standardization activity, sufficient time must be allowed for the necessary process steps, to enable all relevant stakeholders to participate effectively and a consensus to be reached. If they are to be of high quality and deliver benefits for society, science and the state, standards must be based on the broad expertise of many different stakeholders.

The European Commission introduced the system of Harmonised Standards (HAS) Consultants in order to have standards checked for their compliance with EU directives and regulations before being listed in the EU Official Journal. KAN supports this system; however, it also causes delays in the standardization process as a whole. The system, which is dependent on the availability of sufficient resources, is perceived as lacking efficiency. High formal requirements often require subsequent correction cycles, thereby slowing the process down further. KAN's view is that the causes of these time losses must first be eliminated before the remaining steps in the standardization process are accelerated. Standards that have been assessed favourably by the HAS Consultant should be listed in the Official Journal of the EU at the earliest opportunity.

Swift processes and balanced participation

KAN opposes the setting of even tighter deadlines in the standards development process. A balance must be struck between a structured time frame and assurance of the standardization principles. This particularly applies to the goal of ensuring reasonable participation by all relevant stakeholders. In this context, KAN points out that participation by the stakeholders in occupational safety and health must be increased further. To enable stakeholders to participate effectively in standards development, existing barriers should be eliminated and opportunities created for participation at no cost.

Adequate human and financial resources are an important factor for societal stakeholders. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and societal stakeholders such as consumers, trade unions and the environment lobby have gained influence in the standardization process owing to the support they enjoy through Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012. KAN also points out, however, that the Annex III organizations are limited in their ability to participate in the numerous meetings of working groups potentially relevant to them. Furthermore, some segments of civil society affected by the content of standards, such as that of employers/operators, are not covered by these groups.

Following the consultation's conclusion at the end of July, the European Commission is now reviewing the comments received, over 220 in number. For the event that the Commission sees a need to amend the regulation, plans are for it to submit a corresponding legislative proposal to the Parliament and the Council in the fourth quarter of 2024.

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- 1 https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13446-Europaische-Normung-Bewertung/public-consultation_de
- 2 https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13446-European-standardisation-evaluation_en
- 3 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0031>

World in transition – Europe in adaptation – OSH under pressure

Around 110 experts from the areas of occupational safety and health, standardization, testing and regulation met on 13/14 June 2024 at the 8th EUROSHNET conference in Cracow. The Green Deal, the AI Regulation and the circular economy are just some of the many issues currently high on the agenda in Europe and requiring the occupational safety and health community to adapt with new concepts and ways of working.

Digital technologies are substantially changing how, where and when we work. Maurizio Curtarelli (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, EU-OSHA) illustrated how the use of digital tools presents new opportunities, such as greater autonomy and flexibility and better organization of work. At the same time, collaborative robots, and systems that monitor employees or dictate their pace of work, may also have negative consequences. Increasing time pressure and the blurring of working hours and leisure time are a consequence, and communication and cooperation suffer. The rise in teleworking must also be given greater consideration in risk assessments.

According to Mattias Bergdahl, Deputy Head of Unit in the Directorate-General GROW, standardization is shifting from being a purely technical tool to an increasingly strategic and political instrument. The European Commission is responding to this development with the Standardisation Strategy, establishment of a High Level Forum on Standardisation and appointment of a Chief Standardisation Officer. The silo mentality, Bergdahl says, must be overcome, all parties brought to the table and awareness raised among companies for the importance of involvement – not least in new areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and the Green Deal – in order to safeguard European interests in standardization in the long term. As he says: “If we don’t drive standardization forward, others will do so for us.”

Machines, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity

The new EU Regulations on machinery, AI and cybersecurity present tremendous challenges for standardization. Over 800 harmonized machinery standards with over 44,000 pages in total must be adapted to the new statutory requirements by January 2026. However, this mammoth task simply cannot realistically be completed within the short time available. Catherine Lubineau (Union de Normalisation de la Mécanique, UNM) presented the roadmap for listing the existing standards in the Official Journal of the EU initially with certain limitations regarding the presumption of conformity to which they give rise. Once priorities have been set, they can be adapted successively to the new requirements.

Market surveillance is also facing new tasks. The fact that the regulations governing machinery, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity are now part of the New Legislative Framework is a major step forward, said Jorge Iñesta (market surveillance, Madrid region). At present, however, it is almost impossible to monitor the numerous and often highly complex technical innovations adequately. More specialist personnel with multidisciplinary skills are needed, as are specialized testing facilities and further training courses on technical innovations. Close and fruitful cooperation between the authorities of all Member States and with all stakeholders is also crucial if market surveillance is to be effective.

