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Temporary works equipment — Recommendations for achieving health and safety

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National foreword

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Equipements pour travaux temporaires - Recommandations pour assurer la santé et la sécurité

Temporäre Konstruktionen für Bauwerke - Empfehlungen zur Wahrung von Gesundheit und Sicherheit

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 15 January 2007. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 53.

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TR 15563:2007) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 53 “Temporary works equipment”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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

This Working Group was given a mandate to write a Technical Report (TR) in Prague in 2001 by CEN/TC 53, the Secretariat of which is held by DIN.

No existing European document is superseded.

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A Technical Report gives information on the technical content of standardization work.

No time limit is specified for the lifetime of Technical Reports, but it is recommended that Technical Reports be regularly reviewed by the responsible technical body to ensure that they remain valid.

Representatives from the relevant safety authorities from Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and the United Kingdom drew up this document. In accordance with the advice of CEN/TC 53, convenors of working groups are asked to take into consideration the recommendations for health and safety contained herein. Therefore, CEN/TC 53 intends that this document should be used as a reference to ensure that, whenever it is practicable to do so, the recommendations for health and safety should be incorporated into the requirements of the European Standards dealing with temporary works equipment.

In drafting this Technical Report, the Technical Group recognised that as the boundaries for the expectations of society and the technical state-of-the-art are continually being advanced, there was a need to remind designers, manufacturers and users of temporary works equipment of this fact. Consequently, the concept of “as far as social and technical developments require” [3.2] has been introduced as an overarching principle in the development of temporary works equipment.

CEN/TC 53 working groups should give careful consideration to the guiding principles set out in this report. However, if not, an explanation should be given along with advice about methods to avoid risk of injury.

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Introduction

Temporary works equipment makes a vital contribution to the construction of the works in many areas, e.g., on any building or construction project, because it provides:

— means for allowing workers to reach a workplace at height;

— work platform at height;

— temporary support, while the permanent works develops its strength.

Where temporary works equipment is used to support the permanent works in a weakened state, the main consideration is strength. However, when it is also used as the means for providing access to the workplace at height, there are other considerations, which should be taken into account. Temporary works equipment should:

— be strong enough;

— be intrinsically safe;

— provide a comfortable work platform, which allows good ergonomic work positions;

— make erection and dismantling a safer process;

— when used and maintained correctly, (in accordance with the manufacturers instructions), have no adverse effects on their health through working with it; and

— inspire confidence about their safety and health in workers erecting, dismantling and using it so that work can progress expeditiously.

It is important to ensure that convenors of working groups drawing up European Standards for temporary works equipment are aware of these requirements, which could contribute to safety. In the absence of a European Directive for temporary works equipment, relevant safety-related information is spread across several European Directives. Therefore, this Technical Report, which collects together much of this dispersed information, is meant as a reference document for future working group delegates who, while having the necessary technical and manufacturing knowledge, may lack the same in-depth knowledge of factors affecting health and safety.

While this Technical Report asks future working groups to consider a number of questions, it does not demand that a solution be found when it is technically impossible to do so. Consequently, the over-arching principle of this report is that design should take account of “social and technical developments”: which is defined in this Technical Report and has two distinct parts, namely:

i) “Changes in society’s expectations, which initiate changes in working practices …”; which would be articulated in EU Directives [or national laws] and, as such, would be mandatory; and

ii) “… the advances in technology, which improve the state-of-the-art”; which means when it is technically feasible to do.

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