



Coordination of notified bodies

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In the New Approach Directives such as the Machinery Directive or the PPE Directive, notified bodies play an important role: they perform the type examinations required by the directives and check the manufacturer's quality assurance measures.

A regular exchange of experience between notified bodies has proven effective to ensure the comparability of work results and the uniformity of testing and certification procedures. The competent bodies for each directive from all EU member states have therefore joined forces in the "Coordination of notified bodies".

Within this coordination, the "horizontal committee" provides a forum where all bodies notified for a directive can discuss any issues related to the implementation of the directive concerned, with representatives of the European Commission and of European organizations and federations also participating. Discussions may for example include aspects of conformity assessment procedures or requirements set out in the directive, and result in the uniform rules of procedure being agreed upon in the form of "Recommendation for Use" sheets.

For certain product groups, "vertical groups" offer notified bodies the possibility to address questions related, for example, to product-specific test methods, standards interpretations, test principles for certification of non-standardized products, and to issue recommendations which sum up the discussion results. In addition, round robin tests are carried out to examine the reproducibility of test procedures and the comparability of test results, and to derive suggestions for improvement of test methods.

For each directive, close collaboration exists between the coordination of notified bodies and the EU Member States via the European Commission's respective working group and ensures extensive exchange of opinion on matters related to the implementation of the directives.