

# Standards update

## Standards in Focus

By David Hodges, Chairman, SCTE Standards Committee

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David Hodges was chairman of the CAI (Confederation of Aerial Industries) for 24 years after joining the Board in 1980.

He was educated in Sevenoaks and at South East London Technical College, where he gained a full tech., and completed his apprenticeship as a development engineer with GEC Elliott Automation, working on power station control and monitoring systems.

After a short period at the SIRA Institute as a research technologist, he joined Chubb as a project engineer working on electronic security systems, including its large security projects, and became surveillance divisional manager running the CCTV operation.

In 1976, he joined the Society and, two years later, joined a CAI member, Kindue, as technical director. He became involved with the CAI and joined the CAI Board in 1980.

At that time, he had the opportunity to develop some special entry communications systems and, as result of this work, Blakeglow Ltd. was formed. Over the years, he has moved Blakeglow into the installation field and so sees the industry both from manufacturing and installation viewpoints. Blakeglow Systems Ltd. is the latest form of the company which concentrates on systems.

During the past few years, he has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Society and presented with its Tom Hall award. He has also been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the CAI and was presented with the John Summerfield award.

Dave currently represents the SCTE on BSI, CENELEC and IEC Standards Committees and is Chairman of the BSI Cable Standards Committee EPL100/04. He is also Chairman of the SCTE's Lecture and Standards committees.

Generally, work on standards continues as set out in the article published on page in Broadband Journal (issue dated December 2018 Vol 40 No 4).

For the first time in years, IEC and CENELEC held technical meetings in London. The working groups that met were WG1 (Safety), WG3 (Equipment) and WG5 (Optical Equipment and Systems).

### WG1 (Safety)

This working group made good progress on replies from the CDV and, with a few remaining questions to be answered after the meeting, it is hoped that the standard EN 60728-11 Ed5 will be ready for an FDIS, which is the final stage in the IEC process, and, following this, the commission will be asked to accept the standard for UJ listing.

### WG3 (Equipment)

The Standard EN 60728-3 Ed 5 was given a 100% vote and will shortly be issued to replace the earlier edition. At the same time, EN 60729-1 and TS 50083-2-3 will be withdrawn. EN 50083-2-4 will shortly be issued as a CD (Committee Draft). This standard covers filters for the 700MHz to 860MHz Band. New work on this committee will be extending the upper frequency limit to 1218MHz.

### WG5 (Optical Equipment and Systems)

EN 60728-115: In-Building Optical systems for broadcast signal transmissions has just been issued for comment. Work continues on IEC 60728-14 and part 13-1. Earlier in the year, BSI issued a statement on BREXIT.

“BSI’s membership status in CEN and CENELEC will be unaffected by no deal Brexit. There will be a transition period for the CEN and CENELEC statutes, beginning on the date of UK exit, during which they will be reviewed with a view to BSI’s permanent full membership from the end of the period in December 2020,” it said.

“Although the exit date has been extended, our membership of CEN and CENELEC will remain unchanged. However, the end of the transition period will remain the same. BSI’s position enjoys overwhelming support among UK stakeholders. UK manufacturers, service providers, trade associations, consumer bodies and others have been clear and consistent

in their message that they want to continue to work within the European standards system, influencing the content of the standards used in common across 34 countries in Europe, and that continued membership of BSI in CEN and CENELEC is therefore critical.

“Should a ‘no deal’ Brexit be the outcome, preparations are taking place across government to ensure that regulatory continuity will be maintained. This includes both the designation of standards to support regulations under the UK regulatory model that will replicate the EUs’ New Legislative Framework and the introduction of a new UK regulatory mark that will be required to be affixed to products or their packaging. The role of the UK mark will be to support the authorities and provide clarity to manufacturers placing products on the market in the UK post-Brexit – but only in the case that the UK leaves the EU without a deal,” it concluded.

### Stay in touch

Standards’ work is often painstaking and time-consuming, but always worthwhile. It is always better to take part at the formulating stage rather than discover horrific implications for your business when the standard is published! The maintenance teams/working groups in IEC and CENELEC are always looking for technical experts; if you really cannot devote time for the actual meetings, then at least consider commenting on the interim drafts that they issue.

For UK-based organisations, the SCTE is happy to circulate drafts of standards issued for comment and voting and to cross-correlate input into BSI. Please contact Dave Hodges if you would like to be on the circulation list. Other readers should contact their own national committees.

Dave Hodges has a growing list of engineers who have volunteered to provide cement on draft standards as they go through the creation stage. If you would be willing to make a commitment, please email [dave@hodges.co.uk](mailto:dave@hodges.co.uk)

Please also email Dr. Roger Blakeway at [ceo@thescte.eu](mailto:ceo@thescte.eu) if you would like to be included on the draft circulation list.



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