

Axelent Safety

STANDARDS, STANDARDS, STANDARDS...

At times it feels like we are being haunted by new or updated safety standards. And you may wonder: why are they so important? And how can I find the right standard? 2019 has seen at least the following new or updated “B-Type” standards:

- » *EN ISO 13851* on two-hand control replaces *EN 574*
- » *EN ISO 14118* on prevention of unexpected start-up replaces *EN 1037*
- » *EN ISO 20607* on instruction handbooks for machinery – This is brandnew and revolutionary, because it is the first standard under the CE regulations to deal with this subject at length.

Additionally, numerous product specific standards (C-Type) have been published last year, for instance on hydraulic and mechanical presses, machining centres etc. Other new product standards are on the way, for instance an update of *EN 619* for conveyor systems.

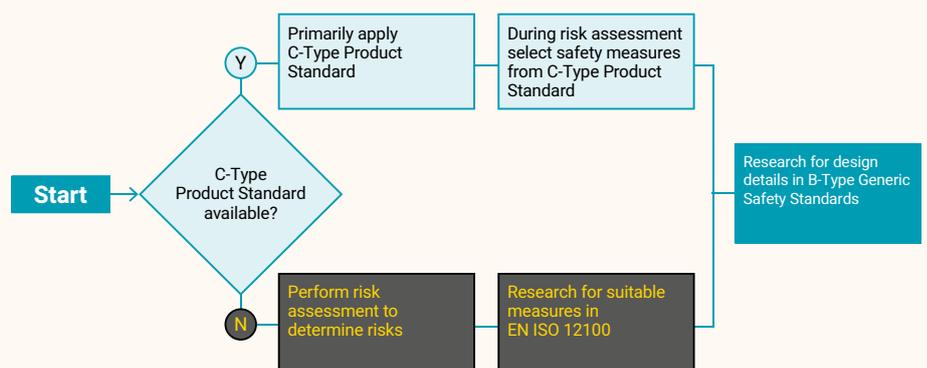
BUT WHY ARE safety standards so important? Simply put, they are defining the minimum safety requirements to be followed. Although only the Machinery Directives and EU Directives are legally binding, the standards have the stronger impact. EU Directives are very general when it comes to the requirements. As an example note the following requirement concerning unexpected movement of parts of a machine: “When a part of the machinery has been stopped, any drift away from the stopping position, for whatever reason other than action on the control devices, must be prevented or must be such that it does not present a hazard.”

This is so general that it raises more questions than it answers: what is meant by “stopped” (shut down or just halted)? What does “drift away” mean? And what situations does this try to refer to? The answers can all be found in product standards (C-Type). They contain information about acceptable operating modes, clarifying what a “stop” is. They will give information concerning safe shut-off of

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stored energy that might be released accidentally. That may be the case if compressed air is locked in a cylinder or if a heavy vertical axis could move due to gravity. The C-Type standard names the requirements to follow and then often refers to a B-Type standard for details. That is because many details – such as required safety distances – are applicable to all machinery uniformly. If one would present them in each product standard separately, that would lead to contradictions and cause a lot of double work.

TO FIND THE right standard then, follow the flow chart below. The initial question should always be: Is there a product standard for my product? If there is, take research up from that C-Type standard. If there is no product standard for your product, start with the risk assessment and select the appropriate measures from *EN ISO 12100*. Both ways you will arrive at the details in the B-Type standards. Read more about this in the Axelent Safety Book.



Matthias Schulz

Matthias Schulz is an independent machine safety consultant with 25 years of experience cooperating in a joint venture with Axelent in Sweden and Germany.

Matthias is the author of our popular Safety Book that guides you through laws, regulations, EU directives, requirements and certifications.



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