

any conflicting national standards will be withdrawn. A European standard, therefore, potentially substitutes 31 (27+4) different national standards.

Although European standards are voluntary, once they are adopted, it is obligatory that they replace existing national standards, but not national legislation. Once the European process has started, no further work is permitted on National Standards. No individual countries can block the development of a standard at the end of the process.

How will the standard be developed and in what timeframe?

CEPA and its members, the sponsors of the European standard, will work together with CEN to establish a European Task Force with the support of a Secretariat that will be based at INI, the Italian National Standards Institute.

INI and ANID, the Italian National Pest Management Association, were the originators of the project.

The individual National Standards Institutes will decide and manage the national input. CEPA has observer status on the European Task Force and will work closely with the Secretariat and its Chair to steer the European standard.

Work has already begun on this process and on 30 July 2010, CEN accepted the proposal presented by the Italian Standards Organization (UNI) with the support of CEPA and its members to establish a European Standard.

Following the acceptance of the proposal, CEN announced the creation of a dedicated committee **CEN/TC 404 'Project Committee -**

Services of pest management companies' to manage the development of the new standard.

It is anticipated that completion of the task will take between three to four years.

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A EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR THE PROVISION OF PEST MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The CEPA Position

The Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) and its members wish to sponsor the development of a European standard (EN) for the pest management industry in collaboration with the European Standards Institute (CEN).

This European standard will specify the requirements, recommendations and basic competences under which pest management servicing companies must operate to meet the needs of their customers, be they private companies, public authorities or the general public.

All European national associations who are members of CEPA will require their member organisations to uphold this standard once it is in place.

As sponsors of this initiative CEPA wishes to engage the pest management industry in this project in order to ensure that the industry is recognized for responsibly protecting European citizens and the environment in which they live against public health risks.

Background

All pesticide products used within the professional pest management industry are regulated by the Biocidal Products Directive. However, there is no common requirement across Europe for the licensing of either the pest management companies themselves, or the technicians who undertake the application, with the exception of Spain, Germany and France who have developed national standards.

In April 2008, as a first step towards initiating the process to establish a professional European standard, the pest management industry launched a set of common operating principles and goals coordinated by CEPA and contained within “The Rome Protocol”.

Together with the national standards already in use in Spain, Germany and France these operating principles and goals will serve as the starting point for an overarching European standard sponsored by CEPA on behalf of its members and developed in collaboration with CEN and the National Standards Institutes of the member states of the European Union as well as Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Croatia.

Why has the pest management industry decided to develop a common European Standard?

As sponsors of the CEN project, CEPA and its members wish to ensure that the industry is recognized for responsibly protecting European citizens and the environment in which they live against public health risks.

Establishing a common European standard will specify the requirements, recommendations and basic competences under which pest management servicing companies must operate to

meet the needs of their customers, be they private companies, public authorities or the general public, in all countries of the European Union and EFTA.

The adoption of the standard by all CEPA’s members will secure quality, professionalism and contribute towards improved performance and methods within the pest management industry.

Other important added values resulting from the pest management industry’s engagement in this project have been identified. The most significant ones are:

- The project will create awareness for the value to society that the pest management industry represents through the maintenance of health and hygiene;
- The initiative will contribute to controlling unprofessional use and thus provide important support for products that are indispensable to protect public health but nevertheless under pressure from restriction or deregistration measures;
- Finally, the introduction of a European standard and the dialogue it will entail, will enhance CEPA’s interaction with the European Institutions and all its other European stakeholders;

The European professional pest management industry

The European professional pest management industry plays an important role in protecting public health and keeping safe, pest and disease-free homes, schools, recreational areas, hotels and other businesses.

The pest management industry is worth in excess of 2700 million, employs more than 40.000 people in 10,000 + companies throughout Europe, the majority of which are Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). CEPA members account for over 80% of the

servicing company business value in Europe.

Who is CEPA?

Based in Brussels, capital city of Europe, the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) represents the European professional pest management industry. It unites and federates 19 national associations as well as associates from international pest management servicing companies, manufacturers and distributors.

What is CEN?

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is the European Union’s standardization body for the development of standards in all areas with the exception of the telecommunications and the electro-technical fields.

The CEN Members are the National Standardization Bodies of the 27 member states of the European Union and four additional countries belonging to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) i.e. Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Croatia.

What is a European standard?

A European standard (EN) is a document established by consensus and approved by the European Standards Institute (CEN). It contains a series of specifications (requirements) and/or recommendations in relation to products, systems, processes or services that can be adopted by the industry across all member states of the European Union. A European Standard (EN) can also be used to establish a common terminology within a specific sector.

Once ratified by CEN, a European standard has to be implemented by CEN members as an identical national standard and