



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Aerospace, security, defence and equipment
Mechanical and electrical equipment

Brussels, 24 February 2005
Ref: (17)72 Mandate Battery Safety.doc
DG ENTR/H/5
M/362 EN

**STANDARDISATION MANDATE FORWARDED TO CEN/CENELEC/ETSI IN THE FIELD OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

TITLE

Harmonised standards for ensuring the safety of batteries in hand-held radio and telecommunications terminal equipment.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this mandate is to develop harmonised standards covering the safety of batteries incorporated in the hand-held radio and telecommunications equipment that give presumption of conformity with the safety requirements of Directive 1999/5/EC (the R&TTE Directive).

Recent events with replacement batteries for mobile phones have demonstrated that these can pose a hazard. When they are not appropriately designed they can overheat or explode when they are being short cut or when otherwise too much current is drawn from them.

JUSTIFICATION

This mandate derives from Directive 1999/5/EC. This Directive, following the “New Approach” on technical harmonisation and standards¹, defines the essential requirements R&TTE equipment must meet to be placed on the market and to be put into service for its intended purpose.

Compliance with these requirements may be demonstrated by complying with harmonised standards.

A study by a Member State product safety surveillance authority has demonstrated that, most accidents that have occurred with overheating or exploding batteries fortunately didn't give rise to major injuries. Current standards in this area may however be inappropriate for batteries used in hand-held devices, as they allow for batteries to reach high temperatures or don't prescribe safety features against shortcuts. With the current development of ever larger battery capacities, potential risks of explosion or overheating however increase, reason for which more attention must be paid to their safety.

¹ Council Resolution of 7 May 1985 on a new approach concerning technical harmonisation and standardisation (85/C 136/01).

DESCRIPTION OF MANDATED WORK

The European Standardisation Organisations are mandated to:

- Develop a work programme for harmonised standards covering safety aspects of batteries used in hand held equipment.
- Amend existing harmonised standards or, if necessary, develop new harmonised standards for such batteries, the references of which will be published in the official journal of the European Communities as giving presumption of conformity with notably article 3.1.a of the R&TTE Directive.
- Report the progress of the work to the Commission at regular intervals and at least prior to each meeting of the TCAM;

RECOMMENDATIONS

The experts should liaise intensively with regulatory bodies and their experts, in particular the Administrative Co-operation groups under the R&TTE and Low Voltage Directives.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

31 March 2005	Work programme
31 June 2006	Adoption of first set of standards

ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL WORK

Where appropriate alignment with equivalent activities in the ITU, ISO/IEC and other international organisations should be assured.

STANDSTILL

For the terms of Article 7 of the Directive 98/34/EC, the standstill applies for the standards developed within the present mandate.

PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

Titles in all of the official languages of the Community and copies in the three working languages of the European Standardisation Organisations are required.