KAN Brief
2/25
Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung

PUBLIC INTERESTS
IN STANDARDIZATION

Content

© atipong - stock.adobe.com

Lead topic

© Countrypixel - stock.adobe.com

Themes

© Zerbor - stock.adobe.com

Stay up to date:

KAN_Arbeitsschutz_Normung

Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung (KAN)

KAN – Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung

© stock.adobe.com

Peer-Oliver Villwock
Chair of KAN
Federal Ministry of Labour
and Social Affairs (BMAS)

Indispensable: public interests in standardization

Standardization's role as an important instrument, underpinning legal acts in the European Single Market and governing product safety, and the associated relief on state resources, is now undisputed. The New Approach, adopted in 1985, set out at European level that legislation should be limited to establishing essential health and safety requirements. The technical details are to be defined by standardization activity.

As early as 1975, cooperation between the German federal government and DIN was regulated by a contract, thereby emphasizing the particular role of standardization in this context. A key point here is consideration for the public interest during standardization work – an important premise for occupational safety and health stakeholders being able to voice their concerns effectively.

The importance of standardization for the Single Market and the need for all stakeholders to be involved in it was anchored in the EU Standardisation Regulation of 2012. The upcoming revision of this Regulation should not place the role of standardization in doubt, but rather address recognized deficits. For example, harmonized standards should be listed in the EU Official Journal considerably more quickly; not, however, at the expense of consensus-building and the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders. In addition, the structural and financial support of social stakeholders should be expanded further. This is essential if standardization is to satisfy its public mandate to the full. «

Revision of the EU Standardisation Regulation

The European Commission is currently preparing revision of the Standardisation Regulation (EU) No. 1025/2012[1]. The Regulation has served as the statutory framework for the development of harmonized standards in the European Union since 2012.

The Standardisation Regulation governs cooperation between the European Commission and the European standards organizations, and sets out framework conditions, for example for funding of the European standardization work mandated by the Commission, and the participation of stakeholders.

In 2023, the European Commission launched its evaluation of the Standardisation Regulation. As announced in the EU Strategy on Standardisation[2], the Regulation was to be reviewed to determine whether, over ten years after it became applicable, it is still fit for purpose and is keeping pace with developments in standardization at national, European and international level. To this end, the European Commission consulted the wider public and industrial and social stakeholders between May and July 2024. KAN participated in the consultation by providing detailed feedback, and raised key OSH concerns[3].

In the course of the consultation, many stakeholders at national and European level expressed the view that the Standardisation Regulation is indeed still fit for purpose, and that scope for improvement is evident only with respect to its implementation. 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, the creation of standards by consensus and the broad participation of all stakeholders, are indispensable.

The European Commission presented the preliminary results of the evaluation in November 2024. It identified residual shortcomings with regard to the participation of all stakeholders. In principle, it sees the Regulation as having largely achieved its goal of improving stakeholder participation. Representation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), trade unions, and other societal stakeholders such as consumer and environmental protection interests through what are termed the Annex III organizations, has been supported at European level since the Regulation came into force. Nevertheless, standardization activities continue to be considered too complex and cost-intensive for these stakeholders. Furthermore, representation of societal interests is governed inconsistently at national and international level. All of this presents obstacles to participation.

A major need for improvement was also identified with regard to the present pace of standardization. On average, development of a standard from beginning to end currently takes six years. Despite having been reduced in duration since the regulation entered into force, development still takes too long to meet the current needs of the Single Market and EU legislation. The European standardization system is struggling to deliver harmonized European standards as swiftly as is necessitated by the short innovation cycles of new technologies and for implementation of the European Green Deal[4].

Standardization as a success factor for the EU's competitiveness

In January 2025, the European Commission announced revision of the Standardisation Regulation as one of its Flagship Actions enablers within the Competitiveness Compass[5]. Since the beginning of the new EU legislative cycle, standardization has thereby acquired even greater relevance for the EU's competitiveness and the success of the European Single Market. The Commission wishes to speed up the standardization process and make it more accessible, particularly for SMEs and start-ups.

Barbara Bonvissuto, Director with responsibility for standards policy at the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), explained in the European Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) in February 2025 that the European standardization system is now facing further challenges. Firstly, geopolitical competition in international standardization is having an impact on areas that are critical for the safeguarding of European values and the EU's economic interests. Secondly, the Commission still faces the task of implementing the ruling of the European Court of Justice in 2024 on free access to harmonized standards[6] (the "Malamud ruling").

