

CEN/TC 333  
Cycles



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## Report of CEN/TC 333/WG2



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**TO GEN/TC333 - CYCLES**

## **REPORT FROM THE CONVENOR OF GEN/TC333/WG2 - OFF-ROAD BICYCLES**

There have now been three meetings of WG2 and excellent progress has been made.

The ISO off-road standard which is being used as the principal reference document is now complete except for a few minor details which are being discussed in meetings of both GEN/TC333/WG2 and ISO/TC149/SC1/WG4. Some 80% of the document has been agreed with the compatibility of the two braking methods being deferred until the ad hoc group has concluded its work.

The original ISO intention was to have two off-road standards, one for bicycles intended for frequent off-road use (Grade 1), and the other for bicycles intended for occasional off-road use (Grade 2). However, CEN/WG2 decided to develop only one standard for a mountain-bicycle on the basis that "if it looks like a mountain-bike then it should perform like a mountain-bike". This was because in the event of litigation it would be difficult and dangerous to attempt to define occasional use.

This choice of a single grade is sensible and, accordingly, it has also been suggested to the ISO working group with, so far, a favourable response provided there is a standard for hybrids which, originally, were to be covered by ISO Grade 2 requirements; the reaction of the Japanese is still awaited. It was explained to ISO/WG4 that a European standard will be developed for hybrids (i.e. trekking bicycles) and that this will be offered to ISO for consideration; this suggestion met with general approval.

CEN/WG2 has continued to cooperate with WG1 and WG3 with the three convenors and many of the experts attending all three meetings, and it has been agreed that the WG2 document will be used to provide the basic format for all three working groups.

The spirit of the Vienna agreement has been kept firmly in mind, and so the last one-day meeting of ISO/WG4 was arranged to follow immediately after the two-day CEN/WG2 meeting with many of the European experts attending both meetings. As the two standards are now almost identical, it has been suggested and agreed by all the experts that the two working groups should combine for the next meeting to avoid unnecessary duplication of discussion and to accelerate completion of the work.

Don H. Wright - Convenor of GEN/TC333/WG2