



**NSAI**  
Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN 16853:2017

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

**I.S. EN 16853:2017**

*Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:*

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## National Foreword

I.S. EN 16853:2017 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document EN 16853:2017, Conservation of cultural heritage - Conservation process - Decision making, planning and implementation

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**EUROPEAN STANDARD**

**EN 16853**

**NORME EUROPÉENNE**

**EUROPÄISCHE NORM**

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2017, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2017.

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

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

## EN 16853:2017 (E)

### 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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