According to the roadmap published by the Commission in February 2025 on the "Have your say" portal[7], the next step is for a public consultation to be held in the second quarter of 2025 on revision of the Regulation. A concrete legislative proposal could then be published in the second quarter of 2026.

The KAN Secretariat will closely monitor the revision process as it develops in the coming years, and will advocate for the concerns of the occupational safety and health stakeholders.

Ronja Heydecke
heydecke@kan.de

1 http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/1025/oj
2 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0031
3 See KANBrief 3/24, www.kan.de/en/publications/kanbrief/3/24/kan-involved-in-consultation-on-the-eu-standardisation-regulation
4 https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
5 https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/competitiveness-compass_en
6 Ruling of 5 March 2024 (C-588/21 P), the "Malamud ruling"
7 https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14511-Standardisation-Regulation-revision_en

50th anniversary of the contract between DIN and the German government

The contract[1] between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Institute for Standardization was signed on 5 June 1975. This year therefore marks the 50th anniversary of the contract, which is still in force today. It is therefore fitting for us to take a closer look at the terms of the contract and its impact, however much it may appear retrospectively to be a dry legal transaction.

For a long time – almost 30 years after the Federal Republic of Germany was founded, and almost 60 years after creation of the first standards body in the country – Germany lacked a formal provision determining which of the various bodies involved in standardization constituted its national standards organization. Standardization work began in Germany in 1917, under the auspices of the *Normenausschuß der deutschen Industrie* (Standardisation Committee of German Industry). By the 1960s, standardization had acquired a new dimension: with Germany now embedded in the European Economic Community and with the onset of globalization, standards were increasingly being used to eliminate barriers to trade and promote economic growth through world trade. As a consequence, standardization acquired global importance and became an important factor in the industrial policies of the countries pursuing it. In Germany, standards were also found to be useful for describing technical requirements for the justice system and public administration, thus reducing the burden on state institutions.

Known by then as the *Deutscher Normenausschuss* (German Standardization Committee), the organization was given its current name – the Deutsches Institut für Normung (German Institute for Standardization), or DIN for short – in the run-up to signing of the contract in 1975. At that time, DIN was undisputedly the most important standards organization in Germany: both in general terms and, in conjunction with the German Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies (VDE) and its standardization organization, the DKE, specifically in the field of electrical standardization. DIN was also already a member of the European and international standardization organizations CEN/CENELEC and ISO/IEC. Its de-facto status was recognized comprehensively by the German Federal Government in the contract, and has never been challenged since. The contract accords DIN the status of responsible standards body for the Federal Republic of Germany and stipulates that, as a member of the non-governmental international (and thus also European) standards organizations, it officially represents Germany in standardization matters.

Besides these rights, the contract also imposes obligations on DIN. The first of these is the comprehensive duty to consider the public interest during standardization activity. This enables groups primarily representing social interests (in contrast to commercial enterprises) to participate in standardization work. Such interests include environmental protection, consumer protection and, of course, occupational safety and health, all of which acquired new weight in standardization as a result of the contract between DIN and the German state. In fact, representatives of occupational safety and health are treated by DIN as a stakeholder group in its own right – a privilege not granted to them by any other standards organization. The parties assigned to this stakeholder group are in the first instance the representatives of KAN and of the DGUV and its member institutions.

DIN's duty to consider the public interest has given rise to the instrument of the block vote for stakeholders representing public interests in standardization. The block vote means that in the absence of a consensus, a German standards committee is prohibited from taking a decision that is contrary to the unanimous vote of any individual stakeholder group. This is one reason (among others) why the provisions of the contract between DIN and the German state are still effective today – and are anything but trivial.

DIN also has a direct obligation to the state by virtue of the contract. The German government must, for example, be involved in DIN's steering committees and standards committees. Where the subject of standardization activity falls within their remit, public authorities must be involved in it. Furthermore, requests by the German government for standardization work must be accorded priority. In return, standardization work receives funding from the German government.

