

Open call for tenders for one Convenor, five Project leaders and two Experts for the execution of work in CEN/TC 455/WG 4 “Other safety parameters”

as part of the European Commission Standardisation Request M/564 to the European Committee for Standardisation referring to the EU fertilising products in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European Parliament and of the Council

1. Background

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) has been requested to draft harmonised standards and European standardisation deliverables in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 for EU fertilising products which lays down rules on the making available on the market of EU fertilising products and amending Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EC) No 1107/2009 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 (FPR).

The FPR aims at promoting an increased use of recycled nutrients to further aid the development of a circular economy and allow a more resource-efficient general use of nutrients, while reducing EU's dependency on nutrients from third countries.

Certain products are being used in combination with fertilisers for the purpose of improving nutritional efficiency, with the beneficial effect of reducing the amount of fertilising products used and hence their environmental impact. In order to facilitate their free movement in the internal market, not only fertilising products, i.e. products intended to provide plants with nutrients, but also products intended to improve plants' nutrition efficiency are covered by the harmonisation.

Different product functions warrant different product safety and quality requirements adapted to their different intended uses. EU fertilising products are therefore divided into product function categories (PFCs) and component material categories (CMCs).

In order to provide the market with the means to claim proof of compliance, Technical Specifications (TSs) followed by harmonised European standards (hENs) have to be developed under this Specific Agreement SA/CEN/564 (SA), related to the European Commission Standardisation Request M/564 ("SReq"). Three CEN/Technical Committees (TCs) will perform the work mandated under this SReq:

- CEN/TC 223 Soil Improvers and growing media,
- CEN/TC 260 Fertilizers and liming materials, and
- CEN/TC 455 Plant biostimulants.

This call concerns the PFC relevant to CEN/TC 455 *Plant biostimulants*:

- PFC 6. Plant biostimulant
 - A. Microbial plant biostimulant
 - B. Non-microbial plant biostimulants, and
- CMC 7: Micro-organisms.

The work programme listed out in the SReq (Annex 1) for CEN/TC 455 Plant biostimulants includes 33 CEN TSs and 33 hENs. Work is expected to start in 10/2020. The expected duration is 4 years.

CEN/TC 455 *Plant biostimulants* was created in 2017 to set up European Standards for all kinds of plant biostimulants. AFNOR, the French member of the National Standardisation Bodies represented at the European and international level, detains the Secretariat of CEN/TC 455 *Plant biostimulants* and will deal with the administrative management of the standardisation work.

CEN/TC 455 is active in five main areas and has therefore established five working groups as it follows:

- WG 1 *Sampling*
- WG 2 *Claims*
- WG 3 *Pathogenic and non-pathogenic microorganisms*
- WG 4 *Other safety parameters*

- *WG 5 Labelling and denominations*

ÚNMZ, the Czech member of standards networking at European (CEN) and international (ISO) levels, holds the secretariat of CEN/TC 455/WG 4 Other safety parameters since September 2017.

Since 2018 ÚNMZ delegated in accordance with Czech law all tasks related to the CEN membership to the Czech Standardization Agency (ČAS). Therefore ČAS will be responsible for the administrative management of the standardisation work in WG 4.

The Czech Standardization Agency was established as a state contributory organization by the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing (ÚNMZ) pursuant to Act No. 265/2017 Coll., Amending Act No. 90/2016 Coll. their supply to the market, and Act No. 22/1997 Coll., on technical requirements for products and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended.

Since 1 January 2018, the Czech Standardization Agency (ČAS) has taken over all activities related to the development, issue and distribution of technical standards from the ÚNMZ including the fulfilment of membership obligations in European and international standardization organizations. Therefore ČAS will be responsible for the administrative management of the standardisation work in WG 4.

2. Objective

Through M/564, the European Commission is requesting the development of 33 CEN Technical Specifications and 33 European Harmonised Standards.