Green Deal and climate change

The EU has set itself the goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2050. The standards organizations have already taken significant measures to support the Green Deal and the circular economy, as Jörg Megow (Deutsches Institut für Normung, DIN) explained. For example, DIN has drawn up a detailed climate action plan to implement the 2021 “ISO London Declaration” on combating climate change. This includes reviewing and amending standards with use of a toolbox, creating the required expertise, and communication and dialogue with other standards organizations and further partners.

Climate change is also of major significance to occupational safety and health: higher temperatures, air pollution, UV radiation, extreme weather events and vector-borne diseases have an impact on workers. According to Anna-Maria Teperi



(Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, FIOH), psychology, physiology, occupational medicine, technology, organization and sociology must be considered in combination to enable hazards to be identified at an early stage and viable solutions developed.

New forms of work

Jorge Martín (Spanish OSH institute INSST) made it clear that the use of algorithms for coordination, monitoring and decision-making processes gives rise to psychosocial risks. Examples are the automatic allocation of shifts and tasks, the setting of time standards, and automated evaluation mechanisms. He advocated harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence, but warned of ignoring the risks.

In the “Work in 2040” project conducted by the INRS, the French National Research and Safety Institute for the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases, Jennifer Clerté and her team analysed the potential risks for occupational safety and health associated with ten trends regarding the future of work. These include the huge rise in teleworking, the desire for self-employment, an increasingly results-oriented management culture and growing competition for skilled workers.

Innovative product design

Current trends in personal protective equipment include smart functions for collecting and analysing data, AI-driven design, tailoring of PPE to individuals, sustainable materials. Małgorzata Okrasa (CIOP-PIB) warned that design must focus on human factors to ensure safety, user-friendliness and comfort. Where smart functions are used, in particular, users must not be overloaded with excessive or bewildering information.

European standardization in an international environment

Frank Wohnsland (CEN Sector Forum Machinery) noted that it is often difficult for European stakeholders to become involved at ISO level and thereby ensure that ISO standards are compatible with the European legal framework. Approaches and priorities, he pointed out, differed between Europe and other parts of the world, sometimes considerably. For Europe to remain competitive, the two levels must engage intelligently. Claes-Mikael Ståhl (European Trade Union Confederation) called for means of ensuring that the voice of less well-represented groups, such as employees, is sufficiently heard. The legitimacy of standards would otherwise be called into question. Ewa Zielińska (PKN, CENELEC Vice-president) pointed out that it would be beneficial to strengthen national structures for participation, for example through participation at no cost.

Henk Vanhoutte (European Safety Federation) emphasized that in the light of new technologies such as AI, it is important that the legal framework and standardization continue to develop in unison in order to ensure a high level of safety. Good standards are essential for the conformity of products and the reliability of testing and certification.

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Presentations and images from the conference:
www.euroshnet.eu/conference-2024

Standardization: between national requirements and internationalization

Stefan Pemp of the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Labour and Equal Opportunities of Lower Saxony represented the German regional administrations at KAN from 2013 to 2023. In this interview, he talks about his view of KAN and about current challenges in standardization.

Why is the subject of standardization, and KAN, important for the German regional administrations?

The purpose of standardization in technical occupational safety and health and consumer protection is to translate the abstract requirements of legislation such as EU directives and regulations into precise specifications for specific products. In this context, standardization provides a valuable benchmark for market surveillance. In Germany, responsibility for this task lies with the regional administrations (Länder). The situation is different in the area of the safety and health of workers at work. Our view is that standards developers should exercise restraint in this area. Considerable pressure is being exerted internationally to extend standardization activity to OSH. However, this is not consistent with how occupational safety and health is structured. Under EU legislation, OSH is governed by national regulations, which can easily differ from one Member State to another.

The German regional administrations therefore have a range of reasons for participating in standardization activity. Like other stakeholders, however, they also have difficulty making sufficient resources available for this purpose. KAN provides the individual German regional administrations with a means of exerting influence effectively, despite their limited resources and without a representative of the regional administrations dealing personally with each standard. A genuine synergy effect is achieved. The opinion of the regional administrations is that KAN's value lies particularly in its ability to take an expert view of standardization activity and to focus the interests of the OSH stakeholders. I can also say that the cooperation with the other stakeholders in KAN and with the Secretariat is very congenial and constructive.

Which topics from your work at KAN do you particularly remember?

