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Directorate D - Environment quality and natural resources  
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**STANDARDISATION MANDATE TO CEN FOR  
STANDARD MEASURING METHODS  
OF BENZENE IN AMBIENT AIR**

**I. MOTIVATION**

Council Directive 92/62/EEC on ambient air quality assessment and management establishes a framework for, among others:

- defining and establishing objectives for ambient air quality in the Community for 13 substances
- assessing the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.

This 'Framework' Directive defines the basic principles which should allow to achieve these requirements. The quality objectives and the assessment methods will be established by 'daughter' Directives which will be drafted according to a time schedule which is fixed in the framework Directive.

Member States have to measure ambient concentrations and to check whether the quality objectives fixed are exceeded. In order to ensure the comparability of data measured by all Member States, standard measurement methods need to be.

Reference method(s) to be used for the implementation of the Directives will be specified in the Directives, based on the available standardised methods

According to the monitoring requirements and the levels of pollution, the use of different methods can be envisaged.

The availability of such standard methods is fundamental to an efficient implementation of EC legislation on ambient air quality

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK**

1. The Commission entrusts CEN with the following work:  
  
Establishing of standard measuring methods of concentrations of Benzene in ambient air.
2. The standard will cover the following subjects:
  - range of application (concentration levels for which the method(s) apply);
  - method(s) description (sampling, calibration, analysis aspects);
  - overview of the performance characteristics relevant for the measurement of ambient air concentrations;
  - test procedure to establish the performance characteristics and the overall uncertainty of the method(s) (laboratory and/or field tests);
  - performance characteristics of the current method(s);
  - recommendation for use (field operation and QA / QC aspects).
3. The Commission recommends CEN to take account, as much as possible, of standards or rules currently available in this area at a national or international level.

## **III. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE**

1. CEN will present the draft standard (prEN) to the Commission before 01.01.2000.
2. The European standard (EN) will be adopted before 01.07.2000  
At this date, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, FR) will be available as well as the correct titles in other Community languages.
3. Within six months of its adoption, the standard (EN) will be transposed into a national standard and all the different national standards of the Member States will be withdrawn.
4. CEN will present a report, at least once a year, on the progress of the work.