WG 4 *Other safety parameters* will be in charge of developing the following documents:

- Plant Biostimulants – Determination of specific elements - Part 1 Digestion by aqua regia for subsequent determination of elements (TS and hEN).*

This TS/hEN specifies a method for digestion of plant biostimulants by the use of aqua regia as a digestion solution. This method is applicable for the subsequent determination of the following elements: cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), nickel (Ni), mercury (Hg), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn), chromium (Cr) and may also be applicable for the digestion of other elements.

The proposed TS/hEN will be used for digestion of different plant biostimulants to enable a subsequent determination of total content of Cd, Pb, Ni, (As), Hg, Cu, Zn, Cr and other elements, if required in the future. Aqua regia digestion is well established in the analytical laboratories and it is used for a wide variety of matrices (soil, sludge, bio waste, mineral and organic fertilisers etc.). An individual standard for the digestion procedure will enable easier future development of the different measurement procedures using the same digestion. The proposal applies a modular aspect of standardisation that is widely used in the methodology applied to different environmental matrices (CEN/TC 444 Environmental characterization of solid matrices) and also for determination of micronutrients in mineral fertilisers. Existing CEN and ISO standards on this topic will be considered while developing this standard for plant biostimulants, although new approaches especially for liquid and low dry matter biostimulants will have to be adopted given the specific nature of plant biostimulants.

The producers will be able to check the quality of their products for compliance with the required legislative limits and competent authorities will have an instrument for an effective control of the regulatory limits. Consumers and environmental stakeholders will profit from the well-established uniform and reliable control of the products applied to soil and to crops. The apparatus needed for the method are widely used in analytical laboratories and the application of this method will not have any excessive demands on the laboratory equipment.

- Plant biostimulants – Determination of specific elements - Part 2 Determination of total content of Cd, Pb, Ni, As, Cr, Cu and Zn (TS and hEN)*

This TS/hEN specifies the method for determination of elements after digestion of plant biostimulants by aqua regia. This method is applicable for the simultaneous multi-element determination of the following elements: cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), nickel (Ni), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn), chromium (Cr) and may also be applicable for the determination of many other elements.

The proposed TS/hEN will be used for determination of total content of Cd, Pb, Ni, (As), Cu, Zn, Cr after digestion of different plant biostimulants by aqua regia. The method covers also some possible future needs because it can be used for determination of many other elements. Inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES)

is a multi-element method with a suitable sensitivity for all required elements. The method is well established in the analytical laboratories and it is used for a wide variety of matrices digested by aqua regia (soil, sludge, biowaste, mineral and organic fertilisers etc.). An individual standard for the measurement will enable easier future modification of the scope (more elements to be determined etc.). The proposal applies a modular aspect of standardisation used widely in the area of methods for different environmental matrices (CEN/TC 444) and also for determination of micronutrients in mineral fertilisers. Existing CEN and ISO standards will be considered in developing this standard for plant biostimulants.

The producers will be able to check the quality of their products for compliance with the legislative limits and competent authorities will have a suitable tool for an effective control of the regulatory limits. Consumers and environmental stakeholders will profit from the well-established uniform and reliable control of the products applied to soil and crops. The instruments needed for the method are widely used in the analytical laboratories and the application of this method will not have any excessive demands on the laboratory equipment and/or staff training.

c) *Plant biostimulants - Determination of specific elements - Part 3 Determination of mercury (TS and hEN)*

This TS/hEN specifies the method for determination of mercury (Hg) by cold vapour generation or by direct amalgamation technique after digestion of plant biostimulants by aqua regia.

The proposed standard will be used for determination of Hg after digestion of different plant biostimulants by aqua regia. The method covers all methods of cold vapour generation (batch, continuous flow, segmented flow) and two measurement methods coupled to the cold vapour apparatus – atomic absorption spectrophotometry (AAS) and inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES). There will be also a possibility to use instruments with an amalgamation technique. The method is well established in the analytical laboratories and it is used for a wide variety of different matrices and digestates. The proposal applies modular aspect of standardisation used widely in the area of methods for different environmental matrices (CEN/TC 444). Available standards (e.g. EN 16320 and EN 16175-1) will be considered during development of the standard for plant biostimulants.