A very prominent subject at the time was the review of the situation concerning agricultural machinery standards. The efforts were based on a KAN study showing that the harmonized standards failed to support numerous essential requirements of the Machinery Directive, and that the labour inspectorates had evidently paid virtually no attention to agricultural machinery. Agriculture was an unknown quantity, and the agricultural machinery industry – I say this without wishing to criticize – had adjusted to this situation. There was simply no need for manufacturers to consider product safety, although undoubtedly many believed they were doing everything correctly. KAN's initiative was extremely beneficial in addressing this situation. There are a host of similar examples where KAN has been helpful, bringing stakeholders together, first conducting an analysis and then developing solutions together with all stakeholders.

What topics will be particularly relevant for occupational safety and health and standardization in the future?

I'd like to mention two areas here in which things are changing very quickly. Firstly, the question of how harmonized standards giving rise to a presumption of conformity with underlying EU regulations or directives are developed. In the future, serious discussion will be needed of how much "quick and dirty" development standardization can tolerate. We are forever being told that we need to speed up standardization work. Eventually, though, speed can lead to quality deteriorating beyond what is acceptable. It's true that not everything needs to be gold-plated. It's important, though, that we agree on sensible procedures that still meet the requirements for content to be up to



date without completely throwing quality overboard.

The second topic concerns the safety and health of workers at work. EU framework legislation in this area lays down minimum standards within which the Member States are free to formulate their own requirements. When a desire exists for international standardization, applicable from India via America to Europe, it's clearly difficult to reconcile the competing requirements. It's quite conceivable that standardization, with the normative power of facts on the ground, will simply prevail on a wide scale, and that legal objections from some EU Member State or other will be considered petty and not taken seriously. Finding a practicable procedure and closely monitoring standardization activity consistent with the national body of regulations is an honourable task, albeit not an easy one. Here, the KAN network is a dependable resource.



You can hear more about the role of Germany's regional administrations within KAN in the interview with Stefan Pemp in episode 20 of the KAN Podcast (in German).

Product safety and occupational health and safety in Denmark

Denmark is a relatively small country, with some 5.9 million inhabitants. Since 1972 it has been part of the European Union (EU), which means that in general, Danish legislation follows that of the EU. Due to particular circumstances in Denmark and to tradition, mainly historical, some national legislation complements the common EU legislation, for instance in the fields of electrical installations, gas appliances and fireworks.

Tasks concerning labour inspection and market surveillance are carried out by several different Danish authorities, according to the subject. The coordinating authority for market surveillance of products is Sikkerhedsstyrelsen (Danish Safety Technology Authority)¹. Sikkerhedsstyrelsen also carries out inspections of products falling within the responsibility of several other authorities. Some authorities, however, are responsible for market surveillance in their own statutory areas, e.g. medicine, medical devices, cosmetic products, fertilisers and detergents.

Sikkerhedsstyrelsen is an agency under the responsibility of the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs. It was established in 2004 with the merger of the former agencies for electrical and gas installations and equipment and the inclusion of certain product categories such as fireworks, and products falling within the scope of the EU Directive on General Product Safety (GPSD). Since then, the agency has grown, tripling the number of its employees (engineers, lawyers etc.) from 70 to about 200. The growth is mainly due to the addition of new fields of inspection.

Product safety is a main area of the Sikkerhedsstyrelsen authority's tasks, both reactive and proactive. It carries out market surveillance for toys, machines, e-cigarettes, GPSD products, construction products, fireworks, electrical products, gas appliances and much more. In some cases the focus lies on the verification of labelling and documentation; in others, the products are tested by accredited laboratories. Irrespective of the kind of product, a generic case management process is followed, starting with a request for documentation, and if necessary also the product itself. A consultation with the manufacturer, importer or retailer follows before the case is concluded. The outcome may be a sales ban, the product's withdrawal from the market or its recall from consumers and professional users. Other EU member countries are informed of dangerous products through the EU Safety Gate system². Violations of the law are also reported to the police.



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Sikkerhedsstyrelsen's other main function concerns surveillance of installations and production plants for the distribution of electricity and gas. Further monitoring tasks include spot checks on electrical installations in residential housing and at workplaces. It approves the erection and putting into service of biogas plants and gas pipelines; carries out age checks in stores selling alcohol, tobacco products and medicine; and checks that tattooists and tanning centres comply with the rules laid down by the health authorities.

Professionals wishing to work with electricity, gas, plumbing or sewage systems must apply for a licence from Sikkerhedsstyrelsen. The licence is held by the company, which must employ a skilled professional designated to supervise the employees in the specific field.

Some types of company, for instance testing laboratories and calibration companies, require an accreditation in order to perform their work. Sikkerhedsstyrelsen has appointed DANAK, the Danish Accreditation Fund³, as the national accreditation body in Denmark.

