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STANDARDISATION MANDATE TO CEN FOR STANDARD MEASURING METHODS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF DEPOSITION OF HEAVY METALS EXCEPT MERCURY

I. MOTIVATION

Council Directive 96/62/EC 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 air polluting 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 are established by “daughter Directives”, to be drafted according to a time schedule which is fixed in the Framework Directive. A proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air has been adopted this year [COM (2003) 423].

Member States have to measure the deposition of arsenic, cadmium and nickel. The monitoring of lead is required by Directive 1999/30/EC. In order to ensure the comparability of data measured by all Member States, standard measurement methods need to be established.

Reference method(s) to be used for the implementation of the Directive shall be based on the standardised methods where available.

The availability of standardised reference 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 deposition of lead, arsenic, cadmium and nickel. Different types of samplers will be tested in local industrial and remote sites. The standardisation of the analysis of the samples is not subject to this mandate.

2. The standard will cover the following subjects:

- range of application (concentration levels for which the method(s) apply) ;
- description of the sampling method(s);
- overview of the performance characteristics relevant for the measurement of deposition;
- 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.

3. The Commission recommends CEN to take account, as much as possible, of existing 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 1 May 2008.

2. The European standard (EN) will be adopted before 1 July 2009. At this date, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, FR) will be available as well as the correct titles in other Community languages.

3. Before 1 January 2010, 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. The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998 shall commence when the CEN accepts this standardisation mandate¹.

¹ OJ L 204 of 21.07.98, p. 37, as amended by Directive 98/48/EC (OJ L 217 of 5/8/98, p. 18)