

ICS 03.240

English version

**Postal services – Trays for international letter mail – Test
methods and performance requirements**

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 16 October 2002 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 14482:2003) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 331 "Postal services", the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

At the request of CEN, the project (in CEN/TC 331/WG 4) was chaired by a representative from IPC (International Post Corporation), a firm based in Brussels, owned by a number of European and North American postal operators.

IPC has set up an independent group of experts to study the requirements for a small postal container which can replace the traditional mail bag in certain types of international mail handling. This type of container is known in the postal industry as a tray. The Tray subgroup – an advisory body to the IPC – has agreed on the relevant requirements for a postal tray.

Experts from the IPC Tray subgroup have joined the CEN/TC 331/WG 4 whose members are postal and materials handling experts and include experts from manufacturing companies. The findings of the IPC Tray Subgroup have been adopted by CEN/TC 331/WG 4.

Annex A is informative.

This document includes a Bibliography.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

The European Union Commission stressed already in its Green paper on postal services in 1992 the need to establish common rules for the development of community postal services and the improvement of quality of service.

Furthermore the Commission has acknowledged the need for technical harmonisation to increase the interoperability of postal networks in the member states and has given CEN a mandate to define fields where such harmonisation could be useful and suggest priorities and timescales.

1 Scope

This Technical Specification specifies the performance requirements and testing methods for standard letter mail trays, as specified in classification 1.1. The trays should be used to facilitate the exchange of international mail. The technical specification of the trays shall be such that the performance requirements specified herein shall be met and tests specified herein successfully completed. The technical specifications of trays as such however, are beyond the scope of this Technical Specification.

1.1. Classification

This Technical Specification covers a one-size universal letter mail tray suitable for carrying C4, C5 and C6 mail:

Letters (maximum accepted sizes)

	Height	Width
C4	353 mm	250 mm
C5	173 mm	250 mm
C6	120 mm	250 mm

The trays are suitable for containing C4 mail stacked in a horizontal plane and for stacking C5 and C6 mail vertically.

2 Normative references

This Technical Specification incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text, and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this Technical Specification only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

prEN 1005-2	<i>Safety of machinery - Human physical performance - Part 2: Manual handling of machinery and component parts of machinery.</i>
EN 13430	<i>Packaging - Requirements for packaging recoverable by material recycling.</i>
EN 22206	<i>Packaging - Complete, filled transport packages - Identification of parts when testing (ISO 2206:1987).</i>
EN 22875	<i>Packaging - Complete, filled transport packages - Water spray test (ISO 2875:1985).</i>
EN 60695-11-20	<i>Fire hazard testing - Part 11-20: Test flames - 500 W flame test methods (IEC 60695-11-20:1999).</i>
ISO 2233	<i>Packaging - Complete, filled transport packages and unit loads - Conditioning for testing.</i>
ISO 2247	<i>Packaging - Complete, filled transport packages and unit loads – Vibration tests at fixed low frequency.</i>
ISO 2248	<i>Packaging - Complete, filled transport packages – Vertical impact test by dropping.</i>
ISO 4180-1	<i>Complete, filled transport packages - General rules for the compilation of performance test schedules – Part 1: General principles.</i>
ISO 4180-2	<i>Complete, filled transport packages - General rules for the compilation of performance test schedules – Part 2: Quantitative data.</i>
ISO 12048	<i>Packaging - Complete, filled transport packages – Compression and stacking tests using a compression tester.</i>

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this Technical Specification, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1
compatibility
ability for trays and closures to fit well onto each other and ability of easy nesting into each other as well as separating of trays and closures from each other

3.2
durability
ability of a tray and closure to withstand conditions to which it is subjected (when tested)

3.3
friction
capacity to prevent sliding on an inclined low friction conveying surface specified as the coefficient of friction

3.4
letter mail
category of postal items classified according to its physical characteristics such as weight and dimensions

3.5
nestability
ability of trays and closures to fit together one partially inside the other (measured as the ratio of the number of trays and closures which can be nested in a stack for one tray (tray and closure) height)

3.6
recyclability
ability to recover the material of a discarded tray (measured as the content of recycled material in a tray)