



The objectives of the revised Machinery Directive

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The revised Machinery Directive does not introduce radical changes compared with the current Directive that has been applied since 1995. The main objective of the revision is to consolidate the achievements of the current Directive and to improve the practical application of the health and safety requirements.

The scope the Directive has been clarified and extended. The conformity assessment procedures have been simplified and made more flexible. A stronger legal basis is provided for market surveillance, for the monitoring of Notified Bodies and for cooperation between the Member States and the Commission.

These aspects are complementary to the new Regulation on market surveillance and accreditation, included in the New Legislative Framework for the single market for goods, that will come into application at the same time as the revised Machinery Directive.

The health and safety requirements are based on those of the current Directive. However some essential requirements have been reinforced, particularly with respect to risk assessment, the application of ergonomic principles and the prevention risks due to emissions of noise, vibrations and hazardous substances.

The main tool for translating these advances into practical machinery design will be the adaptation and continued improvement of harmonised standards.