

Webinar of 2024-03-21

Webinar 'New process for harmonized standards under parallel development'

Questions & Answers

1	What were the reasons in the past that draft standards were blocked in the harmonisation process?	Draft candidate harmonized standards could be blocked at the end of development process due to comments from HAS consultants that are difficult to address late in the development.
2	What is meant by CD consultation?	This is the Committee Draft Consultation.
3	What is the meaning of quality check on European elements? Only the EU foreword and the Annex ZA is checked?	Indeed, only the Annex ZA will be checked. The European foreword will probably not be available at CD stage.
4	We usually do not prepare any European elements before prEN/DIS stage. Should the ISO/CD document nevertheless send to CCMC at that stage?	The ISO/CD can be sent to CCMC, but to perform the Quality Check and to request the HAS assessment, we must receive the EU elements as well. Ideally, the CEN TC should prepare the EU elements in parallel with the CD draft development.
5	If the IEC TC does not circulate a CD but jumps to CDV can there be an earlier assessment or do we have to wait for the CDV to be circulated?	If there's no CD, CCMC can't request a CD assessment. It will have to wait the CDV.
6	What do you mean by "EU elements"?	The Annexes ZA/ZZ.
7	What do you mean with 8 weeks above? Your explanation is absolutely unclear.	It's about the duration of the CD consultation. A CD consultation can be 8 weeks, 12 weeks, or 16 weeks.
8	What is specific for EN ISO standards developed under CEN-lead?	There is no specificities, the process is the same.
9	Should Annex ZZ and ZA be provided at this stage?	Yes, we need them for the Quality Check and the CD assessment.
10	8 weeks is a normal timeframe for a CD and setting it above would mean that CEN needs to interfere with ISO. Why is it	The goal of this process is to limit as much as possible the impact on the international development timeframe. CEN is not recommending ISO to change the normal CD

	important that the QC and HAS is finished with the end of the CD consultation?	consultation time. CCMC wants to perform the process within the CD consultation time, to avoid impacting the international process.
11	It is also quite misleading to ask now not to include the Annex ZA into the ISO text as it is required for all other steps	This is not what is asked. If the Annex ZA is included in the ISO text, the process will adapt to it.
12	Is the EU CD consultation started in parallel with the process in IEC? how about those cases in which the CDs are issued by more technical teams within same TC? all IEC Technical teams of the SAME TC which include SCs, MTs, WGs, OTs will have to deliver the IEC documents to CENELEC or will it have to be the main officers of the TC to deliver the CDs?	We are working with IEC to finalize the process for the CD delivery to CCMC.
13	Has this process been approved by IEC SMB?	The process has been presented and discussed with ISO and IEC Secretariat. They were happy with the proposal as it's not needed to change their directives.
14	Might need to explain the ISO/IEC processes, and who produces the Z annexes.	The Annexes Z have to be produced by the CEN or CENELEC TCs (with the support of CCMC if needed)
15	Will there be any supporting documentation, such as a handbook, for the new process regarding harmonized standards?	There will be a supporting document yes. The CEN and CENELEC BOSS pages will be updated to describe this new process.
16	"European elements": does this mean common modifications + annexes ZA and ZZ?	European elements are the Annexes ZZ and ZA
17	Will the CD be sent to the HAS Consultant when the CD ballot is 8 weeks? It would be good to get the feedback even without a CCMC QC. Many CD do only have a 8 weeks ballot	Yes. If the Annex(es) Z is available, CCMC will request a HAS assessment.
18	What is the process, if the EC desk officer will perform the assessment in place of the Has consultant? Example: SReq M/579.	The process is the same. Please contact your CCMC PM for further details.
19	If it is supposed to fasten the harmonization process it is not clear to me why there is the	CCMC doesn't force having 12 weeks CD consultation. The process adapts to the

	need to force having 12-week CD consultation... and not shrink it to the 8 week. It seems to me an additional burden...	international CD duration, not the other way around.
20	All these additional steps that are different from the normal process will lead to confusion. It is already difficult to follow what needs to be done when and how. ISO has not yet informed about the new process and should also be brought on board.	The process has been presented and discussed with ISO and IEC. The goal of the process is to start the assessment early, to increase the chances of having a compliant assessment by the end of the development.
21	When you speak of ISO parallel, the project ISO is with Vienna Agreement?	Yes indeed
22	Looking at the conditions they seem to limit the assessment to very specific cases (more NO than YES in the table). Will this be effective in ensuring that international standards are fit for purpose for the European context?	The goal of the process is to start the assessment process earlier, to increase the chances of receiving a compliant assessment before the end of the international development, and as the same time to limit the impact of the international development timeframe.
23	What happens if the HAS assessment is late after the CD ballot duration of 12 weeks? Is the clock stopped at ISO?	It's up to the ISO TC to decide to wait or not for the assessment report to be delivered.
24	Are there templates for European forewords for ISO or IEC standards developed in parallel?	Please contact your CCMC Project Manager for more information about European foreword.
25	In what sense is the QC different from the HAS assessment?	The QC focuses on horizontal elements, non-technical, like normative references. Please contact your CCMC PM for further details.
26	From previous discussions with HAS, could you please clarify if we need to leave the "EN column" empty for IEC standards under revision and which are still not voted positive?	Please contact your CCMC Project Manager for more information about the Annex ZA.
27	As this process would lead to more assessments needed, has this been discussed/planned with E&Y? More capacity/HAS consultants might be needed, also to be in time. Furthermore, as this	This process doesn't need more assessments/resources from the HAS consultants from Ernst & Young (E&Y). It's still maximum 4 assessments per work item.

