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BSI Standards Publication

Nanotechnologies — Guidance for the responsible development of nanotechnologies

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National foreword

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

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Nanotechnologies - Guide pour le développement responsable des nanotechnologies

Nanotechnologien - Leitfaden zur verantwortungsvollen Entwicklung von Nanotechnologien

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 22 March 2016 for provisional application.

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16937:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 352 "Nanotechnologies", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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Introduction

Nanotechnology-related development brings novel functionalities to materials, and new applications. They have been accompanied by a societal demand to assess their effects, given the lack of (reliable) information related to this novel area. While assessing risks, benefits, lack of (reliable) information, or ambiguity, is not specific to this field, the question of responsible development, including societal and ethical aspects, is often raised in the context of nanotechnologies. As the technology matures, lack of (reliable) information should be reduced and the risks associated with the use of such technology should be minimised. Ambiguity may arise in presence of contradictory scientific results and diversity of opinions, and should as far as possible be reduced over time. Making appropriate decisions regarding policy, strategy, human health and the environment, safety or communication in nanotechnology is therefore a task that most small, medium and large organisations involved in this field face today.

It is therefore clear that making the right decisions in an open, transparent and balanced manner is critical for industry to continue to develop nanotechnologies responsibly.

Organisations working in the nanotechnology area should ensure to develop and implement an appropriate set of norms with the same approach for all products or services of the organization.

To ensure the responsible development of nanotechnologies, this Technical Specification (TS) provides a guidance to communication and interaction with relevant stakeholders. It describes the process that an organization or group of organisations may choose to follow to ensure accountability, transparency, safety (for workers, consumers, and for the environment) and clear communication.

The approach proposes to compare benefits and risks of nanotechnology activities, and seeks to encourage the implementation of preventive or corrective actions before commercialisation (such as design modification).

This Technical Specification can be used by organisations working in nanotechnology supply chains, academia, policy makers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This Technical Specification may also be used by the organisations providing services to the industry such as consulting, finance or insurance companies.

This Technical Specification provides guidance that does not supersede or substitute for any applicable legal requirements.

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