

SVENSK STANDARD

SS-EN 16853:2017



Fastställt/Approved: 2017-05-05
Publicerad/Published: 2017-05-09
Utgåva/Edition: 1
Språk/Language: engelska/English
ICS: 97.195

Bevarande av Kulturarv – Kulturvårdsprocess – Beslut, planering och implementering

Conservation of cultural heritage – Conservation process – Decision making, planning and implementation

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 16853

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

April 2017

ICS 97.195

English Version

Conservation of cultural heritage - Conservation process - Decision making, planning and implementation

Conservation du patrimoine culturel - Processus de
conservation - Prise de décisions, programmation et
mise en œuvre

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Erhaltungsprozess -
Entscheidungsprozesse, Planung und Umsetzung

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 27 February 2017.

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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SS-EN 16853:2017 (E)

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European foreword

This document (EN 16853:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 "Conservation of Cultural Heritage", the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2017, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2017.

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Introduction

Cultural heritage is of significance and value to present and future generations. Conservation is a central consideration when it comes to retaining, protecting and sharing that significance and offers a rare and privileged opportunity to understand, enhance, and protect cultural heritage. It follows that decisions to embark on conservation are of concern to society and should be made in a responsible and informed manner.

Conservation often involves different participants and may require dialogue with stakeholders. It is an inter-disciplinary practice involving a range of professionals with historic, scientific, technical and other competences. How conservation is achieved and the manner in which it is thought about, planned and carried out is of concern to not only conservation practitioners but also to allied professionals and to owners and custodians and is the subject of this standard.

Conservation professionals seek to understand the object and how it has attained its present condition. They use knowledge of the object, its past and present use and diagnosis to decide what, if any, action is needed to secure its future use and enjoyment. Conservation of tangible cultural heritage respects its intangible aspects and may comprise some or all of preventive (including maintenance), remedial or restoration work.

The objective of conservation is to manage change in a way that sustains and enhances the significance of cultural heritage. Conservation is more complex than just a mechanistic series of actions with a beginning, middle and end. Successful conservation results in the delivery of identified objectives. It usually involves the following components: documentation, definition of scope, information gathering, risk evaluation, formulation of conservation options, and the development and implementation of a conservation plan. Although conservation can be understood as an ongoing process, continuing into the future, a specific intervention or project can be completed by the delivery and evaluation of an agreed set of outcomes including recommendations. Ultimately the emphasis on each component will depend on the circumstances in which conservation is undertaken.

This document sets out good practice for the conceptual and practical elements of conservation. It is independent of but respects national regulations and applies to all types of objects whether or not protected by legislation. It can be applied to public and private tendering, and to procedures in institutions.

This standard is part of a series of standards being developed by CEN to present the consensus on current best practice in the conservation of cultural heritage. Intended users of this document are all those engaged in and responsible for the conservation of cultural heritage.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the process of decision-making, planning and implementing the conservation of tangible cultural heritage. It applies to material expressions of tangible cultural heritage such as individual objects, collections, the built environment, historic sites, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes.

NOTE This European Standard does not cover how to identify cultural heritage nor who or what competences are required to undertake decisions or other parts of the process.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 16095, *Conservation of cultural property — Condition recording for movable cultural heritage*

EN 16096, *Conservation of cultural property — Condition survey and report of built cultural heritage*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

cultural heritage

tangible and intangible entities of significance to present and future generations

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.1.1]

3.2

significance

combination of all the values assigned to an object

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.1.6]

3.3

value

aspect of importance that individuals or a society assign(s) to an object

Note 1 to entry: Values can be of different types, for example: artistic, symbolic, historical, social, economic, scientific, technological, etc.

Note 2 to entry: The assigned value can change according to circumstance, e.g. how the judgement is made, the context and the moment in time. Value should always be indicated by its qualifying type.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.1.5]

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3.4 object

single manifestation of tangible cultural heritage

Note 1 to entry: The term “object” is used in this standard for cultural heritage, both immovable and movable. In specific professional contexts, other terms are used: e.g. “artefact”, “cultural property”, “item”, “ensemble”, “site”, “building”, “fabric”.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.1.3]

3.5 conservation conservation-restoration

measures and actions aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage while respecting its significance, including its accessibility to present and future generations

Note 1 to entry: Conservation includes preventive conservation, remedial conservation and restoration.

Note 2 to entry: The term “conservation-restoration” is mainly used in the field of movable cultural heritage.

Note 3 to entry: The term “preservation” is also used, e.g. in libraries and archives.

Note 4 to entry: All conservation actions are based on documentary and/or material evidence.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.3.1]

3.6 documentation

recorded information created, collected, held and maintained for the purpose of present and future conservation and for reference

EXAMPLES X-radiographs, drawings, photographs, written reports, computer files, photogrammetry, laser-scanning, etc.

Note 1 to entry: This term can also refer to the process itself.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.6.8]

3.7 conservation planning

management tool for the development and coordination of conservation measures and actions

Note 1 to entry: An outcome may be a ‘Conservation Plan’.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.6.2]

3.8 treatment

direct action carried out on an object

Note 1 to entry: Treatment is one of the possible interventions for conservation.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.5.1]

3.9

condition report

record of condition for a specific purpose, dated and authored

Note 1 to entry: A condition report normally results from a condition survey.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.6.5]

3.10

investigation

gathering of all information necessary for a conservation decision making process

Note 1 to entry: This should include both qualitative and quantitative information.

Note 2 to entry: Investigation is frequently invasive, entailing opening up floors or roofs, the making of holes for fibre-optics, taking samples, etc., and may be locally destructive, as is archaeological excavation. Non-invasive methods include inspection, photogrammetry, remote sensing, the study of documentary and/or oral sources, etc.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.6.3]

3.11

diagnosis

process of identifying the present condition of an object and determining the nature and causes of any change, as well as the conclusions drawn

Note 1 to entry: Diagnosis is based on observation, investigation, historical analysis, etc.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.6.6]

3.12

deterioration

gradual change in condition that reduces significance or stability

Note 1 to entry: This term can also refer to the process itself.

Note 2 to entry: The term “decay” is sometimes used as a synonym.

Note 3 to entry: For movable heritage the French term “détérioration” is also used to describe a complete and sudden worsening of condition.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.2.8]

3.13

condition

physical state of an object at a particular time

Note 1 to entry: Assessment of the state of an object depends on the context and thus on the reason why the assessment is being made.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011, 3.2.1]