The producers will be able to check the quality of their products for compliance with the demanded legislative limits and competent authorities will have a suitable tool for an effective control of the regulatory limits. Consumers and environmental stakeholders will profit from the well-established uniform and reliable control of the products applied to soil and crops. The instruments needed for the method are widely used in the analytical laboratories and the application of this method will not have any excessive demands on the laboratory equipment and/or staff training.

d) *Plant biostimulants - Determination of chromium (VI) (TS and hEN)*

This TS/hEN specifies the method for determination of hexavalent chromium after extraction of different plant biostimulants by ion chromatography.

The proposed TS/hEN will be used for determination of hexavalent chromium – Cr(VI) after extraction of different plant biostimulants using:

- A. Phosphate buffer, for organic and organic-based plant biostimulants;
- B. Alkaline digestion, for inorganic plant biostimulants.

Both procedures use ion chromatography for speciation of different chromium ions in the extract followed by spectrophotometric determination (direct or after post-column reaction) or by ICP-MS determination. The methods are able to extract all species of Cr(VI), the adapted conditions of the extraction do not induce reduction of native Cr(VI) to Cr(III), and it does not cause oxidation of native Cr(III) contained in the sample to Cr(VI). For procedure B) alkaline conditions prevent reduction of Cr(VI) and the addition of magnesium and phosphate buffer prevents air oxidation of Cr(III).

The methods described in the available standards are relatively well established in control analytical laboratories and they are used for a wide variety of matrices (soil, sludge, biowaste, fertilizers etc.). A preliminary determination of chromium in aqua regia extracts by ICP-AES can reduce the number of the samples where determination of Cr(VI) is necessary. (If the content of aqua regia extractable chromium is lower than the legislative limit for hexavalent chromium then the determination of this individual species is not necessary).

The method will be developed with respect to EN ISO 17075-2 (after improvement of LOQ) and after consideration of EN 15192 and EN 16318 (method B).

The producers will be able to check the quality of their products for compliance with the demanded legislative limits and competent authorities will have a suitable tool for an effective control of the regulatory limits. Consumers and environmental stakeholders will profit from the well-established uniform and reliable control of the products applied to soil and crops. However, the instruments needed for this method tend to be more prevalent in well-equipped analytical laboratories; in addition, very good staff training is required to conduct this method. Therefore, preliminary determination of total chromium simultaneously with the other elements by ICP-AES can give an indication of the necessity to determine Cr(VI) with this specific method. This stepwise approach can also further minimize the cost for the analyses.

e) *Plant biostimulants – Determination of dry matter (TS and hEN)*

This TS/hEN specifies a method for determination of dry matter of plant biostimulants using gravimetric determination of the dry residue. This method is applicable for solid and liquid plant biostimulants with dry matter higher than 3 %.

In case of analysis of plant biostimulants, water is usually not considered as a part of the sample and results are generally related to dry matter, which can be calculated by determination of the dry residue (dry matter fraction). For determination of the dry matter content, an individual standard must be developed. This proposal applies modular aspect of standardisation that is used widely in the methodology applied to different environmental matrices. Standards EN 15934, ISO 11465 and methods described in literature (e.g. Robert L. Bradley, Jr.: Moisture and total solid analysis in: S. Suzanne Nielsen: Food Analysis. Springer, fourth edition, 2010) will be considered in developing this standard for plant biostimulants.

The producers will be able to check the quality of their products for compliance with the required legislative limits and competent authorities will have an instrument for an effective control of the regulatory limits. Consumers and environmental stakeholders will profit from the well-established uniform and reliable control of the products applied to soil and to crops. The apparatus needed for the method are widely used in analytical laboratories and the application of this method will not have any excessive demands on the laboratory equipment.

f) *Plant biostimulants - Determination of phosphonates (TS and hEN)*

This TS/hEN specifies the method for determination of phosphonates in water extracts of plant biostimulants by ion chromatography.

