

Joint Press Release, January 2018

DTV and SME-Safety initiate a joint approach on EU legislation and standardisation on Personal Protective Equipment and Textile Care

Bonn/Brussels, January 2018 – The German Textile Care Association (DTV) and the European association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that manufacture safety products (SME Safety) join their efforts to support standardisation needs of SMEs that manufacture, distribute and maintain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This joint project is part of the 2018 work programme of the European non-profit association Small Business Standards (SBS), which is co-financed by the European Commission and EFTA countries to support European SMEs in standardisation.

Compliance with the existing European legislation and reference to relevant harmonised standards is fundamental for PPE manufacturers, distributors and Textile Care services in order to comply and ensure the safety and quality requirements that the market demands. While this is fairly obvious when it comes to the manufacturing of PPE, the reprocessing of textiles is often neglected. However, textile care services (e.g. laundry, dry cleaning, rental) are fundamental to ensure supply, reprocessing and sterilisation of PPE of reusable protective clothing.

Filling SME representativeness gap

At first, the two associations will focus on the necessity to ensure a smooth transition for SMEs from the PPE and Medical Devices Directive regimes to the Regulation ones. In fact, the implementation of these regulations has already started to impact standardisation activities. As the products that are in conformity with the harmonised standards shall be presumed to be in conformity with the requirements of laid down in the regulations, it is of vital importance that the needs of PPE manufacturers and Textile Care service providers (which are mostly SMEs) are adequately represented at European level.

During the entire course of the project, DTV and SME Safety will regularly engage with the SME community to provide information about relevant standardisation activities and regulatory updates in the field of PPE and Textile Care standardisation. Moreover, the SME community will be engaged into discussions to stimulate feedback and elaborate positions on SME issues relevant to sectoral standardisation and a European workshop specifically targeting PPE and Textile Care standardisation will take place on 7 November 2018 in Brussels.