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CEB-BEC 2024 Report under Article 6(3) of the EU Regulation on Standardization (1025/2012)

Introduction

The CEB-BEC is recognized as the sector operator in Belgium for electrotechnical standardization activities by NBN. The CEB-BEC is also the national member of, and operator for, CENELEC (the *European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization*) and IEC (the *International Electrotechnical Commission*). Almost all electrotechnical standards provided in Belgium by the CEB-BEC are in fact the result of collaboration with the European and international levels.

As of September 2014, the CEB-BEC is referenced in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#) as being one of the two National Standards Bodies (NSBs) in Belgium. As such, Regulation 1025/2012 applies to the standardization activities carried out by CEB-BEC.

Through its article 6(3), EU Regulation 1025/2012, amended by EU Regulation 2022/2480, requires NSBs to establish annual reports on how they have encouraged and facilitated the access of SMEs to standards and standards development processes and how they have exchanged best practices aimed at enhancing SME participation, with other NSBs.

CEB-BEC and SMEs

SMEs are important actors and stakeholders of the standardization activities carried out by CEB-BEC.

As such, all CEB-BEC activities are performed with our stakeholders in mind and aim to ensure their access to standards and facilitate their participation in the standards development processes.

The CEB-BEC uses opportunities such as trainings, seminars and similar events as well as face-to-face meetings to present its activities, spark the interest of (new potential) experts and ease their participation to BEC, IEC and CENELEC TC's. CEB-BEC organized for example in 2024 following training sessions:

- The CEB-BEC organization
- IEC Conformity Assessment seminar
- How to become an expert by IEC & CENELEC
- Harmonized standards & the role of HAS consultants
- A strategic approach to standardization

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- Standards and legislation
- The importance of standards in the procurement process
- Liability of standards

Participation was free for BEC members. In 2025, CEB-BEC will continue to further develop its outreach activities to increase the representation of Belgian expertise in the European and international standardization arenas.

Access to Standards and the development process

From January 9, 2023, the sale of electrotechnical standards and related products is outsourced to NBN. The realization of a single sales channel makes life much easier. The standard's users no longer have to distinguish between electrotechnical and non-electrotechnical standards. There is only one platform and one point of contact. One sales platform stands for better service and higher cost efficiency.

CEB-BEC aims at providing as much information as possible to its stakeholders and customers about the standards made available through the NBN website, in order to help them find the documents relevant to their activities. The CEB website lists the committees and provides a CEB-BEC contact point for any inquiries. The NBN website provides information such as the standards title, scope, any reference documents, document history and ICS codes.

In addition, to help companies stay up to date with the standards applicable in their field and to help reduce the related costs, NBN also provides the ability to establish collections of standards which are available at reduced rates and are kept up to date.

To participate actively in the CEB-BEC standardization activities, companies are asked for a small fee to cover the induced administrative costs. The revision of its membership model in 2016, resulting in the reduction of membership fees by nearly 25% and the possibility to register up to three experts versus one previously, for the same cost, have resulted in an increase in the number of participating experts and technical committee meetings. A further reduction of 20 % was granted in 2023.

To accommodate this increase in technical activities, CEB-BEC has invested in meeting room facilities which are made available free of charge to its national mirror committees. In 2023, the meeting room facilities have been equipped with video conference.

Finally, despite best efforts, some standards can be complex to understand or to apply in a national context. To support Belgium's industry and in particular its SMEs, CEB-BEC develops supporting Technical Notes aimed at facilitating the implementation (e.g. with regard to other additional national requirements) or understanding of specific standards, eventually supported by specific training events.

Best practices

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As member of CENELEC and IEC, CEB-BEC is in regular contact with other NSBs across Europe and beyond. As the challenges faced by NSBs in the different countries are often quite similar, the exchange of best practices can indeed lead to the improvement of certain activities at national level.

CEB-BEC has continued, throughout 2024, the screening of national technical committees in view of categorizing current stakeholders and identifying potential new ones. This has resulted in the increase in technical activities mentioned above and will be pursued during 2025.

As mentioned above, CEB-BEC's key role is to ensure the representation of Belgium's electrotechnical industry, which includes its SMEs, in the European and international standardization arenas. Improvements to the ways it can achieve this are, and will continue to be, regularly assessed, and implemented where possible.