The proposed TS/hEN will be used for determination of phosphonates in different plant biostimulants. Sample is extracted by water at 20°C. Phosphonates are completely dissolved and determined. A new method based on a simultaneous determination of phosphonates and other ionic substances by ion chromatography with conductivity detector (IC-CD) will have to be developed. The analytical method –ion chromatography- is well established in analytical laboratories. Nevertheless, the method has to be developed because the available published methods are suitable only for inorganic matrices and they cannot be used in the presence of organic matter. A preliminary determination of total phosphorus in aqua regia extracts by ICP-AES can be used as a screening method. If the content of aqua regia extractable phosphorus is lower than the legislative limit for phosphonates, then the determination of individual species is not necessary.

The producers will be able to check the quality of their products for compliance with the demanded legislative limits and competent authorities will have a suitable tool for an effective control of the regulatory limits. Consumers and environmental stakeholders will profit from the well-established uniform and reliable control of the products applied to soil and crops.

g) *Plant biostimulants - Determination of the inorganic arsenic (TS and hEN)*

This TS/hEN specifies the method for determination of inorganic arsenic (iAs) after a mild oxidative acid extraction. HPLC coupled to ICP-MS is used for determination.

The proposed TS/hEN will be used for determination of inorganic arsenic (iAs) in different plant biostimulants. Sample is treated with a diluted nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide solution in a heated water bath. Arsenic species are extracted into the solution in which As(III) is oxidized to As(V). The iAs is selectively separated from other arsenic compounds using anion exchange HPLC coupled to the ICP-MS for the determination of the mass fraction of iAs.

The methods described in the available standards are relatively well established in well-equipped analytical laboratories and they are used mainly for food and animal feeding stuff analysis.

A preliminary determination of total arsenic in aqua regia extracts by ICP-AES can reduce the number of the samples where determination of iAs is necessary. (If the content of aqua regia extractable arsenic is lower than the legislative limit for inorganic arsenic than the determination of individual species is not necessary).

Available standards (e.g. EN 16802, EN 15517, EN 16278) will be considered during the development of the standard for plant biostimulants.

The producers will be able to check the quality of their products for compliance with the demanded legislative limits and government will have a suitable tool for an effective control of the regulatory limits. Consumers and environmental stakeholders will profit from the well-established uniform and reliable control of the products applied to soil and crops. But the instruments needed for the method are used only in well-equipped analytical laboratories and the application of this method demands very good staff training. Therefore, preliminary determination of the total arsenic simultaneously with the other elements can give an indication of the necessity of using the more expensive iAs determination. This solution can further minimize the cost for the analyses.

These European deliverables (Technical Specifications and European Harmonised Standards) will:

- support the development of standardisation activities in new areas and make possible the implementation of the FPR.
- enable commercialisation of the PFCs within the EU Single market.
- allow the industry to fulfil the requirements stipulated in the FPR.
- help government and competent authorities to effectively monitor compliance of the products.
- support consumers and environmental stakeholders supplying well-established uniform and reliable control of plant biostimulants applied to soil and crops.
- provide laboratories with a reference document on how to properly take samples for analysis.

3. Execution

This document contains the following eight calls:

Table 1 – Calls and objectives

Call no.	Service (see 3.1-3.3)	Objective
1	Convenor WG 4	CEN/TC 455/WG 4
2	Project leader	see 2 a-c): Plant biostimulants – Determination of specific elements – Part 1: Digestion by aqua regia for subsequent determination of elements Plant biostimulants – Determination of specific elements – Part 2: Determination of total content of Cd, Pb, Ni, As, Cr, Cu and Zn Plant biostimulants – Determination of specific elements – Part 3: Determination of mercury
3	Project leader	see 2 d) Plant biostimulants – Determination of chromium (VI)
4	Expert	see 2 d) Plant biostimulants – Determination of chromium (VI)
5	Project leader	see 2 e) Plant biostimulants – Determination of dry matter
6	Project leader	see 2 f) Plant biostimulants – Determination of phosphonates
7	Expert	see 2 f) Plant biostimulants – Determination of phosphonates
8	Project leader	see 2 g) Plant biostimulants – Determination of inorganic arsenic

3.1 Open call for the Convenor of WG 4 *Other safety parameters (Call no. 1)*

The CEN/TC 455 *Plant biostimulants* WG 1 Secretariat launches this open call for the recruitment of a Convenor for WG 4 *Other safety parameters*.

