



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Environmental aspects of enterprise policy, resource-based & specific industries  
**Chemicals**

Brussels, 20.06.2003  
D(2002)

**M /335 EN**

**STANDARDIZATION MANDATE  
ASSIGNED TO THE CEN CONCERNING THE MODERNISATION OF THE  
METHODS OF ANALYSIS OF FERTILIZERS**

**1. MOTIVATION**

This standardisation mandate falls within the framework of the following legal acts:

- Council Directive 76/116/EEC of 18 December 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to fertilizers;
- Council Directive 80/876/EEC of 15 July 1980 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to straight ammonium nitrate fertilizers on high nitrogen content;
- Commission Directive 87/94/EEC of 8 December 1986 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to procedures for the control of characteristics of, limits for and resistance to detonation of straight ammonium nitrate fertilizers of high nitrogen content;
- Commission Directive 77/535/EEC of 22 June 1977 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to methods of sampling and analysis for fertilizers, and the various amendments and adaptations to technical progress to these directives.
- Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to fertilizers (COM(2001) 508 final).

In order to avoid any improper use of the term "EC fertilizer" Member States are required to check not only the contents of such fertilizers, but also the compliance of fertilizers of this type with the requirements of these legal acts.

The fact that the analytical methods mentioned in these legal acts have not been adapted to technical progress since 1975 has as a consequence in practice that many of these methods are obsolete and can therefore constitute an obstacle to the efficiency of the controls that Member States are required to perform.

As it is necessary also to facilitate the future adaptation to technical progress of these analytical methods, their updated version delivered by CEN will not be annexed to community law but will exist in the form of separate standards to which the community law will refer.

The Commission intends to propose amendments to the above-mentioned legal acts in order to ensure that CEN standards can be considered as official methods of analysis. CEN standards can be considered as official methods of analysis to be used as reference for official controls if they are as such referenced in Community law.

The establishment of European standards for methods of analysis is of utmost importance to guarantee a uniform application and control of the European legislation in all Member States. Standardized methods of analysis are an indispensable element in guaranteeing a high level of quality and safety of EC fertilizers.

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

The Commission invites CEN to update and adapt to technical progress methods of analysis in order to be able to control in an efficient and modernised way the compliance with the provisions of Community legislation in the field of fertilizers for:

- all the methods of analysis described in the annexes of the legal acts relating to fertilizers mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present mandate.
- any other new methods of analysis in the field governed by the Community legislation on fertilizers if this is added to the list annexed to the present mandate by the Commission, after consultation of the Member States within the Standards and Technical Regulations Committee.

CEN's standardisation activity will be concentrated on "Part 1 – High Priority" as defined in the table annexed to this mandate. This priority list results from preparatory work within CEN and has the agreement of the Commission working group on fertilizers.

Where necessary, CEN can develop, as a first step, Technical Specifications for these test methods. As a second step, CEN will transform these Technical Specifications into European Standards.

## **3. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED.**

The elaboration of the standards should be undertaken in co-operation with the broadest possible range of interested groups, including international and European

level associations, including the main industrial associations concerned and regulatory bodies. Co-operation with ECOS, EFMA, EFIA and EBA<sup>1</sup> is regarded as essential. CEN will also invite the Commission to participate in the standardisation work covered by this order.

#### **4. EXECUTION OF THE REQUEST.**

- 4.1 The mandate will be completed before [REDACTED]. It will be carried out according to the programme described in the annex. Changes to this programme can only be made after full agreement between the Commission and CEN. The work should take into account existing ISO activities. The work to be undertaken and their results should be inter-connected and compatible.
- 4.2 CEN shall present the Standards and/or Technical Specifications mentioned above by the date specified in column 3 of the table in the annex. The European standards shall be adopted by the agreed dates. On these dates, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, and FR) must be available as well as the correct titles in the other official Community languages.
- 4.3 The acceptance of this standardisation mandate by CEN will provide a more complete set of standardised methods of analysis and thereby contributing to a higher level of quality and safety and to a better functioning of the internal market for fertilizers.
- 4.4 To improve transparency, CEN will inform the Commission of any new programme of activities, not covered by this order, planned on methods of analysis in the field of fertilizers.
- 4.5 CEN will keep the Commission informed of the measures taken to execute this order and of any difficulties, which arise in the process. By 1 March of each year, CEN will submit a progress report on the activities during the previous year of the various working parties concerned by this order and will indicate the persons and bodies participating in the working parties' meetings and activities
- 4.6 The mandate covers the revision of adopted standards in accordance with this mandate according to the internal rules of the CEN
- 4.7 The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998 shall commence when CEN accepts this standardisation mandate<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> ECOS: European Environmental Citizens Organisations for Standardisation, Boulevard de Waterloo 34, B-1000 Brussels  
EFMA: European Fertilizer Manufacturers' Association, Avenue E, Van Nieuwenhuysse, B-1160 Brussels  
EFIA: European Fertiliser Import Association, Place Madou 1, Box 34, B-1210 Brussels  
EBA: European Blenders Association, Le Pontoury, F-50530 Montviron

<sup>2</sup> OJ L204 of 21.07.98, p.37, as amended by Directive 98/48/EC (OJ L 217 of 5.8.1998, p.18)



