

## **STANDARDS NOTES: European Union – October 2008**

**Commission Exhaust and Sound Emissions Studies:** in early September, ISMA, the International Snow Mobile Manufacturing Association, participated in stakeholder meetings about the Commission's intent to review existing legislation on sound and exhaust emissions. Their equipment is currently not covered, but they are looking forward to EU harmonization and have contributed input for the Commission's technical study. A proposal is expected to be released in early 2009. ISMA and its members will be working with the Standards Team in order to monitor developments.

**Action Plan on standardization:** every year, the Commission publishes an update of its action plan. This year's edition mentions possible new areas for standardization mandates "taking into account DG Enterprise's Lead Market Initiative" which focuses on 6 areas (e-health, protective textiles, sustainable construction, recycling, bio-based products and renewable energies). In addition, they plan to develop a guidance standard concerning a staged implementation of "environmental management systems" linked to EMAS and EUP. The document also mentions the need to promote the availability and use of "alternative standardization deliverables - deliverables other than EN - as flexible instruments in areas with fast moving technologies and short product cycles, taking into consideration that their drafting and approval procedures as well as their consensus degree differ from those of ENs".

([http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards\\_policy/action\\_plan/doc/standardisation\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/action_plan/doc/standardisation_action_plan.pdf)).

**EUP Update:** while the first implementing measure on standby losses/off mode is going through the legislative process "with scrutiny" by the European Parliament, two more implementing measures are in the pipeline and should be released as draft by the end of September: lighting and simple set top boxes. In addition, the Commission is recasting the framework directive in order to broaden the scope to cover energy related products. The draft was released in July and will be in first reading in the fall. (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0399:FIN:EN:PDF>)

**Machine Safety Webinar:** To support the Ag Team, Cinnamon King in the Sioux Falls, South Dakota USEAC, organized a timely webinar at the end of August on the EU's new machine safety directive which will enter into force on December 29, 2009. Ms. Halpaus, a QNet, MN, consultant, addressed the new requirements for CE marking, whereas Standards Specialist offered additional information about exporting machines to the EU, focusing on CS's role. It was a dynamic event, considering the many questions during Q+A, and the positive feedback and reaction to the polling questions.

**Metrics Update:** Since the European Commission/Council/Parliament reached a political compromise on the proposed draft amending the units of

measurement directive in July 2008, the text has been formalized as a "common position". On August 14, 2008, it was sent to the EP/Council for second reading.

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52008PC0518:EN:NOT>

### **Visit USEUs updated Standards/Certification Webpage!**

After the lull of summer, our standards page now sports a fresher look. We have added the CE marking steps to better guide our business visitors through the maze of EU CE marking legislation. Please also visit "what's new" for an update on recent developments.

<http://www.buyusa.gov/europeanunion/standards.html>.

**New IMI on EU Automotive Framework Directive:** The market research report covers regulatory requirements applicable to cars and car components to be exported to the European Union (EU) based on the new Motor Vehicle Framework Directive 2007/46/EC (MVFD). The recently adopted MVFD takes an important step towards further regulatory harmonization and broadens the scope of existing legislation, extending approval requirements to nearly all road vehicles. Its changes do not immediately enter into force; instead, a phased-in enforcement period exists, stretching from April 2009 to October 2014 depending on the category of vehicle in question. In the meantime, existing directive 70/156/EEC and amendments remain in force.

Link: [http://buyusainfo.net/docs\\_orig/x\\_7812221.doc](http://buyusainfo.net/docs_orig/x_7812221.doc)

**TEC (Transatlantic Economic Council):** On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the two co-chairs of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) agreed to postpone the next TEC meeting scheduled for October 16, 2008 to a date later in 2008. The postponement has been requested by the European Commission due to the unavailability of key Commissioners at this date. However, given the need to further sustain the TEC process and to achieve progress the regulatory dialogue will be held as foreseen on October 15, in Washington. Furthermore both co-chairs agreed to meet in Washington on 16 October 2008 to discuss the next steps.

**Personnel changes:** Jonathan Bensky, CS/USEU's Senior Commercial Officer for the past five years, retired in September. His replacement, Robert (Bob) Connan, arrived on September 30. Mr. Val Huston is Rosemary Gallant's replacement as Deputy Senior Commercial Officer.

### **Upcoming events:**

October 21, 2008 - The Commission's World Standards Day will take place in Paris, France. This year's theme is standardization and small and medium sized companies.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards\\_policy/international/world\\_standards\\_day/2008\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/international/world_standards_day/2008_en.htm)

November 19, 2008 – the Commission sent out invitations to their one-day workshop on intellectual property rights in ICT standardization (Brussels, Belgium).

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/ws08ipr\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/ws08ipr_en.htm)

January 13-14, 2009 – ETSI workshop on security and standardization (Sophia Antipolis, France) -

[http://www.etsi.org/WebSite/NewsandEvents/SECURITY/2009\\_SECURITYWORKSHOP\\_HOME.aspx](http://www.etsi.org/WebSite/NewsandEvents/SECURITY/2009_SECURITYWORKSHOP_HOME.aspx)