The responsibilities of the Convenor of WG 4 will be:

- the proper conduct of the work and the managing of the respective Working Group

- the distribution of documents for convening meetings and for questions of languages (during the meetings);
- to lead meetings effectively with a view to reaching consensus on the document within the WG;
- to proactively propose solutions and actions to the Project leader and WG, including WG meetings (physical or virtual) or consultation by correspondence to progress efficiently on the drafts;
- to send documents to the secretariat of the parent body and the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre;
- to update the TC Secretary on the status of projects; and,
- to report to the TC Secretary during committee meetings.
- to act according to the CEN-rules of [CEN BOSS¹](#), in particular the role description of the [Convenor of the WG²](#).
- to facilitate the standardization process considering [good practice³](#).

The WG Convenor will attend an estimated average of four physical WG meetings and eleven CEN/TC 455 reporting sessions over the period of 4 years of work.

The WG Convenors tasks are not limited to the deliverables under the mandate and their appointments have to be confirmed by a CEN/TC 455 resolution.

The Project leader will be subcontracted by ČAS⁴.

3.2 Open call for five Project leaders in WG 4 Other safety parameters (Call no. 2, 3, 5, 6, 8)

The elaboration of the deliverables requests a Project leader to contribute to the standards drafting and if needed, to set up the study and perform the statistical analysis.

The responsibilities of the Project leader in WG 4 are:

- leadership of the project team and the drafting of the deliverables mentioned in clause 2 and table 1.
- lead and drive project work
- provide technical expertise for the development of the deliverables
- ensure that the draft respects the CEN/CENELEC drafting rules
- draft the project plan in cooperation with the Committee Manager
- keep track of the project plan: proactively and frequently monitor, measure and control project progress against the project plan to ensure project development within the agreed time frame
- resolve the comments received with the support of the WG experts
- support the WG Convenor
- update WG Convenor on project status
- report to WG meetings
- to act according to the CEN-rules of [CEN BOSS⁵](#), in particular the role description of the [Project leader⁶](#).
- to facilitate the standardization process considering [good practice⁷](#).

The Project leader will be subcontracted by ČAS⁵.

3.3 Open call for two

3.4 Experts in WG 4 Other safety parameters (Call no. 4 and 7)

The elaboration of the deliverables requests beside the Project leader Experts to contribute to the standards drafting and if needed, to set up the study and perform the statistical analysis.

The responsibilities of the Experts in WG 4 are:

- provide technical expertise regarding the determination of certain substances and methods for the development of the individual deliverables

¹ <https://boss.cen.eu/Pages/default.aspx>

² <https://boss.cen.eu/reference%20material/Profiles/Pages/WGConv.aspx>

³ <https://boss.cen.eu/reference%20material/Guidancedoc/Pages/GoodPract.aspx>

⁴ In the case the applicant works as an employer in an organisation, the contract will be drawn up between the employer and ČAS.

⁵ <https://boss.cen.eu/Pages/default.aspx>

⁶ <https://boss.cen.eu/reference%20material/Profiles/Pages/WGProjLeader.aspx>

⁷ <https://boss.cen.eu/reference%20material/Guidancedoc/Pages/GoodPract.aspx>

- support the project leader in standard drafting
- draft the project plan in cooperation with the Committee Manager
- provide expertise to resolve the comments received

The Experts will be subcontracted by ČAS⁵.

4. Financial support

There will be a financial support from the European Commission and EFTA for the services described in table 1 and clause 2 and 3.

The financial support from the European Commission and EFTA is based on the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA 2014). The subcontractor shall fulfil the conditions of the FPA 2014 (liability, ownership of results, confidentiality...).

The assignment of the task and execution of the work will be dependent upon European Commission/EFTA funding.

The terms and schedule for payment by the EU/EFTA will be defined in the Specific grant agreement.

