



Extension of the transitional period for EN -954-1

The extension of the presumption of conformity of EN 954-1 up to December 31, 2011, was announced in the official journal of the European Union on December 29, 2009.

As a result EN 954-1 can be consulted up until this date as a B-type standard for the presumption of conformity under the new Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC.

Important points for the machine manufacturer:

1. If a C-type standard (product standard for specific machines) is to be used for the presumption of conformity:
 - a. If the C-type standard still references EN 954-1, this or the superseding standard EN ISO 13849-1 must be used.
 - b. If the C-type standard references EN ISO 13849-1, this must be used.
2. If the C-type standard is not used for the presumption of conformity, or if a suitable C-type standard does not exist, a harmonized standard should be used for the design of the safety-relevant parts of the control system. EN ISO 13849-1, EN 62061 or EN 954-1 can be used.
3. The new Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC is to be used from December 29, 2009, and the old Machinery Directive 98/37/EC may no longer be used.

A list of harmonized standards (A-type, B-type, C-type) is available in the official journal of the European Union at www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise.

SICK sees the extension of EN 954-1 to be disadvantageous in that it inadvertently fails to cover the state of the art and the basic health and safety specifications required to a sufficient extent.

The basis for this opinion is that EN 954-1 is also used for safety circuits for which it alone does not define sufficient requirements, e.g. for electronic, programmable or more complex protective measures.

This standard also fails to describe sufficiently requirements for the avoidance of systematic failures.

Currently, there exist three standards for the safety-relevant parts of control systems which can be consulted for the conformity analysis of machines: EN ISO 13849-1, EN 62061 and EN 954-1.

For the machine manufacturer, the situation has not been made simpler, but more confusing, as great consideration must be given as to whether the range of application for EN 954-1 still exists.

In our experience, end customers and machine users will in the future no longer refer to EN 954-1 in their specifications or order documents. For safety reasons, they will instead refer to the state of the art according to a Performance Level or Safety Integrity Level.

SICK supports the use of all three standards with the availability of the necessary technical data.

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