

PHASE 2 Mandate Climate change adaptation – first draft proposal

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Background

Within mandate M/526 Adaptation to Climate Change, Phase 1, an investigation has been carried out of standards that might be relevant from the point of view of adaptation to climate change. This was focused at infrastructures in three priority sectors: buildings, energy and transport. The investigation made clear that in order to actually modify standards in a way that they are resilient to climate change, knowledge is required on several general, ‘horizontal’ aspects, such as use of climate data and vulnerability assessment.

In Phase 2 of the mandate it is foreseen that standards identified in the previous stage will actually be modified in such a way that adaptation to the effects of climate change is integrated in the standard. Furthermore related required ‘horizontal’ standards will be developed.

Context and related activities in the field of Climate Change Adaptation

The EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change has identified technical standards as an effective instrument for improving the climate resilience in infrastructures in the transport, energy and building sectors. In addition, there is also a need to consider the ICT infrastructures that are closely interconnected with and support the functioning of these sectors. This has resulted in a work programme “Standards for a European infrastructure that is resilient to climate change”. Phase 1 of this programme (‘establish a list of priority standards’), is in an advanced stage. Phase 2 (‘development of standards to improve resilience to the adverse effects of climate change’) will start soon.

As part of the mandate CEN has developed a guide to include climate change adaptation in the writing of standards. This CEN Guide 32, ‘Guide for addressing climate change adaptation in standards’, is a tool for all standard writers and provides a broad overview of relevant aspects to take into account, covering all stages in the life-cycle of a product or service. It identifies relevant aspects and provides a structured approach to include the aspect of climate change adaptation. However, in practice standard writers might have a need for more practical guidance when actually adapting standards.

Another important development is that the European “Copernicus Institute” works hard on getting available future climate data. In a 1st session the Copernicus Institute is linked to the mandate. It is clear that from both sides there is a willingness to cooperate within Phase 2 of the mandate.

Also at ISO level climate change adaptation is increasingly becoming an issue. ISO TC 207 has indicated that they will start with developing ‘horizontal’ standards for climate change adaptation. The intention is to develop a ‘high level’ standard. One of the issues will be vulnerability assessment.

Objectives

Phase 2 has two objectives:

1. Guide the actual process of adapting a selected number standards, as identified in Phase 1.
2. Provide standard writers and TCs with the tools required to make standards for infrastructures 'resilient' to climate change. This reflects especially to the following aspects:
 - terms and definitions;
 - availability and use of climate data;
 - approach/ dealing with uncertainties/ vulnerability assessment.

Users

Users will be TCs and standard writers in the field of infrastructures. Focus on sectors 'energy', 'transport' and 'buildings'. Special focus on TCs actually working on modifying identified standards.

Content

The horizontal standards will provide standard writers guidance on questions like:

- Terms and definitions¹
- Which climate-aspects are relevant for a specific standard?
- Which kind of future climate-data are needed?
- What kind of future climate-data are available?
- How can you use available climate-data?
- How can you deal with uncertainties in future climate-data?
- How can you use a risk-based approach/ vulnerability assessment for identifying requirements for infrastructures?
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In parallel TCs will adapt existing standards. This will provide practical expertise in how the issue can be integrated in a practical way in standards.

Organisation

- A CEN/CENELEC body will carry out the work;
- The body will have two main tasks:
 - Provide assistance to TCs that modify identified standards (1);
 - Develop the 'horizontal' standards (2);
- Results will be submitted to CEN/CENELEC, and after approval, to the EC.

¹ CEN Guide 32 does already contain a substantial number of definitions in the field of climate change adaptation

Time-frame

- 3 years from date of start project.

Costs

- CEN/CENELEC body (chair + secretariat + experts)
- Funding for development of standards (horizontal/ TCs)