

Safety of machinery — System of auditory and visual danger and information signals

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National foreword

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The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags. Tags indicating changes to CEN text carry the number of the CEN amendment. For example, text altered by CEN amendment A1 is indicated by A1 A1.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted by Technical Committee PH/9, Applied ergonomics, to Subcommittee PH/9/1, Thermal environments.

A list of organizations represented on this subcommittee can be obtained on request to its secretary,

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 March 1997

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English Version

Safety of machinery - System of auditory and visual danger and information signals

Sécurité des machines - Système de signaux auditifs et visuels de danger et d'information

Sicherheit von Maschinen - System akustischer und optischer Gefahrensignale und Informationssignale

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 21 October 1996 and includes Amendment 1 approved by CEN on 14 August 2008.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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Management Centre: rue de Stassart, 36 B-1050 Brussels

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Foreword

This document (EN 981:1996+A1:2008) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 122 "Ergonomics", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2009, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2009.

This document includes Amendment 1, approved by CEN on 2008-08-14.

This document supersedes EN 981:1996.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags **A1** **A1**.

This European Standard has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

A1 For relationship with EU Directive(s), see informative Annexes ZA and ZB, which are integral parts of this document. **A1**

On the international level the International Standard ISO 11429 "Ergonomics – System of auditory and visual danger and information signals" has been prepared by WG 3 "Danger signals and speech communication in noisy environments" of ISO/TC 159/SC 5 "Ergonomics of the physical environment". The technical content of both the European Standard prEN 981 and the International Standard ISO 11429 is identical, with the exception of the emergency evacuation signal which is not dealt with in this European standard, however the limits of applicability of the standards to other technical fields are different.

Due to the different limits of applicability still existing on the European and international level direct transformation of the International Standard into a European Standard is not possible. The reason is that EN 981 has been prepared in order to fulfil the essential safety and health requirements of annex I of the Council Directive 89/392/EEC of 14 June 1989 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to machinery: Essential health and safety requirements relating to the design and construction of machinery (see Annex A of EN 292-2:1991/A1:1995) and that therefore the limits of applicability of the European Standard is restricted to this Directive.

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

1 Scope

To reduce risks associated with misinterpretation of visual and auditory danger signals, a system of danger and information signals is specified taking into account the different degrees of urgency.

This European Standard is applicable to all danger and information signals which have to be clearly perceived and differentiated as specified in 5.3 of EN 292-2:1991, by other requirements or by the work situation, and to all degrees of urgency – from extreme urgency to an ALL CLEAR situation. Where visual signals are to be complementary to sound signals, the signal character is specified for both.