

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.8.2026)

The Machinery Regulation¹ was adopted in 2023 and applies as of 20 January 2027, meaning that stakeholders have had significant time to prepare.

It sets out the Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSRs) that products must comply with. While cited harmonised standards help provide a presumption of conformity, they are not mandatory. Though machinery and related products must comply with the EHSRs, it is possible to comply with the latter without harmonised standards being applied.

The Commission fully recognises the importance of harmonised standards. Consequently, it has planned for the majority of harmonised standards currently cited in support of the Machinery Directive² to be re-cited under the Regulation, to ensure a smooth transition. Those harmonised standards will again be providing the presumption of conformity insofar as they cover relevant EHSRs. The adoption by the Commission and citation in the Official Journal of the EU is planned for the fourth quarter of 2026. An updated guide to the application of the machinery legislation is due to be made available around the same time.

On cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence elements³, the relevant new harmonised standards, once offered by the European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) and if positively assessed by the Commission, will be listed. Such new standards have not yet been delivered by the ESOs. Note that the deadlines for delivery were set out in the relevant Commission standardisation request⁴. Nonetheless, the preparation of the standard covering cyber-safety has been prioritised and the Commission expects the ESOs to offer it soon. As mentioned above, it is possible to comply with the EHSRs, without harmonised standards being applied.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2023/1230 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

² Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council; harmonised standards are cited in support of that Directive via Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/1586.

³ More specifically, safety components incorporating Artificial Intelligence with fully or partially self-evolving behaviour.

⁴ Phase 1: 20 January 2026: C(2025) 129 final.