BS EN 17988-2:2024

BSI Standards Publication

Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment

Part 2: User manuals and labelling

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CED/1/2.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment - Part 2: User manuals and labelling

Circularité et recyclabilité des engins de pêche et des équipements d'aquaculture - Partie 2 : Manuels utilisateur et étiquetage

Kreislaufwirtschaft von Fischfanggeräten und Aquakulturausrüstungen - Teil 2: Benutzerhandbuch und Kennzeichnung

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European foreword

This document (EN 17988-2:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 466 “Circularity and recyclability of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2025, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2025.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a standardization request addressed to CEN by the European Commission (M/574). The Standing Committee of the EFTA States subsequently approves these requests for its Member States.

This document is part of the EN 17988 series.

The EN 17988 series consists of the following parts, under the general title *Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment*:

— Part 1: General requirements and guidelines

— Part 2: User manuals and labelling

— Part 3: Technical requirements and guidelines

— Part 4: Environmental and circularity requirements and guidelines

— Part 5: Circular business models

— Part 6: Requirements and guidelines for digitalization of information of components of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

As part of the European Green Deal, launched in 2019, the European Commission introduced measures to move to a climate neutral and circular economy, together with a digital transition. One of the targets in the transition to a circular economy was to reduce the amount of waste released into the environment by decreasing the amount of waste generated, increasing the amount of waste collected and re-introducing the materials regenerated from waste into the production of new products.

Specifically, the accumulation of plastics in marine and other aquatic environments were addressed in two directives:

— The revised Port Reception Facilities (PRF) Directive [1] encourages fishers and aquaculturists to bring not only their own end-of-use gear but also bring ashore abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded (ALD) fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, thus encouraging waste to be carried back to port.

— The Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive [2], which lays down rules concerning different plastic products, including fishing gear and aquaculture equipment containing plastics, and sets requirements to the Member States to establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. Concerning fishing gear, it also contains rules on minimum national annual collection rates, together with reporting on fishing gear placed on the market and waste fishing gear collected in ports.

In 2021, the standardization request M/574 on the circular design of fishing gear [3] was passed by the European Commission and the parliament and accepted by CEN, which forms the basis for this series of documents (EN 17988 series). While the term ‘fishing gear’ is used predominantly in the SUP Directive and M/574, both documents encompass aquaculture equipment.

The purpose of this series of documents is to provide stakeholders with requirements, recommendations and guidelines to address the different aspects of circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment containing plastics, encourage preparing for reuse and facilitate recyclability at end-of-use. These requirements are intended to be applied from the design phase across the entire life cycle of the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment. This includes but is not limited to: manufacturing, use, maintenance, repair, collection, sorting, preparation for recycling, reuse, remanufacture, disposal, uptake of recycled content and recycling.

Although this standard is written for fishing gear and aquaculture equipment containing plastics, the requirements, recommendations and guidelines are also applicable to other materials.

This series of documents does not address other important design criteria such as fishing or farming efficiency. When implementing the requirements, recommendations and guidelines provided in these documents, balanced trade-offs between all relevant criteria need to be taken into account.

This series of documents aims to contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [4]:

— 9 Industry, innovation, and infrastructure,

— 12 Responsible consumption and production,

— 14 Life below water, in particular target 14.1: ‘By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.’

For a full outline of the parts of the standard, and how the parts relate to each other, see part 1.

Part 2 specifies the requirements, recommendations and guidelines for user manuals and labelling (and other information) that accompanies circular designed fishing gear and aquaculture equipment. This will

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enable traceability and proper management during the lifetime of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment.

The aim of part 2 is to provide requirements, recommendations and guidelines for producers (manufacturers and importers) of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, netting and raw materials. In addition, this part can also be relevant for other stakeholders, such as those involved in the end-of-use of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment. Stakeholders that will need to be provided with user manuals include fishers, aquaculture companies, collectors (of wasted gear), sorters, those who are doing maintenance (including washing and cleaning), and distributors. Information that needs to be provided to authorities can also be covered by user manuals or labelling.

Note to the reader on normative language: In this document, the following verbal forms are used in accordance with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations Part 3, Clause 7:

— “shall” indicates a requirement;

— “should” indicates a recommendation;

— “may” indicates a permission;

— “can” indicates a possibility or a capability;

— “must” indicates an external constraint.

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1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements for the user manuals and labelling that accompany circular designed fishing gear and aquaculture equipment containing plastics, to ensure traceability and proper management during the lifetime of its components.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

CEN/TS 18101, *Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment - Terms and definitions*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in CEN/TS 18101 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp/

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

4 Requirements and guidelines for user manuals

4.1 General

4.1.1 General guidelines based on EN IEC/IEEE 82079-1: 2019

EN IEC/IEEE 82079-1 [6] provides general principles and detailed requirements for the design and formulation of all types of instructions for users. The requirements in EN IEC/IEEE 82079-1: 2019 help set the guidelines for the user manuals of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment.

The content for 'information for use' is based on three pillars and applies to all stages of the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment life cycle:

a) Conceptual information: concepts, explanations and descriptions that enable the target groups to perform tasks by understanding their purpose and the principles of operation of the supported fishing gear or aquaculture equipment.

b) Instructional information: procedures and task-oriented step-by-step instructions.

c) Reference information: troubleshooting, maintenance schedule or codes.

