BS EN 17988-4:2024

BSI Standards Publication

Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment

Part 4: Environmental and circularity requirements and guidelines

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Full document details: BS EN 17988-4:2024

National foreword

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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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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2024

ISBN 978 0 539 23984 3

ICS 13.020.20; 65.150

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 November 2024.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 17988-4

November 2024

ICS 13.020.20; 65.150

English Version

Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment - Part 4: Environmental and circularity requirements and guidelines

Circularité et recyclabilité des engins de pêche et des équipements d'aquaculture - Partie 4 : Exigences et lignes directrices en matière d'environnement et de circularité

Kreislaufdesign von Fischfanggeräten und Aquakulturausrüstungen - Teil 4: Umwelt- und Kreislaufanforderungen und Leitfaden

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 30 September 2024.

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European foreword

This document (EN 17988-4:2024) 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2025, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2025.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 document 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,

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— 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 4 addresses the environmental and circularity requirements and guidelines together, as these two are interrelated and interdependent.

A circular economy focusses on environmental performance improvements with the help of resource cycles. The circular economy is a sustainable ecosystem which focusses on preventing and reducing waste, keeping the value retention of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment at its highest level, while preventing and reducing its environmental impacts throughout its life cycle. It contributes to a more sustainable world, but not all sustainability initiatives contribute to circularity.

The circular economy establishes sustainable principles for fishing gear and aquaculture equipment and sets a basis for a common approach to the eco-modulation of EPR fees.

The aim of the document is to enable the reader to more efficiently use materials and resources and reduce the amount of plastics lost as waste while delivering the best environmental outcome.

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 environmental and circularity requirements for the components of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment which contain plastics. It establishes sustainability principles that minimize the negative impact of the plastic components of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment on the environment, taking into account the impact on its performance (e.g. catchability or lifespan). The circular and environmental design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment focuses on:

— the selection and sourcing of materials and components;

— manufacture and assembly;

— placement, installation, and deployment of the fishing gear and aquaculture equipment;

— use and maintenance repair; and

— the end-of-use stage.

Transport, storage and distribution are taken into account at the different stages, where applicable.

This document excludes design aspects related to fishing or aquaculture techniques or management.

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.

EN 17988-1, *Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment — General requirements and guidelines*

EN 17988-2, *Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment — User manuals and labelling*

EN 17988-3, *Circular design of fishing gear and aquaculture equipment — Technical requirements and guidelines*

EN IEC 62430, *Environmentally conscious design (ECD) — Principles, requirements and guidance*

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

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