CENELEC standards for occupational EMF exposure

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For many years CENELEC TC106X and its predecessor, TC211, have been producing standards for demonstrating that emissions of electromagnetic fields from products are within recommended levels for the exposure of the general public.

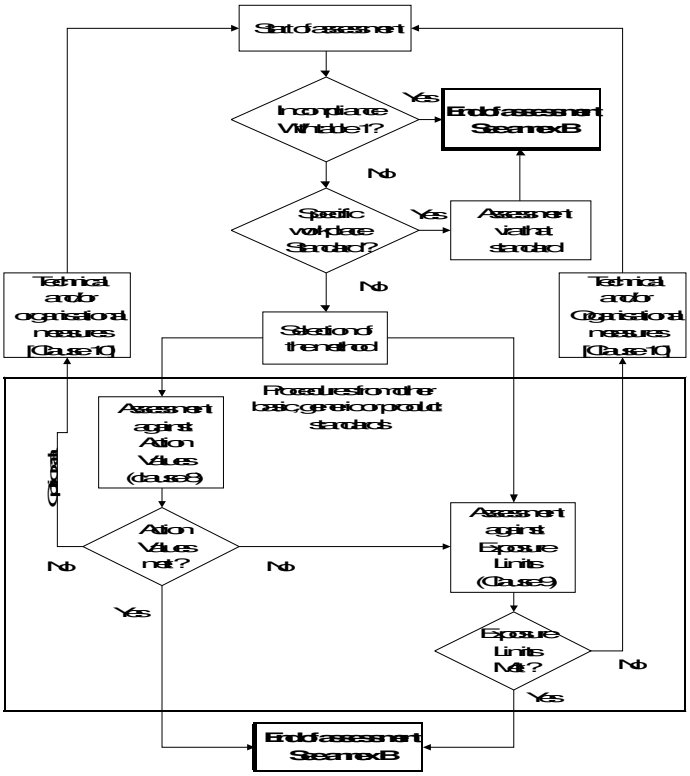
When the EMF Directive[1] was published, the European Commission mandated European standards organisations to develop a system of standards to be used for occupational exposure assessment. CENELEC is leading the development of these standards, working closely with ETSI.

The approach is to have one overall standard giving the framework for risk assessment, providing an employer with a process to follow, and specific advice on

- Situations where no EMF assessment should be needed
- Simple approaches for the combination of exposures from multiple sources
- Consideration of “sensitive workers”, including pregnant workers
- How to address assessment uncertainties

This overall standard, EN50499[2], is currently out for formal enquiry within the CENELEC system.

The figure below outlines the logical process for risk assessment give in EN50499.



This presentation will discuss the current draft, and will also describe other CENELEC standards for specific technologies and situations that are under development and that will be called up by EN50499.

References

Directive 2004/40/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) (18th individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC)

CENELEC standard prEN50499. Determination of workers exposure to electromagnetic fields.