Whereas Sikkerhedsstyrelsen is the authority with responsibility for products, installations and authorizations, the agency in charge of safe and healthy working conditions is the Danish Working Environment Authority (Arbejdstilsynet)⁴. This body is responsible for legislation on health and safety at work. It carries out inspections at companies and provide information on health and safety at work.

In many fields, a presumption of compliance with product safety legislation exists when European or international standards are followed. The Danish national standardization organization is Danish Standards (DS)⁵. It contributes to the work of the European organizations CEN, CENELEC and ETSI and the international standards organizations ISO and IEC on behalf of Denmark. Sikkerhedsstyrelsen is a member of 13 of the Danish standardization committees (numbering over 235 in total), mainly in fields where national legislation differs from EU legislation. For instance, some gas equipment is adapted to Danish gas quality and some electrical products to the Danish earthing system.

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- 1 Sikkerhedsstyrelsen – Danish Safety Technology Authority, www.sik.dk/en
 - 2 <https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate>
 - 3 DANAK – The Danish Accreditation Fund, <https://danak.org/>
 - 4 Arbejdstilsynet – Danish Working Environment Authority, <https://at.dk/en>
 - 5 Danish Standards, www.ds.dk/en

Market surveillance supported by digital tools

Well-trained and specialized employees are a prerequisite for effective market surveillance. In recent years, Sikkerhedsstyrelsen has also developed digital tools to support them.

To ensure that the thousands of inspections performed every year are carried out consistently, the employees use a system of online questionnaires. These ensure that the technical installations or products are checked according to the same principles every time, and permit automatic comparison of results.

A system has also been established that automatically generates templates for the required correspondence. These templates already contain legal references and other information relevant to the case. This allows the employees to concentrate on aspects that require professional assessment and decisions.

As online shopping has become an increasingly large part of purchases by Danish consumers, it is also important for monitoring of online sales channels to be possible. In 2019, we therefore began work on developing a web crawler capable of identifying risky products offered for sale online by means of image recognition and artificial intelligence. The first version was exclusively for use by Sikkerhedsstyrelsen; with support from the EU, however, we have now also developed the SAFE AI tool, which can be used throughout the EU.

Central strategy group for standardization

DIN and DKE have set up a new body, the central strategy group for standardization, to support their executive boards in responding to horizontal issues. In the view of DIN and DKE, examples of these issues include transformation trends, motivating stakeholders to recruit experts, strategic orientation at European and international level and the DIN/DKE innovation strategy.

The strategy group comprises a maximum of 25 members representing trade and industry, associations, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), companies, the scientific and research community and the standards committees. It is to meet at least twice a year. The DGUV and KAN are sending Mr Christoph Preuß of the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the woodworking and metalworking industries (BGHM) to the committee as the joint delegate for the occupational safety and health lobby. The inaugural meeting of the central strategy group for standardization was held on 16 April 2024.

KAN position on fast-track standardization documents revised

KAN has revised its position on the use of "fast-track" standardization documents such as DIN SPECS, VDE SPECS, VDE rules of application, CEN/CENELEC Workshop Agreements (CWAs) and International Workshop Agreements (IWAs) for addressing occupational safety and health aspects.

Revision of the position was prompted by a new version of CEN-CENELEC Guide 29, published in March 2024. This stipulates that CEN now also excludes safety-critical aspects from CWAs. Until now, this was only the case at CENELEC. This satisfies a key demand of KAN at European level, and the position on this issue has now been adapted.

The position on the treatment of project proposals for DIN SPECS that impact upon occupational safety and health remains unchanged, as does the call for requirements or recommendations relevant to occupational safety and health to be defined in full standards wherever possible.

Updated KAN position paper: www.kan.de/fileadmin/Redaktion/Dokumente/Basisdokumente/en/Deu/2024-05-22_KAN-Position_normungsaehnliche_Dokumente-en.pdf

EU news flash

Newly elected European Parliament begins its work

The newly elected European Parliament began its work in July. On 23 July 2024, the newly constituted committees elected their chairs and deputy chairs for the first half of the legislative period. The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) are particularly relevant to occupational safety and health.

CEN-CENELEC declaration for the next legislative cycle

In their declaration, "A Strong Single Market needs a Strong European Standardization System", CEN and CENELEC outline an agenda for action for 2024 to 2029, and call on the European institutions to recommit to the Single Market and to transform and strengthen it. Standards – a proven instrument – should be used in this process to amplify Europe's progress, growth and sustainable development.