ANNEX

**Project planning mandate fertilizers – Final draft**

2003-04-18

<b><u>Part 1</u></b>			
<b><u>Mandated work programme</u></b>			
<b>High Priority</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Time estimation/remarks</b>	<b>Revision Ring tests</b>
<b><u>Sampling</u></b> Method according Annex IV of the regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to fertilizers	EN	Approval of new work item 2003-12 2004-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2006-12 EN available (UAP procedure)	editorial revision only  (CEN-format without technical changes)
<b><u>Sample preparation</u></b> Method according Annex IV of the regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to fertilizers	EN	Approval of new work item 2003-12 2004-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2006-12 EN available (UAP procedure)	editorial revision only (CEN-format without technical changes)
<b>"Missing methods"</b>			
<b><u>Determination of cadmium</u></b> Fertilizers – Determination of cadmium content	EN	Part of the work programme of CEN/TC 260 WI 00260051 <u>2003-01 stage 20.60</u> 2003-12 stage 40.10 2004-12 stage 50.10	First working document has been submitted for information to the TC members (20.60) The results of the ring tests have to be discussed within TF 2

<p><b><u>Determination of carbon dioxide</u></b> Fertilizers and liming materials – Determination of carbon dioxide – Part 1: Method for solid fertilizers and liming materials</p>	TS	Part of the work programme of CEN/TC 260 WI 00260052 <u>2001-12 stage 20.60</u> 2004-05 stage 50.10	Further ring test is necessary before the TS may be overtaken into an EN
<p><b><u>Determination of Dicyandiamide</u></b> Fertilizers and liming materials – Determination of Dicyandiamide</p>	TS	<u>proposed Target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2004-12  2006-12 stage 20.60 2007-12 TS published	Ring test (optional), since very high expertise will be necessary
<p><b><u>Chelating agents</u></b></p>			
<p>Determination of chelating agents in fertilisers – Determination of o,pEDDHA</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	Requested by the Commission dated 2002-08-02 (doc CEN/TC 260 N 538) Approval of new work item 2003-12  proposed target dates: 2004-12 stage 20.60 (first working document) 2005-12 TS published 2008-12 EN available	Ring test has to be organized  Request for existing methods has been circulated within TC 260/WG 5
<p>Determination of chelating agents in fertilisers – Determination of EDDHSA</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	Requested by the Commission dated 2002-08-02 (doc CEN/TC 260 N 538) Approval of new work item 2003-12  proposed target dates: 2004-12 stage 20.60 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2005-12 TS published 2008-12 EN available	Ring test has to be organized  Request for existing methods has been circulated within TC 260/WG 5

<u><b>Determination of UF condensates using HPLC</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total nitrogen</li> <li>• cold water soluble nitrogen</li> <li>• hot water soluble nitrogen</li> <li>• IBDU nitrogen</li> <li>• CDU nitrogen</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed Target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2004-12  2006-12 stage 20.60 2007-12 TS published	5 Ring tests (optional), while very high expertise will be necessary
<u><b>Nitrogen</b></u>			
Determination of ammoniacal nitrogen (method 2.1.)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed Target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2005-12  2006-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2007-12 TS published 2010-12 EN available	Ring test  Revision
Determination of nitric and ammoniacal nitrogen – Ulsh (method 2.2.1.)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2005-12  2006-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2007-12 TS published 2010-12 EN available	Revision
Determination of nitric and ammoniacal nitrogen – Arnd (method 2.2.2.)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2005-12  2006-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2007-12 TS published 2010-12 EN available	Revision

Determination of nitric and ammoniacal nitrogen – Devarda (method 2.2.3)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2005-12  2006-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2007-12 TS published 2010-12 EN available	Ring test  Revision
Determination of total nitrogen in calcium cyanamide nitrate free (method 2.3.1)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2006-12  2007-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2008-12 TS published 2011-12 EN available	Revision
Determination of total nitrogen in calcium cyanamide containing nitrates (method 2.3.2)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2006-12  2007-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2008-12 TS published 2011-12 EN available	Revision
Determination of total nitrogen in urea (method 2.3.3)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2005-12  2006-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2007-12 TS published 2010-12 EN available	Ring test  Revision
Determination of cyanamide nitrogen (method 2.4)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2006-12  2007-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2008-12 TS published 2011-12 EN available	Revision



Spectrophotometric determination of biuret in urea (method 2.5)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2006-12  2007-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2008-12 TS published 2011-12 EN available	Revision
Determination of different forms of nitrogen in the same sample, containing nitrogen as nitric, ammoniacal, urea and cyanamide nitrogen (method 2.6.1)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2006-12  2007-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2008-12 TS published 2011-12 EN available	Revision
Determination of different forms of nitrogen in fertilizers containing nitrogen Only as nitric, ammoniacal and urea nitrogen (method 2.6.2)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2006-12  2007-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2008-12 TS published 2011-12 EN available	Ring test  Revision
<b><u>Potassium</u></b>			
Determination of the water soluble potassium content (method 4.1)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2004-12 2006-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2007-12 TS published	Ring test  Revision
<b><u>Sulphates</u></b>			
Determination of the sulphates content (method 8.9)	1 <sup>st</sup> step TS 2 <sup>nd</sup> step EN	<u>proposed target dates</u> Approval of new work item 2004-12 2006-12 stage 2060 (1 <sup>st</sup> working document) 2007-12 TS published	Ring test  Revision