With conclusion of the contract, DIN and the German government embarked on a path of their own. As a result, DIN – a body funded by industry – remained an association, also retaining its autonomy from the state. By contrast, other countries nationalized their national standards organizations around that time, or bound them by legislation. The final paragraph of the contract between DIN and the German government shows that the ensuing cooperation between the two can be viewed retrospectively as a great success: since the end of 1976, both DIN and the German government have waived their right each year to terminate the contract.

Freeric Meier
meier@kan.de

[1] www.din.de/resource/blob/79650/76ad884fb2c4dd6aa5b900e7a1574da6/contract-din-and-brd-data.pdf

Three questions for: Eckhard Metze, Head of the employers' liaison office at the KAN Secretariat until March 2025

As Head of the employers' liaison office at the KAN Secretariat, Eckhard Metze represented the interests of employers on numerous standards and occupational safety and health committees for over 25 years, until his retirement at the end of March 2025.

You were a member of the DIN Standards Committee for Organizational Processes from its inception in 2013, and its Chairman from 2019 onwards. Why is this topic important to you?

When I became Head of the employers' liaison office at the KAN Secretariat, I focused on the subject of management standardization. The emphasis lay on occupational safety and health management systems and the transition from BSI OHSAS 18001 to EN ISO 45001, the first international standard in this area. I was also interested in the development of ISO 26000 on social responsibility.

Looking at the situation now, I'd prefer not to have so many standards in this area. If we're calling for bureaucracy to be reduced and red tape to be pruned back, we can't possibly at the same time consider it desirable to replace the rules concerned with standards whose application may well be voluntary in principle, but becomes mandatory through certification or as a requirement for contractual agreements. The Organizational Processes Standards Committee at DIN should be working against this trend.

What standardization topics do you consider particularly critical or important?

I find it questionable that standardization is increasingly encroaching into areas that have nothing to do with traditional technical standardization. Examples of this are subjects such as compliance, the combating of corruption, human resource management, sustainability of organizations, and also requirements concerning services and qualifications. It's becoming increasingly important for KAN to ensure that issues falling within the regulatory competence of the parties to collective bargaining are excluded from the scope of standardization.

Fukuda – Foto Menke

Topics such as remuneration or social aspects of occupational safety and health generally are out of place here.

The Standardisation working party of the European Commission's Advisory Committee on Health and Safety at Work is important in this context. This working party was founded in 2011 in response to an initiative by parties including the employers' liaison office at the KAN Secretariat. A special tripartite committee consequently exists at European level in which the state, employees and employers discuss issues of standardization policy. For example, the working party has discussed the addressing in standards of issues which under Article 153 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union fall within the remit of the individual Member States or parties to collective bargaining.

The standardization of ergonomics has always been a particular concern of mine. Standards in this area communicate the principles of ergonomics and fundamental information on it to companies, and constitute a body of rules for work and product design that is accepted by all stakeholders. In the steering committee of the DIN Standards Committee Ergonomics, we've developed a modern concept for standardization in ergonomics. This concept has also had a decisive influence on the international and European standards committees ISO/TC 159 and CEN/TC 122. Ergonomics standardization serves as an important bridge between research activity and the field. As such, it also addresses the future issues of work design, and seeks solutions for current and future challenges. These include dealing with work-related mental stress, work design appropriate for an ageing workforce, and the shaping of the digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

In your view, what are the challenges currently facing standardization work?

I consider a particular challenge to be recruitment in future of sufficient numbers of staff for standardization activity who will help to represent German interests, not least in international standardization work. Sadly, international standardization activity is increasingly being driven by countries that no longer see standardization merely as a means of imparting knowledge, but primarily as a means of asserting national economic and trade interests. This must be opposed at all levels.

I think that the digitalization of standardization processes presents considerable opportunities. This can save time and resources in many areas. However, it's not a substitute for face-to-face meetings. The iron principle remains that standardization will succeed only if it's based on consensus. This, though, also requires as many societal groups as possible to participate in standardization activity, including representatives of the social partners, and also the research community, the public sector and civil society.

Combating vulnerabilities with standards: new EU cybersecurity rules

Security vulnerabilities in product software often go undetected. New EU regulations are set to change that. The Cyber Resilience Act and the Machinery Regulation set out clear requirements for the protection of control systems against accidental or intentional corruption. Standards bodies are now called upon to create a basis for secure and trustworthy technology in the European market, with consideration for the planned guidance document for the Machinery Regulation.

