

CEN

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WORKSHOP

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AGREEMENT

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English version

Basic CBRN training curriculum for first responders and medical staff including first receivers

This CEN Workshop Agreement has been drafted and approved by a Workshop of representatives of interested parties, the constitution of which is indicated in the foreword of this Workshop Agreement.

The formal process followed by the Workshop in the development of this Workshop Agreement has been endorsed by the National Members of CEN but neither the National Members of CEN nor the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre can be held accountable for the technical content of this CEN Workshop Agreement or possible conflicts with standards or legislation.

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CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

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Ref. No.:CWA 17974:2023 E

Contents.....	Page
European foreword	3
Introduction	4
1 Scope.....	5
2 Normative references.....	5
3 Terms and definitions	5
3.1 Symbols and abbreviations	6
4 Essential Modules & Learning Objectives	6
4.1 Module 1 - CBRN terminology.....	6
4.1.1 Learning Objectives	7
4.2 Module 2 - CBRN Basics.....	7
4.2.1 Learning Objectives	7
4.3 Module 3 - CBRN Extras.....	7
4.3.1 Learning Objectives	7
4.4 Module 4 - First alert.....	7
4.4.1 Learning Objectives	7
4.5 Module 5 - On site risk assessment, hazard avoidance and medical care	7
4.5.1 Learning Objectives	7
4.6 Module 6 - Task specific response	8
4.6.1 Learning Objectives	8
4.7 Module 7 - Improve interagency collaboration.....	8
4.7.1 Learning Objectives	8
5 Delivery suggestions.....	8
6 Trainers competences.....	9
7 Guidance for trainer.....	10
Annex A	11

European foreword

This CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA 17974:2023) has been developed in accordance with the CEN-CENELEC Guide 29 “CEN/CENELEC Workshop Agreements – A rapid prototyping to standardization” and with the relevant provisions of CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations - Part 2. It was approved by a Workshop of representatives of interested parties on 2022-10-25, the constitution of which was supported by CEN following the public call for participation made on 2022-03-02. However, this CEN Workshop Agreement does not necessarily include all relevant stakeholders.

The final text of this CEN Workshop Agreement was provided to CEN for publication on 2023-02-02.

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The following organizations and individuals developed and approved this CEN Workshop Agreement:

ABC-Zug München-Land	Mr Oliver Meisenberg
Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK CEN	Mr Carlos Rojas Palma (chair) Mr Ahmed Nagy
City of Vienna	Mr Nikolaus Salzer
Emergency Services Academy Finland (ESAF)	Ms Jaana Kuula
European CBRNE Center, Umeå University - Sweden	Ms Svenja Stöven
Feuerwehr Mannheim	Mr Mario König
Ineris Développement	Mr Olivier Salvi
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment - Netherlands	Dr Korneel Cats, Dr Saskia Rutjes, Ms Iris Vennis
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)	Ms Maria Järälv, Mr Pär Nordstrand
The Resilience Advisors Network	Mr Jon Hall
TNO - Netherlands	Dr Marike van der Horst
University of Rome Tor Vergata	Mr Riccardo Quaranta
AFNOR (secretariat)	Mr Louis Morilhat

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Introduction

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents may be released as a result of an accident or intentional act. For example, a rail or road accident with a truck carrying chemicals might be considered accidental whereas a release with intent to cause harm for example, by terrorist actors might be considered intentional.

"...there are credible indications suggesting that terrorist groups might have the intention of acquiring CBRN materials or weapons and are developing the knowledge and capacity to use them."¹

First responders shall be prepared, and their needs for training must be addressed so that they might perform their tasks in a safe and efficient manner.

This Agreement contributes to the improved awareness of potential CBRN threats in the connection with accidental and/or antagonistic incidents for professionals.

This CWA has been developed in the context of the MELODY project, where an overview was created of existing CBRN-related training in European countries and the training needs of emergency response organisations in Europe was analysed. Based on this gaps & needs analysis, a harmonized curriculum was drafted and iteratively developed. Pilot courses were run for first responders and their trainers. CBRN experts from across Europe tested, evaluated and finally validated the proposed curriculum, which served as the basis for this CEN Workshop Agreement.

This CWA aims to capitalize the main results of the project and share with the CBRN community a reference programme to train practitioners for CBRN risks. This CWA is therefore intended to be used by training centers offering in their catalogue trainings and provides a basis to elaborate a training programme to be customized to the audience of the training.

The training audience includes but is not limited to: Dispatch Officer, Fire Brigade, Police – Police officer, Ambulance Services, Emergency Medical Services and general practitioner. It represents a diversity of profiles and occupations in the field of CBRN with different educational curriculum. Depending on the pre-existing knowledge of the trainees and their background, the learning objectives proposed in this CWA will may be adapted to the different target groups. The crosses mentioned in Table A.1 (Annex A) are indicative and shall be adapted to the needs and the national / regional context.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52017DC0610>

1 Scope

This Agreement describes the minimum requirements for training to constitute basic chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) awareness for professionals. Typically (but not exclusively), professionals means those involved in emergency response, first responders and first receivers. Examples of these are dispatch officers, ambulance, police and fire & rescue personnel, emergency medical staff at hospitals or healthcare centres and general practitioners.

The basic concept of this agreement was developed by members of the EU-funded project MELODY (2018-2022, Internal Security Fund Police, contract 814803) aimed at developing a harmonised curriculum for such training; this CEN Workshop Agreement builds on that concept with input from other industry professionals.

The Agreement provides a base-line for training content, learning objectives as well as describing potential training methods and the minimum competences considered appropriate to deliver the training.

This Agreement is addressed towards those entities who on national, regional or local level are responsible for vocational training of staff working in emergency response capacities and are likely to need basic knowledge of CBRN incidents.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in "EN 17173:2020 European CBRNE glossary" apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp/>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

active decontamination

employment of chemical, biological or mechanical processes to remove or neutralize chemical, biological or radioactive materials

Note 1 to entry: Source: EN 17173:2020 European CBRNE glossary

3.2

CBRN substances

chemical, biological, radiological agents and nuclear material

Note 1 to entry: Source: EN 17173:2020 European CBRNE glossary

3.3

dispersion

spread of radioactive particles, chemical substances or biological agents

Note 1 to entry: Source: EN 17173:2020 European CBRNE glossary