

## **A EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR PEST MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

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**Abstract** The Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) and its members are sponsoring the development of a European standard for the pest management industry. This would be in collaboration with the European Standards Institute and the National Standards Institutes of the 28 member states of the European Union as well as Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. This European standard would specify the requirements, recommendations and basic competences under which pest management servicing companies must operate to meet the needs of their customers. This would include private companies, public authorities or the general public. All European national associations who are members of CEPA would require their member organisations to uphold this standard once it is in place. The objectives of the presentation are to review the need for professional standards, what these standards would cover in terms of service, and the steps necessary to initiate them.

**Key words** Pest management service, industry standards, pest managers.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) and its members are sponsoring the development of a European standard for the pest management industry. This would be in collaboration with the European Standards Institute and the National Standards Institutes of the 28 member states of the European Union as well as Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. This European standard would specify the requirements, recommendations and basic competences under which pest management servicing companies must operate to meet the needs of their customers. This would include private companies, public authorities or the general public. All European national associations who are members of CEPA would require their member organisations to uphold this standard once it is in place. For pest managers it will provide a benchmark for a level of professionalism to strive towards, or to maintain or improve upon. For legislators it provides reassurance regarding the responsible attitude of our industry and a better definition of what professional pest management service stands for.

The concept of global quality standards for professional pest management services was discussed by Duggal and Siddiqi (2008). They provided a historical review of the guidelines for structural pest control services in the United States, and reviewed the guidelines for professional service for the food processing industry, wood packaging and fumigation, and general standards for the pest control industry. The objectives of the presentation are to review the need for pan-European standards for professional pest management services, and to propose what these standards would cover in terms of service and the steps to initiate them.

### **CONFEDERATION OF EUROPEAN PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS**

The Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) is a not-for-profit organization base in Brussels, Belgium. It represents, at the European level, 23 national industry associations and an industry with a turnover of € 2200 million and the interests of 8000 companies with over 38,000

employees. In addition to the national associations the CEPA membership also includes 23 partners from industry, including manufacturers, distributors and service companies in Europe. CEPA was set up in 1974 by the Belgian, British, Dutch, French and Spanish national associations. These organizations had the vision to see that national associations could not, by themselves, defend the interests of their members at a European level.

### **EUROPEAN STANDARDS**

A European standard is a document established by consensus and approved by the European Standards Institute (CEN). It contains a series of specification and/or recommendations in relation to products, systems, processes or services that can be adopted by the industry across all states of the European Union. A European Standard 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 any conflicting national standards will be withdrawn. A European standard potentially substitutes 31 (28+3) 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.

### **EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR PEST MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

As sponsors of the initiative for establishing standards for the European pest management industry, CEPA wishes to engage the industry in this project to ensure that the industry is recognized for responsibly protecting European citizens and the environment in which they live against public health risks. Other important values resulting from the pest management industry's engagement in this project have been identified. The most significant ones are: 1) The project will create awareness for the value to society that the pest management industry represents through the maintenance of health and hygiene; 2) The initiative will contribute to controlling unprofessional use and provide support for products that protect public health but are under threat of restriction or deregistration measures; and 3) The introduction of a European standard will enhance CEPA's interaction with the European institutions and all its other European stakeholders.

Certification can be awarded only to organisations (service providers) not to individuals. A certificate shall be valid for no more than three years. Organisations that wish to join the CEPA scheme shall be audited by a certification body approved by CEPA. Once they have demonstrated to the certification body that they conform to the requirements of The Standard, they can be certificated. The Protocol guiding the Certification Scheme sets out the requirements for the audit and certification processes. It is based on the Principles of Auditing set out in the International Standard ISO 19011:2011.

CEPA believes certification is crucial as it will enable the users of pest management services to identify those providers that offer an effective, safe and legal service. It will provide pest management companies across Europe with the opportunity to benchmark themselves against their peers. It will demonstrate the professionalism of the pest management sector, and offer a strong platform for the establishment of a global standard for service providers. CEPA and its European Standard for Pest Management Services expect publication of the final draft in the last quarter of 2014.

### **CEN STANDARD AND USE OF ANTI-COAGULANT RODENTICIDES**

CEPA recognizes the public health consequences if the means to adequately control rodent populations in Europe were to be curtailed by restrictions on rodenticides. As today no significant and effective

alternative to anti-coagulant rodenticides is readily available and that a major infestation would have serious consequences for the public health. The use of rodenticides based on anti-coagulant active ingredients remains essential in order to manage pest populations successfully.

Based on concerns for public health, CEPA recommends that anti-coagulants should remain accessible for trained pest management professionals as long as no viable alternative is available to manage rodent pests. Furthermore, through the publication of the CEPA/CEN standard and the promotion of certification to this standard, CEPA will contribute to identify trained pest management professionals.

### REFERENCES CITED

**Duggal, N. and Z. Siddiqi. 2008.** Global quality standards and pest management service. *In:* Wm. H. Robinson and D. Bajomi (eds.), Proceedings 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Urban Pests, Budapest