Every year, security researchers report thousands of IT vulnerabilities in products, ranging from backdoors in industrial control systems to radio controls that unquestioningly trust each and every transmitting party. Many users are not even aware of these security vulnerabilities, and to date, manufacturers have also had very little incentive to devote more resources to eliminating them. Following the market's failure to solve this problem, the European Commission responded with a comprehensive legislative package:

The Cyber Security Act sets out the mandate for the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA). ENISA is intended to improve communication of vulnerabilities between reporting parties, manufacturers, operators and public authorities in Europe, and has set up a European database for this purpose.

The NIS-2 Directive defines obligations upon essential and important entities (organizations and companies) to make their network and information systems (NISs) secure, together with binding requirements for the reporting of security incidents. At present, several Member States are behind schedule with transposition of this directive into national law.

The Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) sets out manufacturers' obligations to avoid and deal with vulnerabilities. For example, the manufacturers' availability must be ensured by way of a facility for contact in an emergency. Several freely available specifications have been established for this communication channel. These define, for example, standardized provisions for describing the criticality of security vulnerabilities, and data formats for their description:

The RFC 9116 specification of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) describes how companies can use a simple text file to store information available worldwide on who is to be informed of a vulnerability in an emergency. The CRA does not require a specific format for the list of software contained in the product (software

bill of materials, SBOM) that is to be generated by the manufacturer. The CycloneDX format and the open ISO/IEC 5692 standard, System Package Data Exchange, in particular, are currently meeting with wide acceptance. The SBOM can be used for automatic reporting of products containing software in which a security vulnerability has been detected. The ISO/IEC 20153 Common Security Advisory Framework (CSAF) has been established for the machine-readable recommendations required in the CRA. The significance of the CRA is also reflected in new work items. In the course of 2025 alone, around 40 proposals are to be voted on for new standards that are to be harmonized under the CRA.

EU guidance document supports the safety requirements of the Machinery Regulation

The Machinery Regulation, which is addressed to manufacturers, requires in Annex III, Sections 1.1.9 and 1.2.1 that adequate protection against accidental or intentional corruption be assured from the design stage onwards. In addition, evidence of legitimate or illegitimate intervention must be collected.

The European Commission plans to publish, by January 2027 at the latest, a guide providing a practical explanation of the concepts and clarifying the obligations. One of the five working groups developing the guide is to deal with the sections on protection against corruption. The guide constitutes the interpretation of the Regulation and will therefore also provide important support for standardization activity.

First components for protection against corruption now in place

Standardization work on prEN 50742 has been launched at CENELEC. This standard is to support the requirements of the Machinery Regulation for protection against corruption. It is intended to be compatible as far as possible with other security standards such as ISO/IEC 15408 (Common Criteria), EN 17640 (fixed-time cybersecurity evaluation methodology for ICT products) and IEC 62443 (security for industrial automation and control systems). It should also be suitable for application to an extremely wide product spectrum, from cordless screwdrivers to machine tools, lifting platforms and safety components. A committee draft (CD) of prEN 50742 is expected in the summer of 2025. Ideally, the standard should be completed in time for it to be harmonized before the Machinery Regulation becomes applicable on 20 January 2027.

The trend for IT security issues to be considered as well as safety issues is also evident from the revision of ISO 12100 on the safety of machinery. It is becoming apparent that the most effective approach is for all possible hazards first to be identified in a conventional risk analysis. This involves analysis of the hazards presented by the machine in the absence of protective measures. The measures are implemented in the next step. The protective measures themselves must be protected against corruption, to ensure that they are able to function reliably. The guiding principle is that accidental or intentional corruption must not give rise to new hazards. Reliable evaluation of signals, such as an emergency stop request, must also be taken into account. The Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the DGUV (IFA) has analysed a range of machine control systems and determined that in many cases, the emergency stop function can be corrupted remotely with surprising ease.

Standardization must also address simultaneous corruption of a large number of machines. For example, failure of a single lift or petrol pump is relatively uncritical. By contrast, a comprehensive attack on all systems equipped with the same control system may have catastrophic consequences. Whereas simultaneous failure of systems due to wear and tear is highly unlikely, comprehensive corruption of all systems of a particular type constitutes a serious security scenario.

Companies are advised to implement the emergency contact facility described in RFC 9116 immediately as the first step. Research has also been documenting the key elements of future IT security standards for decades. The current challenge lies in finding a consensus on the socially acceptable risk and developing practical test specifications.

