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# CEB-BEC 2016 Report under Article 6(3) of the EU Regulation on Standardisation (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 distributed 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), Regulation 1025/2012 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 seminars and similar events to present its activities and spark the interest of new audiences. An example of this is CEB-BEC's participation in the Regulation & Standards event organized by AGORIA, one of the leading industry federations in Belgium, which attracted nearly 400 participants.

In 2017, CEB-BEC will continue and further develop its outreach activities in order to increase the representation of Belgian expertise in the European and international standardization arenas.

## Access to Standards and the development process

CEB-BEC aims at providing as much information as possible to its stakeholders and customers about the standards made available through the CEB-BEC website, in order to help them find the documents

relevant to their activities. To achieve this, CEB-BEC provides information such as the title, scope, any reference documents, document history, ICS codes, responsible committee, as well as a CEB-BEC contact point for any inquiries.

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

With the aim of improving the information made available to our members and the public, 2015 saw the start of a project within the CEB-BEC for the development of a new information management system. Development of this project has continued through 2016 and will greatly enhance the access to information and the visibility on ongoing standardization initiatives at all levels (national, European and International).

To participate actively in the CEB-BEC standardization activities, companies are asked for a small fee to cover the induced administrative costs. All members have free access to the CEB-BEC meeting room facilities and can benefit from trainings on the systems used. In addition, it is now possible for members to participate through web conferencing, thus reducing the time and energy linked to their participation.

In this context, 2016 saw the implementation of the revised membership model initiated in 2015 which aims to reduce the cost of participation for organizations involved in few national technical committees, which is often the case for SMEs. The benefits of this new model have been two-fold, the first being a reduction of the annual fee by nearly 25% when participating in one specific domain and the second is the possibility to register up to three individual experts instead of one previously, for the same annual fee.

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 (noting that 99.8% of Belgian companies are SMEs<sup>1</sup>), CEB-BEC may develop 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.

Examples of these in 2016 are in the fields of Lighting protection (Technical Note & training supporting the NBN EN 62305 Series), the electrical safety of installed medical devices (Technical Note) and a procedure for assessing the temperature rise in electrical boards (Technical Note supporting NBN EN 61439-3 & NBN EN 60670-24).

## **Best practices**

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.

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/performance-review/files/countries-sheets/2014/belgium\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/performance-review/files/countries-sheets/2014/belgium_en.pdf)



Global Gateway to  
Electrotechnical  
Standards in Belgium

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Inspired by other countries and pursued during 2016 by CEB-BEC, is the screening of national technical committees in view of categorizing current stakeholders and identifying potential new ones to ensure the broadest representation possible of Belgian interests in the concerned standardization activities.

Although resource intensive, this practice has led to the re-activation of several national committees that had become dormant over the past years, and to the participation of new members.

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.