



PRESS RELEASE

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CEN publishes standard on pest management services

CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, is pleased to announce the publication of a new European Standard for pest management services (EN 16636), which can be used to improve the quality of these services throughout Europe. The new European Standard contains clear requirements and guidance for service providers on how to ensure that they are delivering high-quality professional pest management services while minimizing risks to human health and any potential negative impacts on the environment.

The presence of pests (such as rodents, insects or micro-organisms) may represent a significant hazard for public health since they may act as a vehicle for the introduction and spread of diseases and possible allergens into human and animal populations. The pest management industry therefore plays an important role in protecting public health, and also in protecting businesses and households from direct and indirect damage caused by pests to buildings and their contents, which may result in significant losses – both financially and in terms of quality of life.

The new European Standard (EN 16636) specifies the requirements and competences that companies need in order to deliver professional pest management services. Environmental aspects and animal welfare have been taken into account during the development of the standard, which seeks to minimize any negative impacts. The new standard also sets out the competences required for different roles (administrative, sales, professional user, technical responsible person) that contribute to the delivery of pest management services. However, it does not apply to field crop protection or to routine cleaning and disinfection carried out by regular contract cleaning services.

The new European Standard 'Pest management services - Requirements and competences' (EN 16636) has been developed by CEN's Project Committee on 'Services of pest management companies' (CEN/TC 404), which was set up in 2010. The Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) was closely involved in developing the content of the standard, together with experts nominated by CEN members and stakeholders including the Eurogroup for Animals, which represents animal welfare groups from across Europe.

The new European Standard (EN 16636) was formally approved in January and the final text was made available to all CEN Members on 4 March 2015. The standard will be published at national level by CEN Members in 33 European countries by the end of September 2015 (at the latest). It will replace the pest management standards that have previously been adopted at national level in a number of European countries (including France, Germany, Malta and Spain).

Standardization of services is necessary in order to support the development of a single market for services, which will contribute to creating economic growth and employment in Europe. The EU Directive on Services (2006/123/EC) encourages the development of European Standards to facilitate compatibility between services, ensure the quality of service delivery and the provision of information to service users. European Standards for services also contribute to fostering cross-border trade, improving safety and performance, and protecting consumers and the environment.

Rob Fryatt, Chairman of CEN/TC 404 and Director of Xenex Associates says: *"For an industry that is comprised of numerous small and medium-sized companies, this new European Standard provides a benchmark of professional service that we hope will be recognized by everyone who needs to use professional pest management services. Having a set of clear requirements and competences should also contribute towards improving the image of the industry."*

Elena Santiago Cid, Director General of CEN and CENELEC says: *"Standardization has a key role to play in supporting the creation of a single market for services in Europe, and based on experience we know that European Standards can create a range of advantages and opportunities for service providers and also for the consumers and users of services. Standards provide benchmarks for assessing and improving the quality of services, and they also support fair competition by creating a level playing field, which is especially important for small and medium-sized companies."*

The European Standard on pest management services (EN 16636) will be presented at a Conference organized by the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) in Brussels on 17 March. The participants will include high-level representatives from the pest management sector, the European Commission and the European Standardization Organizations (CEN and CENELEC). At this Conference, CEPA will also launch a new Europe-wide certification scheme (CEPA Certified®), which will provide a means for service providers to demonstrate that they comply with the requirements of European Standard EN 16636.

Notes

For more information on European standardization activities in relation to services, please see the CEN website: www.cen.eu/work/areas/services

For more information about the Conference that will be held in Brussels on 17 March, please see the CEPA website: www.cepa-europe.org

The **European Committee for Standardization (CEN)** is one of 3 European Standardization Organizations which are officially recognized by the EU and EFTA as being responsible for developing and defining standards at European level (together with CENELEC and ETSI).

CEN brings together the National Standardization Bodies of 33 countries including all of the EU member states plus 3 EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) and 2 EU candidate countries (Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). European Standards (ENs) that have been adopted by CEN are accepted and published in all of these countries.

The members of CEN work together with various stakeholders - including industry, SMEs, societal stakeholders, public sector bodies, academics and researchers - to develop voluntary European Standards (ENs) and other deliverables across a wide range of different fields and sectors.

CEN works in partnership with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in the framework of the Vienna Agreement. This allows CEN and ISO to coordinate their respective activities and identify opportunities for aligning European and international standards.

For further information, please visit www.cen.eu and www.cencenelec.eu

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