Jonas Stein
Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the DGUV (IFA)
jonas.stein@dguv.de

Arne Sonnenburg
Federal Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA)
sonnenburg.arne@baua.bund.de

Standardization and its contribution to the safety of insured persons in the public sector

From schools to fire brigades and waste disposal: standardization makes an important contribution to the prevention of accidents and occupational diseases among some nine million people insured by the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions in around 590,000 public-sector entities and institutions.

The German social accident insurance system provides cover for employees and other groups of people in the event of accidents and cases of occupational disease. It comprises the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions for trade and industry and those for the public sector. The latter insure not only public-sector employees, but also children in schools and daycare centres, students, volunteers and participants in social measures such as training programmes for job-seekers. For this very diverse group, Volume VII, Section 1 of the German Social Code (SGB) states that all suitable means must be used to assure the prevention of occupational accidents, occupational diseases and work-related health hazards. This is a challenging task, as the risks vary considerably according to the activity and occupational group concerned:

- Workers in waterworks and waste disposal face greater exposure to hazardous substances or biological risks.
- Workers in the police services, fire brigades, ambulance services and disaster relief face a high risk of accidents during deployments, and often suffer from mental stress.
- Teachers, childcare professionals and nursing staff are particularly exposed to risks of infection, noise and physical stress.
- Administrative staff frequently work at unergonomic VDU workstations.
- Schoolchildren and students are at risk of injury, for example during school sports or on their commute to and from their educational establishment.

© Countrypixel - stock.adobe.com

Operational arrangements governing safety and health can be found in the national body of rules and regulations and those of the German Social Accident Insurance. Standardization is an effective means of reducing the various risks to insured persons presented by products, as it ensures that they are designed appropriately before they are even used in the workplace. The decisive factor here is that safety requirements are considered systematically during national, European and international standardization activity. At the same time, the standards must be consistent with German and European legislation and the German system of technical rules and regulations.

Real-case examples from a range of vocational and other areas of life show how standardization has already contributed successfully to preventive activity to the benefit of persons insured by the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions for the public sector:

- School bags: to ensure that children can be seen easily on their way to school, even in the dark, DIN 58124 requires that a certain proportion of a school bag's surface area must be fitted with retroreflective and fluorescent materials.
- Office chairs: performing work whilst seated is not particularly conducive to good health. Poorly designed office chairs may even be dangerous, when they can tip over easily or are not rated for the weight of the user. EN 1335-2 therefore specifies how office chairs must be designed so as to keep the risk of injury to users as low as possible.
- Treatment tables: most people have, at some point, lain on a treatment table in a doctor's surgery or physiotherapy practice. Hardly anyone, however, is aware that floor switches for electrical height adjustment have already caused serious and in some cases fatal accidents because cleaning staff or children have become trapped beneath the table. To prevent such accidents in the future by technical measures, beginning at the manufacturing stage, a harmonized European standard addressing the safety of medical treatment tables is currently being developed, based on the German DIN VDE V 0750-2-52-2 pre-standard.
- Protective clothing for firefighters: as an occupational group, firefighters are exposed to considerable hazards. Personal protective equipment is particularly important to ensure their safety and health. EN 469, for example, sets out performance requirements for protective clothing worn during fire brigade deployments. These concern the clothing's resistance to heat and flames and its mechanical resistance, water-tightness, visibility and wear comfort.
- Refuse collection vehicles: refuse collection workers can, for example, fall off a vehicle when riding on the footboards, or be crushed when the vehicle is reversed and the driver's field of view is impaired. The EN 1501 series of standards contains safety requirements intended to reduce these risks to a minimum. For example, as soon as a person is standing on the footboards, technical measures limit the vehicle's maximum speed and prevent reversing.
- Forestry machinery: fatal accidents have occurred in the past involving workers or pedestrians being run over by forestry machinery such as timber harvesters or forwarders. For this reason, DIN 30767 was developed at the instigation and under the auspices of KAN. This standard specifies measurement methods for determining the field of view of persons sitting at the controls of self-propelled forestry machinery.

