



European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium sized Enterprises for Standardisation  
Bureau Européen de l'Artisanat et des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises pour la Normalisation  
Europäisches Büro des Handwerks und der Klein- und Mittelbetriebe für die Normung  
Organizzazione Europea dell'Artigianato e delle Piccole e Medie Imprese per la Standardizzazione  
Organización Europea del Artesanado y de las PYMEs para la Estandarización  
Europejskie Zrzeszenie Rzemiosła oraz Małych i Średnich Przedsiębiorstw dla Normalizacji



## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Adoption of ISO standards on Respiratory Protective Devices postponed by at least six years**

Following a long debate and thanks to the joint efforts of SME SAFETY and NORMAPME, CEN TC79 has recently agreed on a roadmap that postpones the vote on the transfer of the ISO 17420 to EN ISO until its first revision. The roadmap leading to the vote will take some six years. If the vote is then positive, another three-year transition period will be given. In total the EN ISO, provided the vote is positive, will come into force in Europe 10 years after publication.

The president of SME Safety, Alberto Spasciani, who takes part in the standardisation process as an Italian representative, welcomed CEN's decision: "SMEs and other stakeholders of RPD products will be able to adopt the ISO approach in a timely and effective manner. On this occasion, CEN has shown that Europe can lead the process of globalisation in order to draw advantage for the competitiveness of European SMEs".

CEN's decision is the result of a wide campaign led by RPD European SME manufacturers in order to inform all stakeholders about the risks of imposing new international standards that are not yet adapted to the needs of European companies. The campaign was orchestrated by NORMAPME – the EU Office of SMEs for standardisation, and has led SMEs to join their forces in a new association called SME Safety that promotes the interests of European SMEs in the European and International standardisation arena.

SME Safety will continue its work in order to improve the ISO standards.

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#### **About NORMAPME :**

NORMAPME is an international non-profit association created in 1996 with the support of the European Commission, representing over 12 million European Crafts and SMEs in standardisation. As an advisory body, NORMAPME contributes to the development of SME friendly standards. In particular, NORMAPME supports technical experts to participate in Technical Committees of CEN, CENELEC, ETSI and ISO as SME representative. As an awareness raising body, NORMAPME promotes the use of standards among SMEs. NORMAPME believes that the more SMEs get involved in the European Standardisation System, the better standards will be adapted to the specific requirements of SMEs. Membership and cooperation is open to all SME organisations and other organisations that promote SME interests.

Detailed information available at [www.normapme.eu](http://www.normapme.eu)

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