

WORKSHOP # 1

“FUTURE DIRECTION OF STANDARDS DEVELOPMENTS”

Rational:

- During the last years the development of standards for our industry by CEN / European Commission has been unsatisfactory
- Within ARGE membership we have significant expertise on product standards, and we have our 'Working Group C', which is focusing on standards which are relevant for our industry

Review direction and level of engagement of ARGE in standardisation work:

- Based on what we know of market needs and trends where are the opportunities for further standards development?

Workshop output:

- Establish overview on future opportunities for standards development
- What role would the members like to see ARGE play?
- Key opportunities where ARGE can take action
- How should we organise ourselves

Overview on future opportunities:

1. Speeding up the creation and revision of CEN standards
2. Avoiding that EC and CEN eliminate minimal requirements for CE Marking
3. Using existing standards for creating market demand for higher quality products

Direction and level of engagement of ARGE in standardisation work:

- Concerning the European Commission and CEN, members wish ARGE to engage in a more significant top-down approach (lobbying)
- No other European organisation or entity represents the interest of Building Hardware Manufacturers in such a focused and 'undiluted' way as ARGE

Speeding up the creation and revision of CEN standards

- Example: Revision the EN 1935 (single axis hinges) has been 'floating' within CEN bureaucracy for 8 years
- Problem: No target oriented, professional work style within the involved CEN units

What can ARGE do:

- Engage in lobbying activities at European Commission, in order to create top-down pressure (options for such lobbying can be e.g. Kellen, who is BHMA's partner, or ORGALIME lobbyist; in addition talking to EC regularly as ARGE)
- On an operational level, support WG 4 Convener and WG 4 Secretariat

Avoiding that EC and CEN eliminate minimal requirements for CE Marking

- EC wants to eliminate minimal requirements for CE marking, and transfer such responsibility to National Regulation (example: push bar with 'razor blade surface')
- Cause of the problem: EC is executing Construction Product Regulation (CPR) without considering consequences

What can ARGE do:

- Check whether EC's Product Safety Directive can help our case
- Liaise with other Manufacturer Associations who are hit by this interpretation of CPR as well, and have a common approach towards EC
- Influence relevant persons at EC and CEN

Using existing standards for creating market demand for higher quality products

- CEN standards for Building Hardware Products in general include classifications
- Such classifications allow to differentiate 'high quality' products from products with 'lower quality'
- The advantages of 'higher quality' products are not known and/or considered enough in the selection and purchase process

What can ARGE do:

- Apply a similar approach as BHMA by running focused marketing campaigns
- Safety and/or durability could be potential key words

What will be an ARGE internal challenge?

- When engaging in one of the three described opportunities for providing benefit to ARGE membership, only selected product groups (and consequently manufacturers) will be covered; other manufacturers are not interested
- Financing has to come from additional funds outside the operational ARGE budget

Financing of campaigns and/or lobbying:

- Example: With € 100,000 the one or the other project can be financed
- There are approx. 200 companies covered by the ARGE umbrella
- If each of the companies pays € 500.- ...!