

Knots and Notes: The Standard Review

By Sarah Padilla, *Technical Director*

ISO documents out for ballot:

- ISO 18264: Textile slings - Lifting slings for general purpose lifting operations made from fibre ropes – HMPE (high modulus polyethylene) – DIS ballot ends in April

ISO documents due for regular review:

- ISO 1107: Fishing nets- Netting – Basic terms and definitions – review should start in July
- ISO 17920: Fibre ropes for offshore station keeping - Aramid – review should start in April
- ISO 19336: Fibre ropes for offshore station keeping - Polyarylate – review should start in April

ISO documents being drafted. Project will soon be sent for ballot to determine if draft should be reviewed.

- ISO 1968 - Fibre ropes and cordage - Vocabulary

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In light of the current global situation regarding COVID-19, ISO has decided that all ISO governance and technical meetings planned until 30 April 2022 must be held virtually or postponed until after that date. In person meetings are being evaluated on a 3-month rolling basis.

<https://www.iso.org/covid-19.html>

International Maritime Organization has announced an “effective date” of January 2024 for the mandatory compliance with the SOLAS II-1/3-8 Towing and Mooring Equipment’s and Inspection and Maintenance detailed in the MSC 102 Safe Mooring chapter. This includes sections on mooring lines.

<http://ow.ly/f0uh50HoB8Y>

Harmonised Standards for the Directive 2006/42/EC (aka the EU Machinery Directive or MD)

The Machinery Directive applies (amongst others) to lifting accessories and chains, ropes, and webbing as part of lifting machinery and lifting accessories – textile as well as wire ropes and chains. A very helpful tool for conforming to a directive is the application of Harmonised Standards (HAS) that make way to a presumption of conformity with the directive. Unfortunately, there is a lack of HAS in the field of the textile products in question.

Fortunately, CEN TC 168 WG3 (safety of fibre ropes, fibre rope slings, flat textile slings and round slings), whose scope covers exactly these products, has recently been reactivated and will take up work shortly. Their first task will be the review of the existing EN 1492-1, -2 and -4 on textile slings. Eurocord has, however, decided to enter completely new work items on textile ropes as part of lifting machinery and textile ropes as part lifting accessories to work on new HAS.

Needless to say, that this is no easy task and likely to take several years, but it is high time to make a start!