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STANDARDISATION MANDATE TO CEN FOR STANDARD MEASUREMENT METHODS OF PM 2.5 IN AMBIENT AIR

I. MOTIVATION

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

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

This “Framework” Directive defines the basic principles that should allow these requirements to be met. The ambient air 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 must measure ambient concentrations and check whether ambient air quality objectives are exceeded. In order to ensure the comparability of data measured by all Member States, standard measurement methods need to be used.

Reference method(s) to be used for the implementation of the Directives will be specified in the Directives, based on the available standardised methods. Member States may use other methods provided that they can demonstrate that they give results equivalent to the reference method. High quality measurement may be supplemented by the use of simpler methods, and by modelling where appropriate. Depending on pollution levels and the detailed requirements in daughter Directives simpler methods may be sufficient in some areas.

The availability of standardised reference methods is fundamental to efficient implementation of EC legislation on ambient air quality.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK

1. The Commission entrusts CEN with the following work:

establishment of standard measuring methods of concentrations of PM 2.5 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);
- Test procedure for demonstrating equivalence of other methods to the standard.

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 December 2001.

2. The European standard (EN) will be adopted before April 2004. 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.

5. Accepting this standardization mandate by CEN will open the standstill period referred to in Article 7 of the Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998, OJ L204 of 21.07.98 (ex- Directive 83/189/EEC).