

ETUC Standardisation Newsletter - August 2025

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to share with you its newsletter on standardisation, bringing you regular updates on the ETUC's activities in this field. We are pleased to deliver information on European and international standardisation straight to your inbox. If you wish to receive additional information and/or documents related to the news presented below, feel free to contact us at standards@etuc.org.

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Shaping European standards supporting the AI Act



The ETUC has been actively contributing to the work of the European Joint Technical Committee 21 (JTC21) of CEN-CENELEC in the development of two European standards mandated by the European Commission to support the implementation of the AI Act.

The first standard on **AI Risk Management** is intended to facilitate the application of Article 9 of the AI Act, which sets out the requirements for establishing a Risk Management System for high-risk AI systems. The second standard addresses **AI Quality Management Systems (QMS) for regulatory purposes**. This is particularly significant in light of Article 17 of the AI Act, which mandates that all high-risk AI systems placed on the market or put into service in the EU – including those intended for deployment in the workplace – must be assessed in accordance with a compliant QMS.

In June, both draft standards were submitted for Committee Internal Ballots. In response, the ETUC AI Standardisation Task Force convened on 13 June to review the documents and prepare a consolidated set of comments. These were subsequently submitted to JTC21 WG 2. Both draft standards have received a substantial number of comments, which are now being addressed through comment resolution meetings. The ETUC remains committed to actively contributing to this process, ensuring that the final standards reflect workers' needs and uphold strong safeguards. Final adoption of the standards is anticipated in 2026.

ETUC new Task Force on personal protective equipment



The ETUC plan to extend its work in the field of personal protective equipment (PPE) has translated into an important practical step – setting up the ETUC's very own Task Force on PPE Standardisation.

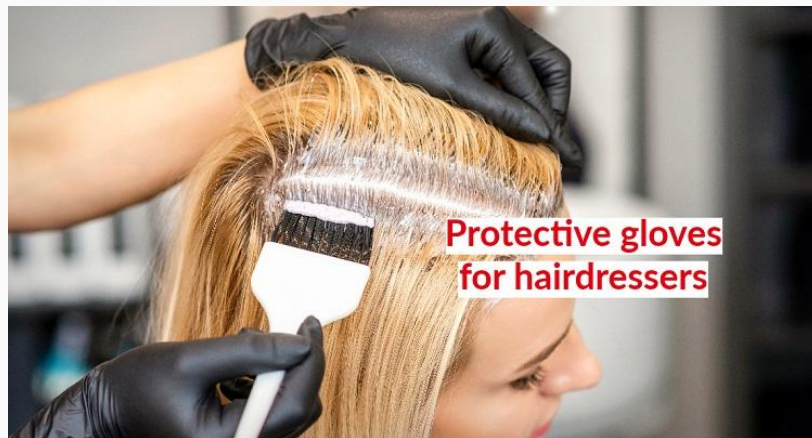
A first objective of the Task Force will be to shape the ETUC's contribution to the revision of standard **EN 469:2020** 'Protective clothing for firefighters - Performance requirements for protective clothing for firefighting activities', which supports the implementation of **EU Regulation (2016/425) on PPE**. This harmonised European standard is being reviewed in CEN Technical Committee 162, WG4, to which the ETUC participates thanks to a recently nominated PPE trade union expert.

For standardisation areas covered by the ETUC STAND Project, the ETUC sets up dedicated Task Forces of trade unionists and experts in the field, supporting the work of nominated experts in given Working Groups. Task Forces are instrumental in building the ETUC input into selected standards. Their members bring practical expertise and

knowledge on specific topics, reviewing and sharing ongoing feedback on standards under development. This is crucial as it enables the ETUC to bring the direct perspective of workers to standardisation.

For more information on the newly created ETUC Task Force, please contact Joanne Houston (jhouston@etuc.org).

Hairdresser glove standard finally adopted and to be published in September 2025



In 2018, social partners, including UNI Europa, the ETUC and Coiffure.EU, identified a lack of gloves on the market that could offer maximum protection for hairdressers. Recognising the need for accepted standards to ensure the effectiveness of protective gloves and other personal protective equipment, employees' and employers' representatives initiated a standardisation process, together with glove manufacturers and in which the ETUC played a crucial role in coordinating.

After undergoing rigorous laboratory trials, the proposed requirements and test methods for the standard were found to be reliable. This has finally resulted in the adoption of a European hairdresser glove standard, which at the same time is also an international ISO standard. The standard, which is numbered **EN ISO 374-6:2025**, is to be published in September 2025. Subsequently, it will be referenced in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), resulting in a presumption of conformity with the Personal Protection Equipment Regulation. As such, all hairdressers' gloves in Europe will have to comply with this new standard. This will be a significant step forward in ensuring reliable and effective protection for all workers in the sector.

CEN-CENELEC General Assembly in Luxembourg



For the first time since COVID-19, the ETUC was able to participate, in person, to the CEN and CENELEC General Assembly, as an observer/partner.

As for any general assembly of an organisation, the various presidents of the organisations, as well as the board members, were elected. And also the financial accounts and financial outlook was discussed.

The General Assembly is also an ideal place to take stock of the (European) standardisation system, in particular how the system can be strengthened and fulfil all the challenges, including the digital transformation of the standardisation system, in a competitive market. These are all elements that will be taken onboard in the revision of the regulation on standardisation (**1025/2012**).

European Commission – ETUC concludes new Framework Partnership Agreement on Standardisation



Following a call for interest, the European Commission and ETUC have concluded a new Framework Partnership Agreement on standardisation, covering the years 2025 and 2026. This is the third successive framework agreement, concluded between the European Commission and the ETUC. Next to the ETUC, ANEC, ECOS and SBS were also awarded with new framework agreements.

Revision of EU Regulation 1025/2012 on Standardisation – ETUC submits feedback to EC call for evidence for an impact assessment



CALL FOR EVIDENCE FOR AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The European Commission launched a '[call for evidence for an impact assessment](#)' on the revision of the standardisation regulation (1025/2012). This is the first step in a process which will last approximately 12 months, and which will result in a Commission proposal for the revision of **EU Regulation 1025/2012**. The call, which closed on 21 July 2025, generated 200 contributions. Most of these came from business associations. This is 'normal', as technical standard setting is an activity primarily for business and by business. That said, and when the need occurs, in function of the standard being drafted, other players need to be able to participate too. That is why the 'inclusiveness' of the standardisation system is of key importance. This is also reflected by numerous contributions from NGOs, public authorities, trade unions, EU citizens groups and consumer organisations to the call. The ETUC's contribution to the call can be accessed via [this link](#) (on page 13). In a nutshell, the ETUC's key message is a greater commitment to 'inclusiveness', regardless of what the political masters decide on the future of our standardisation system.

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