	takes more capacities, how about budget with E&Y as contractor. We should avoid running into a situation like the one at the end of the last contract, where nothing more could be performed.	
28	What is the difference between the quality check and the HAS consultant's assessment?	The CCMC Quality Check focuses on horizontal, non-technical, elements like the correct use of normative references. The HAS consultant can identify issues related to technical and legal content.
29	Is this process only for new standards? What about the many amendments that the IEC produce as DCs.	The process applies as well to IEC amendments, if there's a CD consultation.
30	In case the QC will result in some "comments"	Please clarify.
31	What happens if there is no HAS consultant available to do the assessment?	The project will wait to be assigned to an available HAS consultant.
32	Why is the info about the duration of the CD consultation under the responsibility of the CLC/TC and not under CCMC responsibility?	We think the CLC/TC is the best placed to have information about the IEC CD as it's mirroring the activities of the IEC/TC. Since it is recommended to the CLC/TC to follow the CD development to be ready to deliver the Annexes ZA and ZZ, it is probably the best placed to inform about the CD duration.
33	You confirm you wish to minimize impacts on international process, but in the main principles page at the beginning you said that EC consultant assessment report is officially transmitted to International TCs. What are the international TCs meant to do with the report?	The HAS assessment reports will be shared with international TCs for the sake of transparency.
34	The IEC TC I am involved with circulates a DC and then jumps to CDV. Is it possible to have an assessment on the DC? What about a Quality Check?	It's possible to request a CD assessment if there's a CD consultation. If the CD consultation is 12 weeks or more, and if the Annexes ZA and ZZ are available, a Quality Check will be performed before the assessment request.

35	What is the channel used to provide the HAS consultant comments to the IEC TC WG?	The HAS assessment reports will be sent by CCMC to ISO CS or the IEC TC.
36	Not a question, just a remark. The procedure looks good but will only work if the assessments by the HAS consultants are received on time. Nowadays, we are facing delays that get up to 1 year!	<p>Your comment is valid. Indeed, the HAS assessment reports should be delivered on time for this process to work.</p> <p>The time it takes for an assessment report to be delivered is continuously improving since December 2023.</p>
37	Is there a defined time frame for the HAS assessment the committees can rely on? This is necessary to meet the timelines of standards development and from experience HAS assessments are late and delay the standards development. Is there enough HAS consultant capacity.	<p>The time it takes for an assessment report to be delivered is continuously improving since December 2023.</p> <p>There are enough HAS consultants and EY is looking to reinforce sectors with big volume of work, like Machinery.</p>
38	Following the Judgment of the Court of Justice Case C-588/21 ruling that harmonised standards associated with toys should be free of charge, please can you offer your thoughts on the potential impact on the process? Thanks	<p>We invite you to read the CEN and CENELEC press release about that: https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/news/2024/brief-news/2024-03-05-ecj-case/</p>
39	Not only HAS consultants, the EY quality check is causing many delays	CCMC has regular coordination meetings with EY and the topic of the time taken by EY's quality review is always on the agenda. Things have improved, CCMC will keep on monitoring this aspect.
40	As the HAS consultant is not represented in the international committees, is there going to be a HAS liaison implemented? If not, who is going to represent the views presented by the HAS consultant. In my field, often the NCs do not agree with the views of the HAS consultant, so I do not expect NCs will want to discuss the report received.	The HAS consultants are participating in the work of the TC, and will not be represented in the international TC. The European TC should coordinate with the international TC for matters related to harmonized standards.
41	Can you please explain what the quality check of CCMC contains? And the difference to the HAS assessment and	https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/events/2023/2023-12-18_innovative-process-hens/

	provision of EU Annex ZA/ZZ of the CEN/TCs?	
42	Does this mean, that for Machinery there will be no timely assessment?	Due to the volume of standards to be assessed, it's still challenging to receive an assessment report on time for the Machinery sector. But things are improving, the time it takes for an assessment report to be delivered is continuously improving since December 2023.
43	The problem with HAS consultants is everyone gives a different opinion on the same document multiple consultants mean the process becomes confused.	The HAS contractor (EY) has introduced a new step at the end of the assessment process, the quality review. This should help level the outcome of an assessment report.
44	Has SMB approved this process?	The process has been presented and discussed with ISO and IEC Secretariat. They were happy with the proposal as it's not needed to change their directives.
45	What are the European Elements?? What do you check in Annex ZA/ZZ? Are it typing errors, or wrongly referenced paragraph numbers?	The European elements are the Annexes ZA/ZZ. During the CCMC Quality Check, we check for example the normative references, the neutrality principle, the format of the Annex Z. What you mention is checked by the editors.
46	Does the HAS consultants ever challenge why certain parts of a standard are normative while others are informative?	It can happen that the HAS consultant question that. After receiving an assessment report, the TC can request a meeting with the HAS consultant to discuss and clarify the comments received.
47	The HAS consultant seemingly needs better defined mandates given to them before they start their assessment, as often it seems the comments they provide go far beyond their stated purpose.	If you have a specific case to mention, please contact your CCMC PM. The case could then be raised to EY.
48	For IEC amendments the CD will only contain the changes. Do HAS consultants just assess changes or the full resulting standard?	This question has been raised to the EC. We will come back to you when we receive a feedback.
49	What happens at European level, when an ISO standard is confirmed after a Systematic Review/an IEC standard is prolonged at a plenary meeting?	CCMC follows what ISO and IEC decide and keep the work item active.