5. Criteria for selection

The selection of the candidates for the services described in clause 3 will be made based on the following criteria:

PROFILE

REQUIRED EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCES

Personal background

- Expertise knowledge
- At least X years of practical experience in the topic to be standardised
- Knowledge of the European policies and legislation

Management competences, experience or ability to:

- present complex issues in the given context as a definition in an understandable way
- coordinate a group of experts
- contribute as content provider to the requested deliverables
- ensure the consolidation and integration of all contents provided by the participant experts
- reach consensus

Institutional Background

- Equipment and staff for preliminary tests and method development available
- Certified and/or accredited laboratory

SUPPLY OF DELIVERABLES

Understanding of tasks and responsibilities

- Number of days of work
- Comprehension of the scope
- Quality of the proposal (clarity, match with description given...)

Ability to supply deliverables at specified target dates

- Calendar of the proposal vs expected

DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS

- Number of projects
- Number of years
- All tests provided by an accredited laboratory (EN ISO 17025)

EXPERIENCE IN EUROPEAN AND/OR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

- Number of projects
- Number of years

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- English level
- Participation to events/working groups in English...

These criteria will be evaluated by a scoring system. The scores are laid down in Annex 2 the convenor and Annex 3 for project leaders and experts.

Tenders must score minimum 65% in total. After evaluation, the tenders for the position of project leader and expert will be ranked using the formula below to determine the tender offering best value for money. A weight of 70/30 is given to quality and price.

$$\text{Score for tender X} = \frac{\text{cheapest price}}{\text{price of tender X}} * 30 + \frac{\text{total quality score (out of 100) for all award criteria of tender X}}{100} * 70$$

The formula won't be used for the selection of the convenor. The price for the selection of the convenor will represent 15% of the selection criteria (daily rates, number of work days, travel costs and other costs).

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals procedure according to the following **exclusion criteria**:

- The tenders' score is lower than 65% in total
- The offer was received after the deadline
- The offer is not complete (see the elements requested in section 6)
- The tenders are subject to a conflict of interest
- They are in any of the situations described in the exclusion criteria of the *Guide for tenderers Submitting bids in response to a call for tenders published by the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics – Brussels (OIB)*⁸.

6. Replies to tender

Tenders to the calls in clause 3 should be sent by email to the Secretary of CEN/TC455/WG 4, Mr Stefan Krebs (see contact details below, krebs@agentura-cas.cz) as soon as possible.

The deadline for all the candidatures is August 23rd, 2020. The call for tenders will start:

- Call no. 1: Convenor of WG 4 2020-07-24 (30 days according to CEN/CENELEC Guide 16⁹).
- Call no. 2-8: Project leader and Expert 2020-07-19 (35 days according to the CEN/CENELEC Management Centre).

Each candidate shall submit the completed form (Annex 4) and the following information in his tender:

- a) Name and contact details of the expert candidate.
- b) Indication of the position to be applied for (Call no.)
- c) A Curriculum Vitae (max. 4 pages) demonstrating the required expertise and other selection criteria.
- d) A signed declaration, by which the candidate certifies not to be in one of the situations described in the exclusion criteria¹⁰.

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/oib/doc/tenders-submission-guide_en.pdf, 2.2.3.2

⁹ ftp://ftp.cenelec.eu/EN/EuropeanStandardization/Guides/16_CENCLCGuide16.pdf

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/oib/doc/tenders-submission-guide_en.pdf, 2.2.3.2

- e) A specified proposal how to supply the deliverables (TS/hEN) in time incl. breakdown of tasks and responsibilities.
- f) A table showing the estimated cost (man-days and daily rate (EUR) for Convenor or Project leader and other costs).

Please mention:

- The travel expenses for the Convenor WG 4 will be reimbursed separately, please include an estimation.
- The travel expenses for the Project leaders and experts will not be reimbursed separately, please include the estimated travel expenses into the daily rate.
- Please consider that ČAS is not a VAT-payer, so you have to tax the payments¹¹.

Tenders must be clear and concise, with continuous page numbering, and must be written in English. They must be signed by the tenderers or their duly authorised representative. They also must be perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.

Late delivery will lead to the non-admissibility of the tender and its rejection from the award procedure for this contract.

