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Assistance dogs - Part 4: Pre-training, training and tasks

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

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ICS 65.020.30; 11.180.99

English Version

Assistance dogs - Part 4: Pre-training, training and tasks

Chiens d'assistance - Partie 4 : Préducation, éducation
et tâches

Assistenzhunde - Teil 4: Grundausbildung, Ausbildung
und Aufgaben

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 6 July 2025.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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European foreword

This document (EN 17984-4:2025) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 452 “Assistance dogs”, the secretariat of which is held by UNMZ.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2026, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2026.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document is part of a series of European Standards under the general title *Assistance dogs*, which will comprise the following parts:

- *Part 1: Vocabulary;*
- *Part 2: Dog lifetime welfare;*
- *Part 3: Competencies for assistance dogs professionals;*
- *Part 4: Pre-training, training and tasks;*
- *Part 5: Client services;*
- *Part 6: Accessibility and universal access.*

This document will be read in conjunction with EN 17984-1, EN 17984-2, EN 17984-3¹ and EN 17984-6 as the series is technically linked and to be read conjointly.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

¹ Under preparation. Stage at the time of preparation: FprEN 17984-3:2025

Introduction

Training assistance dogs is a specialist skill requiring a clear understanding of positive reinforcement training methods and a focus on supporting the dog to achieve the requisite skills to perform tasks to increase independence and to mitigate limitations of a person with a disability.

High standards of dog welfare are critical to ensure each dog is able to thrive and support the handler effectively. The training standards outlined are the minimum required to ensure positive outcomes in terms of training assistance dogs.

It is important to reference EN 17984-2 (*Dog lifetime welfare*) when reading this document. Lifetime Welfare outlines the '5 Domains' model that underpins the welfare and wellbeing of assistance dogs.

In this document:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

Information marked 'Note' is for guidance in understanding or clarifying the associated sentence.

1 Scope

This document defines requirements for the training of assistance dogs. Assistance dogs can be trained by structured programmes/schools, owner-trained under supervision or owner-trainers.

Specifically, this document deals with the following topics:

- preparation of assistance dogs;
- socialization and/or puppy raising of assistance dogs;
- training of assistance dogs;
- guide dogs;
- hearing dogs;
- mobility assistance dogs;
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) assistance dogs;
- medical alert/response assistance dogs;
- developmental disorder assistance dogs;
- multi-purpose assistance dogs.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 17984-1:2024, *Assistance dogs - Part 1: Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 17984-1:2024 and the following apply.

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

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

3.1

multi-purpose assistance dog

assistance dog providing tasks across a range of assistance dog types to mitigate the limitations of a person with more than one disability