



## **Standardization, testing and certification – Practical experience from the perspective of OH&S institutions**

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Using safe machines at the workplace is an effective means for the prevention of workplace accidents and occupational diseases. European single market directives therefore particularly contain essential safety requirements that have to be fulfilled during the design and manufacturing process of products. These requirements are detailed in harmonized European standards. Although application of these standards is voluntary, they give important advice on safe design and for testing and certification of the products.

European OH&S institutions make important contributions to the elaboration process of harmonized European standards: They possess detailed information on accidents and occupational diseases and have gained valuable experience through their testing and certification activity. For more than 20 years, members of staff of European OH&S institutions have brought this experience to bear in the European standardization process.

The globalization of markets and the associated internationalization of standardization makes these contributions increasingly difficult, since active participation in international standardization implies a disproportionate level of costs and effort. The OH&S institutions in the European member states have to make every effort to reach cooperation based on the sharing of work. Only then can the burden on individual organizations be kept within acceptable limits.