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STANDARDISATION MANDATE TO CEN FOR STANDARD MEASURING METHODS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF TOTAL DEPOSITION OF BENZO(A)PYRENE AND OTHER POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS SUCH AS BENZO(A)ANTHRACENE, BENZO(B)FLUORANTHENE, BENZO(J)FLUORANTHENE, BENZO(K)FLUORANTHENE, INDENO(1,2,3-CD)PYRENE AND DIBENZ(A,H)ANTHRACENE

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 last year [COM (2003) 423], and the First Reading Agreement has been reached between the European Parliament and the Council in 2004. The adoption of the Directive is expected in autumn 2004.

Following the requirements of the upcoming Directive, Member States will have to measure the total deposition of benzo(a)pyrene and other relevant polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which shall include at least benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(j)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene and dibenz(a,h)anthracene.

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 for the determination of the total deposition of benzo(a)pyrene and other relevant polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, at least the compounds benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(j)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene and dibenz(a,h)anthracene, following provisions stated in the upcoming Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.

Validation of the method, including the testing of different types of samplers (bulk, wet-only and Bergerhoff) in local industrial and remote sites.

2. The standard will cover the following subjects:

- range of application (concentration levels for which the method(s) apply) ;
- description of the sampling and, to the extent necessary, the analysis 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 standards or rules currently available in this area at a national or international level, and in particular the work being done within the CEN TC/264 WG 20 on the deposition sampling methods and the development of the B(a)P measurement method within the CEN TC/264 WG 21.

III. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE

1. CEN will present the draft standard (EN) to the Commission before 1 March 2009.

2. The European standard (EN) will be adopted before 1 May 2010. 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 November 2011, the standard (EN) will be transposed into a national standard and all conflicting 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)