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109 BT – Item 5.5.3

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SUBJECT

DRAFT REVISED GENERAL PRODUCT SAFETY DIRECTIVE (GPSD)
EC/CEN/CENELEC/ETSI/ANEC meeting held on 2001-09-12

BACKGROUND

The draft revised General Product Safety Directive (GPSD) is at present under final proceeding at Council level and will presumably be adopted somewhere in October 2001.

As this revision introduces the concept of reference to European standards, the Commission services (DG Sanco) called for an EC (DG Sanco + DG Entr)/CEN/CENELEC/ETSI/ANEC meeting on 2001-09-12 with the view to proactively pave the way for the necessary actions to be taken by the ESOs in this context.

The following representatives attended the meeting:

Commission (Mr Delogu, Mr Herbert, Mr Aubourg, Mr Hansson, Mr Esteller), CEN (Mr Plissart, Mr De Jongh), CENELEC (Mr Vetsuypens), ETSI (Mr Craik, Mr Hughes), ANEC (Mrs Vandenberghe).

The Commission explained the context of the revised GPSD:

- deals with consumer products not subject to any vertical Community Directive;
- extension of the scope to products migrated from professional use;
- introduces the concept of presumption of conformity with European standards, whose references will be published in the OJEC;
- does not contain essential requirements but the Commission + Regulatory Committee will prepare mandates containing safety objectives;
- does not foresee CE marking;
- contains safeguard clause.

The Commission clarified that the revised GPSD will not “add” requirements to the vertical (total safety) new approach directives i.e. that standards developed under the latter will continue to give presumption of conformity (without the possible addition of e.g. possible horizontal requirements of the GPSD).

For what concerns the European standards to be listed under the GPSD, the Commission envisages 2 steps:

- step 1: the identification, from ESO side, of those standards that would be candidates for listing. The Commission + Regulatory Committee will subsequently decide on their listing.

Note: the Commission confirmed that in the case of e.g. EN 60950 “Safety of information technology equipment including electrical business equipment” - which is listed under the LVD and the RTTED but which is a possible candidate for GPSD listing (see battery powered lap top without modem) – such a decision would be more or less a “formalism”.

The ESOs were asked to give a list of the standards which they envisage for listing by the end of the year. A broad indication of the intended standards could be given to the next meeting of the Regulatory Committee (November 2001).

- Step 2: the preparation of a mandate by the Commission, including safety objectives, towards the ESOs, asking for the preparation of relevant European standards.

CS remark: the identification of those European standards for listing under the GPSD is in a certain sense a parallel/complementary activity to the ongoing revision of the LVD where it is the intention either to lower the lower limit to OV or to include specific product groups (e.g. SELV luminaires).

PROPOSALS

- BT to note the outcome of the EC/CEN/CENELEC/ETSI/ANEC meeting held on 2001-09-12 in the context of the draft revised General Product Safety Directive (GPSD).
- BT to invite CS to launch an enquiry, asking the relevant technical bodies (TC 21X, TC 34Z, TC 46X and its SCs, TC 61, TC 74, TC 76, TC 86A, TC92) [list to be completed/corrected by BT] to identify those existing European standards which would be candidates for listing under the revised GPSD.