CEN CENELEC Declaration: www.cencenelec.eu/media/cencenelec-european-declaration.pdf

Right of opinion for Small Business Standards

At the end of June, the Administrative Boards of CEN and CENELEC ruled to grant Small Business Standards (SBS), the lobby for small and medium-sized enterprises, the "right of opinion", i.e. the right to comment on technical standardization work. With this decision, all organizations supported under Annex III of the EU Standardisation Regulation can now formally state whether they welcome or reject standards currently under development. Independently of this right, all Annex III organizations have the right to submit comments on the text of a standard at the public inquiry and final voting stages.

www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/news/2024/brief-news/2024-07-16-sbs-right-of-opinion

European AI Office

The European AI Office and its planned staff of 140 have the task of supporting implementation of the recently adopted AI Regulation, and promoting the development and use of trustworthy AI and also international cooperation in this area. The Office is part of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology and works in close cooperation with the Member States and with AI experts in the research community, industry and wider society.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-office>

KAN at Arbeitsschutz Aktuell

The Arbeitsschutz Aktuell trade fair will be held in Stuttgart from 5 to 7 November 2024. KAN will be present with a focal point on the DGUV's joint stand at Hall 1, Stand K1.009, where you can find information on topical issues relating to KAN's work.

On the DGUV's live stage, the "safety and health talks and discussion" offer a varied programme addressing multiple aspects of occupational safety and health. Katharina Schulte, a senior expert from the KAN Sekretariat, will hold a talk with the title: "Wrangling over the rules: workplace legislation vs. building regulations".

Tickets to the trade fair are available free of charge at www.messe-ticket.de/HINTE/ARBEITSSCHUTZAKTUELL2024/Register/AS23-KAN.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Events



24.09.24 » Online

Fachveranstaltung

Frühstücksreihe: Klima und Normung

DIN/DKE/VDI

www.din.de/de/din-und-seine-partner/termine/din-dke-vdi-fruehstuecksreihe-klima-und-normung-1044052

08.-10.10.24 » Köln/online

Konferenz

Neue EU-Maschinenverordnung und Maschinenrechtstag
MBT

www.maschinenrichtlinie.de/fortbildung/konferenzen

09.10.24 » Tulln/online

Tagung

Sicher & gesund 5.0: Digitale Arbeitswelt im Fokus

AUVA

<https://auva.at>  Digitale Arbeitswelt

09.-10.10.24 » Herzogenaurach

Konferenz Normenpraxis

Nachhaltigkeit durch Normung und Digitalisierung

DIN – Ausschuss Normenpraxis (ANP)

www.din.de/de/service-fuer-anwender/anp/aktuelles

09.-11.10.24 » Dresden

Seminar

Sicherer Einsatz von kollaborierenden Robotern

IAG

https://asp.veda.net/webgate_dguv_prod/  570164

21.-23.10.24 » Dresden

Seminar

Grundlagen der Normungsarbeit im Arbeitsschutz

IAG/KAN

https://asp.veda.net/webgate_dguv_prod/  570044

05.11.24 » Berlin

DIN/DKE Innovationskonferenz

Grün, nachhaltig und elektrisch – Standards für die Transformation in eine klimafreundliche Zukunft!

www.din.de/de/din-und-seine-partner/termine/din-dke-innovationskonferenz-2024-1096744

05.-06.11.24 » Dresden

Fachveranstaltung

**Trends erkennen – Prävention gestalten:
Die Zukunft der Arbeit 2024**

IAG

www.dguv.de/iag/veranstaltungen

05.-07.11.24 » Stuttgart

Fachmesse

Arbeitsschutz Aktuell

Messe Stuttgart

www.arbeitsschutz-aktuell.de/de/fachmesse-2024

12.-13.11.24 » Berlin

Symposium anlässlich 30 Jahre KAN

Arbeitsschutz und Normung zwischen globaler Harmonisierung und nationalen Interessen

KAN

www.kan.de/30-jahre-kan/symposium

13.11.24 » Online

Informationsveranstaltung

Dresdner Treffpunkt „Die neue EU-Maschinenverordnung“

BAuA

www.baua.de  Maschinenverordnung

20.-21.11.24 » Essen/online

Seminar

Grundlagen der Maschinen- und Anlagensicherheit

HDT

www.hdt.de  Anlagensicherheit

25.-28.11.24 » Online

Crashkurs

EU-Maschinenverordnung vs. Maschinenrichtlinie

VDI Wissensforum

www.vdi-wissensforum.de/weiterbildung-maschinenbau/eu-maschinenverordnung-vs-mrl

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www.kan.de/en » Publications » KANBrief » KANBrief subscription (free of charge)



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