



# STANDARDIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## GOING GREEN

Standardization plays a significant role in ongoing sustainable development efforts. This is because standards have a major role in influencing the design of products and processes. Standards can define acceptable energy-use levels, waste management procedures, and other environmental protection measures. The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is working to ensure that the environmental impacts of products, services, and processes are considered at each stage of their life cycle.

The CEN Environmental Framework supports CEN Technical Committees (TCs) in the inclusion of environmental aspects in the development of European Standards. To be most effective, environmental topics are prioritized and quantifiable measures are used to gauge the progress in greening the standardization process.

Whether you are already a standards writer or are curious about how standardization strengthens environmental protection, this brochure is for you.



# INTRODUCING THE CEN ENVIRONM

## GREENING THE PROCESS

CEN has developed a 'toolbox', known as the Environmental Framework. This toolbox helps Technical Committees (TCs) incorporate environmental concerns in the standards development process. TCs choose the tools that suit their needs.

### THE TOOLBOX INCLUDES:

- Environmental training materials, including the e-learning module
- Environmental guides, e.g. CEN Guide 4 'Guide for addressing environmental issues in product standards'
- An environmental checklist to support the consideration of environmental issues throughout the life cycle
- Examples of standards addressing environmental issues
- EU environment-related policy initiatives

[www.cen.eu/sh/ehd](http://www.cen.eu/sh/ehd)

## ECO-PLAYERS

CEN has several groups that can provide guidance and support for standardizers:

### CEN ENVIRONMENTAL HELPDESK (CEN/EHD)

The CEN/EHD is a service for everyone involved in drafting European Standards.

Responsibilities of the CEN/EHD include:

- **Raising** environmental awareness in CEN Technical Bodies
- **Encouraging** a systematic approach to environmental actions in standardization
- **Developing** supporting tools for the Environmental Framework
- **Providing** environmental expertise for standardizers
- **Facilitating** a dialogue between stakeholders

### STRATEGIC ADVISORY BODY ON ENVIRONMENT (SABE)

SABE organizes the exchange of information between stakeholders; identifies the areas where European Standards can support European environmental policy; bridges EU initiatives and global standardization activities; co-ordinates environmental issues between CEN Technical Committees; develops and maintains CEN's environmental policy; and advises the CEN Technical Board on environmental issues.

[www.cen.eu/sh/sabe](http://www.cen.eu/sh/sabe)



### EN 15217:2007, Energy performance of buildings

Methods for expressing energy performance and for energy certification of buildings. This standard, developed by CEN/TC 89, enables the legislation of energy performance of buildings. As well, it encourages designers, owners, operators, and users to improve energy performance.



### CEN/TC 286, Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) equipment and accessories

This TC participated in tailored environmental workshops provided by the CEN Environmental Helpdesk. As a result, in 2008, this TC unanimously adopted a resolution to include an environmental annex in all of their standards (new and revised).

# ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN STANDARDIZATION (ENIS)

Along with the CEN Environmental Help Desk, ENIS is responsible for the development and the implementation of the CEN approach to addressing environmental issues in product and service standards. ENIS is a SABE subgroup.

## CEN ENVIRONMENTAL TCs

The Environmental Technical Committees cooperate and coordinate in the field of measurement methods and monitoring systems for environmental quality and pollution emissions in order to avoid duplication of work. They promote fit-for-purpose 'horizontal' standardization.

## NATIONAL STANDARDS BODIES (NSBs)

NSBs establish 'focal points' to support the inclusion of environmental aspects in the development of national standards. These national focal points address issues such as the environmental training of experts. They represent their respective national environmental stakeholders in CEN Technical Committees. The NSBs can also participate in the relevant committees within CEN, e.g. through SABE. The environmental approach can also take place on a national level. NSAI, the NSB of Ireland, has adopted a decision to include an environmental annex in all Irish standards.

## PARTNERS

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC)

The 6th Environment Action Programme 2002–2012 calls for standards to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns. The EC Communication 'Integration of Environmental Aspects into European Standardization' underlines the need to make this a reality. It invites the European standardization system and its stakeholders to reflect and act on the following main issues:

- to widen and deepen the process of the integration of environmental aspects into European standardization activities;
- to set priorities in work programmes and mandates due to scarcity of resources;
- to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders;
- to encourage the systematic use of available tools.

### EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENS ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ECOS)

ECOS is a consortium of environmental NGOs created to strengthen the voice of environmental protection in the standardization processes. ECOS is a CEN Associate Member that aims to increase the ecological performance of products, ensuring sound measurement methods for pollutants, greening management systems in businesses, and improving consumer information regarding sustainable consumption.



#### EN 14662:2005 – Parts 1–5, Ambient air quality

Standard method for measurement of benzene concentrations. Benzene is used as an industrial solvent. It is also a known carcinogen. CEN/TC 264, Air Quality, developed this standard to keep air quality high – particularly in facilities where benzene is used.



#### EN 15530:2008, Aluminium and aluminium alloys

Environmental aspects of aluminium products – General guidelines for their inclusion in standards. This standard, developed by CEN/TC 132, ensures that aluminium products adhering to European Standards include environmental aspects.

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The following activities and recommendations are designed for standards writers or those who would like to be involved in the standardization process and should appeal to everyone.

## ACTIVITIES

- Visit the Environmental Helpdesk (EHD) on the CEN website: [www.cen.eu/sh/ehd](http://www.cen.eu/sh/ehd)
- Participate in activities proposed by the EHD: training, workshops, etc.
- Participate in the Technical Committees of your National Standards Body and advocate for environmental issues
- Use the Environmental Framework
- Contact the EHD at [cen.ehd@cen.eu](mailto:cen.ehd@cen.eu)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Start early in the drafting process
- Use the Environmental Checklist to consider environmental impacts at all stages of the product lifecycle
- Make efficient use of natural resources in standardization work
- Minimize risks to the environment
- Prevent pollution at all stages of the product lifecycle
- Take into account environmental aspects of product design

## ABOUT CEN

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is a business facilitator in Europe, removing trade barriers for European industry and consumers. Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens and the environment. Through its services it provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical specifications.

CEN's 30 National Members work together to develop voluntary European Standards (ENs) in various sectors to build a European Internal Market for goods and services and to position Europe in the global economy. By supporting research and helping disseminate innovation, standards are a powerful tool for economic growth. More than 60.000 technical experts as well as business federations, consumer and other societal interest organizations are involved in the CEN network that reaches over 480 million people.