Standardization is an effective prevention instrument when it defines a high level of protection for products that are used at workplaces or in public establishments such as schools. Thanks to their expertise, the experts at the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions for the public sector play an indispensable part here: whether through active participation on standards committees, or as points of contact for KAN. KAN supports the work of the accident insurance institutions by issuing comments on standards that are agreed with all OSH stakeholders, and by using its influence to ensure that OSH concerns are taken into account.

Angela Janowitz
janowitz@kan.de

Corrado Mattiuzzo
mattiuzzo@kan.de

Standardization of cabinets for safe storage and charging of lithium-ion batteries: where next?

Numerous forms of safety storage cabinet are available on the market which according to their manufacturers are intended to allow safe storage and charging of the lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) now used in many types of battery-powered tools. To date, neither the legislator nor the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions have issued provisions binding in Germany for such storage cabinets. A product standard for safety storage cabinets would be one means of ensuring that LIBs are stored and charged safely.

Provided they are used as intended, lithium-ion batteries are considered safe. However, damaged or defective LIBs can vent gas or undergo thermal runaway, particularly during charging. These processes can give rise to fire and explosion hazards, and also hazards presented by the release of hazardous substances. Safety storage cabinets that are tested and in some cases even GS-certified for the safe storage and charging of LIBs and are intended to protect workers against these hazards are now available on the market in numerous variants and configurations. In practice, this leads to two problems:

Problem 1: The German Product Safety Act (ProdSG) serves as the framework for safety requirements for the design, construction and equipment of safety storage cabinets. Beyond the ProdSG, no specific state or accident insurance regulations exist in this area. These safety storage cabinets constitute work equipment and as such must satisfy Annex I of EU Directive 2009/104/EC concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work, which has been transposed into German law by the German Ordinance on industrial safety and health (BetrSichV). The BetrSichV is addressed to the employer, not to the manufacturer of an item of work equipment. As the employer may not use work equipment that is not safe, the BetrSichV places only indirect requirements upon the manufacturer of a safety storage cabinet.

Problem 2: The safety storage cabinets are tested against a number of different test specifications (including EN 14470-1[1], the German test specification EK5/AK4 22-01[2], VDMA specification 24994[3]). These are based essentially on the fire hazards in the event of a thermal runaway, and do not consider explosion hazards, or health hazards arising from the release of hazardous substances. They also differ, in some cases considerably, in the nature and scope of the tests (e.g. duration of fire resistance, smoke tightness). This makes it difficult for the operator to determine whether the requirements for safe storage and charging in these cabinets are met.

A standard is required

These problems could be resolved by a standard for cabinets for the safe storage and charging of LIBs. Such a standard would describe the state of the art for the design, construction and equipment requirements for the cabinets, and set out test procedures for them.

In spring 2023, committee NA 055-02-02, Lab furniture, of the DIN Standards Committee Laboratory Devices and Installations (FNLa) launched the initiative to add a Part 3 to the EN 14470 series of standards on fire safety storage cabinets. The new part of the series was to address fire-resistant safety storage cabinets for rechargeable energy sources. At around the same time, the standards committee NA 060-20-01, Safes and strongrooms, of the DIN Standards Committee Mechanical Engineering (NAM) began work on the VDMA specification: Test requirements for fire-protection storage cabinets for lithium-ion batteries in the case of thermal runaway. The draft of this specification was published in August 2023. Following expiry of the deadline for comments, experts from the two standards committees and representatives of the German Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) and the DGUV drew up a final version of this specification, which was published in August 2024. It contains test requirements for resistance to fire both inside and outside the cabinet, but no further tests regarding gas or smoke tightness. Recommendations for the design, construction and equipment of safety storage cabinets were also added to the specification.

Since then, NA 060-20-02 has submitted an application for a European standardization project in CEN/TC 263, Secure storage of cash, valuables and data media. The application was approved in December 2024. Based on the VDMA specifica-

tion, a European standard is to be developed that includes relevant test requirements for safety storage cabinets for LIBs. Work on the draft standard in CEN/TC 263 WG 2, Fire resistance, will begin in June of this year. Cooperation between the responsible standards committees of FNLa and NAM in the development of the VDMA specification is to be continued in the development of the European standard. Experts from both standards committees will therefore be involved in drafting the standard in WG 2 of CEN/TC 263. Ideally, it should be determined whether further tests of protection against explosion and against the release of hazardous substances should be added to the standard. It is also unclear whether the standard's scope will be extended to include requirements for the design, construction and equipment of the safety storage cabinets.