See Annex A (informative) and B (informative) for the general requirements and a checklist from EN IEC/IEEE 82079-1: 2019.

4.1.2 Specific stakeholder requirements

Fishing gear and aquaculture equipment manufacturers shall provide user manuals to stakeholders where applicable.

Fishing gear and aquaculture equipment manufacturers shall identify which stakeholders need to be provided with user manuals. When preparing instructions for use, the needs and capabilities of the intended stakeholders shall be addressed.

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Stakeholders that shall be taken into account, where applicable, include:

— distributors;

— users of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment (including fishers, aquaculturists);

— those who repair fishing gear and aquaculture equipment;

— those who provide maintenance services (for example washing and cleaning);

— those who collect, sort (including pre-sorting) and transport used or wasted fishing gear and aquaculture equipment;

— recyclers; and

— EPR bodies.

Other stakeholders, such as authorities, should also be considered.

The user manuals shall include the information and needs listed in clauses 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 that are applicable for the identified stakeholders.

4.2 Stage of selecting and sourcing of materials and components

a) Conceptual information

At this stage in the life cycle, information on materials and components needs to be aggregated in order to be added and collated once the fishing gear aquaculture equipment and its components are assembled or manufactured.

The information gathered at this stage will be used throughout the development of the user manual. This guarantees proper care of the product to maximize its lifetime and allows preparation for the different stage in its life cycle, such as reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture, repurpose, recycling, recovery and disposal. See Clause 6.2 of EN 17988-1: 2024 [5] for more information on the different life cycle stages of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment.

b) Instructional information

The user manual shall include information on:

— The materials, including aggregation of data for reporting and the amount of recycled material used in the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, where applicable.

The user manual should include information on:

— EPR relevance. See EN 17988-1:2024, Clause 6.6 [5] for an explanation on EPR.

— Installation care for materials. For example, lubrication requirements and avoiding contact with certain types of surfaces or chemicals during installation, as described in Annex C

— Use and maintenance

  — Storage conditions to maximise lifetime.

  — Precautions, where applicable. For example, occupational health and safety and for environmental concerns.

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- Information on mechanical limitations of the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment. For example: avoid compression, cyclic loading or other stresses that can reduce the lifetime of the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment.

— End-of-use

- End-of-use treatment options.
- Disposal of materials with specific requirements such as biocides.

c) Reference information

Not applicable.

4.3 Manufacturing, assembly and installation stage

a) Conceptual information

At this stage in the life cycle of a product, the manual should be set up integrating the information from the materials and components, using a holistic approach and stipulating circularity for the user and downstream stakeholders. The user manual shall take into account the concepts described in the next two paragraphs and emphasize the importance of circularity of materials and components and the possibilities to reuse, repair and recycle materials and components.

Fishers and aquaculturists customise their fishing gear and aquaculture equipment for the particular circumstances in which they operate, including adapting nets, ropes and floats to target species and for functionality at sea. Fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, therefore, can be composed of different types of plastics, metal pieces (including metal weights), natural materials (for example, wood in trawl doors) and are sometimes treated with copper-based antifouling coatings.

Typically, local net lofts assemble fishing gear and aquaculture equipment, while the manufacturing of raw materials and components is generally done by other companies. Components can also be sold directly to users who then assemble the final fishing gear and/or aquaculture equipment themselves, or use the components to replace or repair parts of other gear and/or equipment. Other users purchase fully assembled fishing gear and/or aquaculture equipment directly from manufacturers and suppliers, and are often involved in design and specification.

b) Instructional information

The user manual shall include information on:

— Assembly

- This shall include a description of the fishing gear or aquaculture equipment design which allows for the easy identification of the components.
- This can be done by using a drawing or diagram or using other alternative tools that will guarantee the identification of the components within the gear. An example of such design is provided in Annex C.

— Components

- This shall include a description of good practices to increase the durability of components.

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- This shall include a preventive maintenance plan.
- This shall include possible end-of-use options for the components.

— Installation

- This shall include proper installation guidelines to guarantee maximum durability for the components and their circularity.

— Materials

- This shall include the information described in clause 4.2 regarding the types of materials, quantities, potential end-of-use and proper care for the materials used in each (sub)component.
- See EN 17988-4 [7] for more information on environmental and circularity requirements and guidelines.

NOTE The materials are chosen based on strength, durability, accessibility, weight and cost. There are four envisaged dominant polymer types, namely: PA6 (polyamide 6), PET (polyester), PP (polypropylene) and PE (polyethylene). The use of specific plastics can vary greatly, with many gears constructed from more than one type.

— Gear taxonomy

- Each Member State can set up their own additional taxonomies. However, reporting on fishing gear and aquaculture equipment collected as waste should at least be comparable to the reporting on fishing gear and aquaculture equipment placed on the market. This enables the definition and monitoring of collection targets.
- Detailed information on gear taxonomy can be found in Annex D.

c) Reference information

Not applicable.

4.4 Use and maintenance stage

4.4.1 Needs for use of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment

a) Conceptual information

Providing information on correct use allows the user to care for the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment to extend the durability and allow for reuse, repair and recycle at the end-of-use stage. See Annex C for examples on how to provide information on component usage and care.

b) Instructional information

The user manual shall include information on:

— Materials (see Clause 4.3).

— Maintenance, including information on preventive maintenance.

The user manual should include information on:

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