

Modernization of the Danish Heavy Current Regulation

Country:	Denmark
Level:	National
Topics addressed:	Legislation

Summary:

In January 2015, the new Electrical Safety Act (Act No. 525 - 29/04/2015) came into force as a follow-up to the 2014 Growth Package. One of the initiatives in the Growth Package was to internationalize and simplify legislation by increasing the application of international standards without compromising technical safety.

The new Executive Orders on Safety in connection with the Construction and Operation of Electrical Installations and Construction of Electrical Plants issued pursuant to the Electrical Safety Act allow for the use of the latest version of the European standard series for electrical installations and plants, in order to comply with the safety requirements of the Electrical Safety Act and the associated regulations.

Background:

It was a part of the 2014 Growth Package from the Danish government, that the use of international standards have to be increased.

The relevant item from the 2014 Growth Package states: The Heavy Current Regulations and standards for workplace lighting must be internationalized and simplified in order to increase competition in the market for electrical installations, power supply and lighting without compromising the technical safety.

With the previous legislation there was a very detailed regulation. The Executive Order was partly based on European or international standards, which were written directly in the Executive Order with the addition of certain Danish special requirements. In some cases, the rules in the Executive Order were not updated with the latest and current versions of European or International Standards.

By referring to the standards in the notices, instead of incorporating the standards directly into the executive order, you avoid having to change the rules if the standards are updated.

The companies may choose either to comply with applicable standards or otherwise comply with the general safety requirements.

Strategy:

For electrical installations, the modernization of the Danish Heavy Current Regulation include the national implementation of the European standard series for electrical installations HD 60364.

When a European standard is published and applicable, the standard can be used without being implemented in a national executive order. By using the latest standards, companies can be at the forefront of the evolution and using the latest technology.

Results and Impact:

- Easy to implement new standards
- No change in national executive orders
- Reduce costs for maintaining national regulation
- Increases competitiveness
- On the forefront of the evolution

Challenges and lessons learned:

The implementation of the regulation causes additional expenses for the companies. The companies have to buy standards, introduce and educate their employees to, and in the new rules.

On the positive side, the Danish companies get more competitiveness on the European market. The application of standards ensures that the applicable rules follow the technological evolution, or state of the art. This will enable the companies to act more agile and dynamic so that new technology and innovative products can be introduced more easily on the Danish market.

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