Owing to the work on VDMA specification 24994, NA 055-02-02 initially halted its own work on a product standard for safety storage cabinets for LIBs. As it cannot be foreseen at this time to what extent the VDMA specification will be developed further into a European standard containing requirements for both the product and the tests, NA 055-02-02 has decided to submit a corresponding international standardization project on safety storage cabinets to SC 9, Laboratory furniture, of ISO/TC 48, Laboratory equipment. At the last meeting of SC 9 in ISO/TC 48, the decision was taken to set up a Battery Cabinets working group to develop an application for standardization for this purpose and an initial draft of a product standard.

In whichever direction standardization takes us: ultimately, the standards should ensure that a safe product can be manufactured for the charging and storage of LIBs and that this product can also be operated safely.

Dr Andreas Kleineweischede
German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the raw materials and chemical industry (BG RCI)
andreas.kleineweischede@bgrci.de

[1] EN 14470-1 Fire safety storage cabinets – Part 1: Safety storage cabinets for flammable liquids
[2] List of decisions taken by EK5AK4 www.zls-muenchen.bayern.de/beschluesse/ek_zek_beschluesse/doc/ek5/ek5-ak4_beschlussliste.pdf (in German)
[3] VDMA 24994:2024-08 Test requirements for fire-protection storage cabinets for lithium-ion batteries in the case of thermal runaway

© Tony Baggett - stock.adobe.com

ANEC and KAN sign letter of intent

ANEC, the European voice of consumers in standardization, and KAN have signed a joint letter of intent in which they agree to cooperate more closely. The letter of intent sets out possible areas of cooperation and mutual support, such as dialogue concerning standardization activities relevant to consumer protection and occupational safety and health. It was officially signed by the two parties in Brussels on 22 May 2025.

Stakeholder groups concerned with occupational safety and health and consumer protection are often working towards the same goals in standardization, notably for the safety of products. Owing to the diverse areas of overlap in their activities, KAN has long sought to network with ANEC and step up cooperation with it. The secretariats of KAN and ANEC have been in regular contact since 2023.

ANEC is one of four organizations promoting the participation of relevant stakeholders in standardization in accordance with Annex III of Standardisation Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

EU news flash

On 28 March 2025, the European Commission published the **2025 annual Union work programme for European standardisation**. It foresees the European standards organizations developing or revising standards for 78 policy priorities, thereby supporting realization of the green, digital and resilient Single Market. Many of the topics to be addressed are relevant to occupational safety and health. Examples are construction products, artificial intelligence, personal protective equipment and the safety of machinery.

http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/1818/oj

On 14 and 15 April 2025, EU ministers of employment and social policy exchanged their views on the **impact of digitalization on the world of work**. They held that although the growing use of artificial intelligence and algorithms in the world of work has a positive impact on innovation and productivity, it also harbours risks, such as a lack of transparency in algorithmic decision-making processes, and excessive surveillance of employees.

https://t1p.de/voiev

On 28 March 2025, the European Commission published a study into the context, challenges, opportunities and trends in **algorithmic management** (automated decision-making and control of work processes by algorithms). The study analyses, for the period up to September 2023, the relevance and effectiveness of legal and policy measures, and the remaining gaps in the legislation.

https://t1p.de/Study_algorithmic_management

KAN seminar on the principles of standardization work

The seminar on the principles of standardization work in occupational safety and health is intended for members of standards committees and any persons interested in the use of standardization for the benefit of safety and health. It will be held this year from **20 to 22 October in Sankt Augustin.**

Those attending the seminar will become familiar with the procedures for standards development, and with their own opportunities to exert influence upon it during the various phases. It covers the drafting and revision of standards, legal aspects such as harmonization and the presumption of conformity, and also globalization and current trends in standardization. Useful advice will be provided, such as on searching for information on standardization and standards, by which work on the committees can be made more effective. The seminar also provides an opportunity for networking with other experts.

The seminar will be held jointly by the Institute for Work and Health of the DGUV (IAG) and KAN (in German). Places can be booked at https://t1p.de/KAN-Seminar

A new director at the DGUV and VFA

Dr Stephan Fasshauer has been designated as new Director General of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV). He will succeed Dr Stefan Hussy, who is to retire at the end of June 2025. Dr Fasshauer was simultaneously designated as Director of KAN's supporting body, the Association for the Promotion of Occupational Safety in Europe (VFA). He was formerly Director of Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund (the German retirement pensions insurance fund), and therefore has extensive experience in the sphere of social insurance.

Change of Director at the KAN Secretariat

Dr Monika Maintz will become the new Head of the KAN Secretariat on 1 July 2025. She holds a doctorate in biology and a master's degree in marketing and finance. Dr Maintz has extensive professional experience as a managing director in industry and in a number of non-profit environmental and nature conservation organizations. She spent 17 years of her professional life in England.

Dr Maintz succeeds Angela Janowitz, who is leaving KAN after 30 years to take up new challenges. Ms Janowitz joined the KAN Secretariat as a technical officer shortly after its foundation. Assuming the posts of Deputy Head in 2008 and Head of the Secretariat in 2022, she was instrumental in the progressive expansion of the Secretariat, which now has 25 employees, and in KAN's technical work.

Events

15.-17.07.25 » Dresden

Fachveranstaltung
DGUV Fachgespräch “Lithium-Ionen-Akkus & eMobility”
IFA/BGHM/FB ETEM/FBHL
www.dguv.de/ifa/veranstaltungen/dguv-fach-gespraech-emobility

20.-22.08.25 » Dresden

Seminar
Maschinensicherheit und Produkthaftung
Institut für Arbeit und Gesundheit der DGUV (IAG)
https://asp.veda.net/webgate_dguv_prod/#p1 🔍 570012

02.-03.09.25 » Hamburg

Seminar
CE-Kennzeichnung im Maschinen- und Anlagenbau
VDI Wissensforum
www.vdi-wissensforum.de 🔍 CE-Kennzeichnung

09.09.25 » Graz (A)

Seminar
Industrieroboter
Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA)
www.auvkurs.at 🔍 Industrieroboter

10.09.25 » Online

Arbeitsmedizinisches Online-Kolloquium
Einsatz von PSA bei Hitze
Institut für Prävention und Arbeitsmedizin der DGUV
www.dguv.de/ipa/lehre/fortbildung

15.-17.09.25 » Hybrid/Bonn

Seminar
EU-Maschinenverordnung (EU) 2023/1230
MBT Maschinenbautage Ostermann
www.maschinenrichtlinie.de/fortbildung/mbt-seminare/maschinenverordnung

16.09.25 » Potsdam

Konferenz-Workshop
Smarter Workplaces: The Role of AI in Promoting Occupational Safety and Health (AI4POSH)
Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI) / BAuA
www.baua.de/DE/Angebote/Veranstaltungen/Termine/2025/09.16-KI2025-de

17.09.25 » Online

Informationsveranstaltung
Dresdner Treffpunkt „Die EU-Maschinenverordnung“
Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin
www.baua.de/DE/Angebote/Veranstaltungen/Termine/2025/09.17-Dresdner-Treffpunkt-Maschinenverordnung

18.09.25 » Linz (A)

Seminar
Umbau von Maschinen
Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA)
www.auvkurs.at 🔍 Umbau Maschinen

23.09.25 » Linz (A)

Seminar
Risikobeurteilung von Maschinen
Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA)
www.auvkurs.at 🔍 Risikobeurteilung

25.-26.09.25 » Heilbronn

GfA-Herbstkongress
Zukunft Gestalten: Arbeitswelt 2030
REFA-Institut/Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft
www.gesellschaft-fuer-arbeitswissenschaft.de

14.-16.10.25 » Köln

International Conference (Deu/Eng)
EU-Maschinenbautage / EU Machinery Days
MBT Maschinenbautage Ostermann
www.maschinenrichtlinie.de/fortbildung/konferenzen

Ordering

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

Gefördert durch: Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages

Impressum

Publisher
Verein zur Förderung der Arbeitssicherheit in Europa e.V. (VFA)
with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Editorial team
Commission for Occupational Safety and Health and Standardization (KAN), Secretariat
Sonja Miesner, Michael Robert
Tel. +49 2241 231 3450 · www.kan.de · info@kan.de

Responsible
Angela Janowitz, Alte Heerstr. 111, D – 53757 Sankt Augustin

Translation
Marc Prior

Publication
published quarterly

ISSN: 2702-4024 (Print) · 2702-4032 (Online)