The selection and appointment of the Convenors and Project leader will be conducted by Stefan Krebs (ÚNMZ/ČAS, Secretary of CEN/TC 455/WG 1 and WG 4), Samantha Gagnon (AFNOR, Secretary of CEN/TC 455), Benoît Planques (Chairperson of CEN/TC 455), and Alessia Gaetani (Technical Project Manager CEN/CENELEC Management Centre) and, if possible, a member from the EC.

The convenors of WG 1 and WG 4 will be able to participate in the selection of project leaders, and the project leaders in the selection of the experts, only if this does not represent a conflict of interest (i.e. they will be excluded from the selection of PL from their same company or in any other case considered as conflict of interest).

After the call for tender and the examination by the selection panel mentioned above, the appointment of CEN/TC 455/WG 1 Convenors will be confirmed by a CEN/TC 455 resolution.

The selection process for the convenor will be based on CEN/CENELEC Guide 16, Request for EC financial support - Guidance to the secretariat/Convenorship of the responsible technical body.

Czech Standardization Agency (ČAS)
Stefan Krebs
Secretary of CEN/TC 455/WG 4 on behalf of ÚNMZ
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Management of European Projects
Email:

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Enclosure:

- Annex 1 – Excerpt from the standardization request M/564
Annex 2 – Scoring system for the selection criteria for the convenor
Annex 3 – Scoring system for the selection criteria for project leaders and experts
Annex 4 – Application form

¹¹ ÚNMZ/ČAS is a governmental organisation tax exempt. When signing a contract with ČAS, the subcontractor will need to cover the tax payments.



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

M/564

Brussels, 10.2.2020
C(2020) 612 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.2.2020

**on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards
the EU fertilising products in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European
Parliament and of the Council**

(Only the English, French and German versions are authentic)

This is an excerpt of the standardization request. It shows the projects of CEN/TC 455/WG 4, see:

- TS: Table 3, no. 29-32 and 49
- hEN: Table 1, no. 28-31 and 48
- Link to requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009: Table 4

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.2.2020

on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards the EU fertilising products in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European Parliament and of the Council

(Only the English, French and German versions are authentic)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on European standardisation, amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decision 87/95/EEC and Decision 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, and in particular Article 10(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European Parliament and of the Council² lays down rules on making available on the market of EU fertilising products, and repeals Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 of the European Parliament and the Council³.
- (2) In accordance with Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, EU fertilising products which are in conformity with harmonised standards or parts thereof the references of which have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* are to be presumed to be in conformity with the requirements set out in Annexes I, II and III to that Regulation covered by those standards or parts thereof.
- (3) In accordance with Article 13(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, tests for verifying the conformity of EU fertilising products with the requirements set out in Annexes I, II and III to that Regulation which are in conformity with harmonised standards or parts thereof, the references of which have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, are to be presumed to be reliable and reproducible to the extent that the tests are covered by those standards or parts thereof.
- (4) Harmonised standards help ensuring a high level of protection of human, animal and plant health and of the environment throughout the Union, and contribute to the free movement of quality EU fertilising products in the Union. Given that such standards are technology-neutral and performance-based, they also contribute to ensuring equal

¹ OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p. 12.

² Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 laying down rules on the making available on the market of EU fertilising products and amending Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EC) No 1107/2009 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 (OJ L 170, 25.6.2019, p. 1).

³ Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 relating to fertilisers (OJ L 304, 21.11.2003, p. 1).

conditions of competition among relevant economic operators dealing with EU fertilising products, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises. Harmonised standards help manufacturers in proving the conformity of their products with the relevant requirements set out in Union harmonisation legislation.

- (5) Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 almost exclusively covers fertilisers from mined or chemically produced, inorganic materials. Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 aligns the existing harmonisation rules to the new legislative framework and introduces major changes with regard to harmonisation rules for products covered by Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003. Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 also sets harmonisation rules for other products intended to provide plants with nutrients, such as organic fertilisers, or products intended to improve plants' nutrition efficiency.
- (6) Contrary to most other product harmonisation measures in Union legislation and in view of the local nature of certain fertilising product markets, Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 does not prevent non-harmonised fertilising products from being made available on the internal market in accordance with national law and the general free movement rules of the Treaty. Compliance with harmonisation rules remains optional, and is required only for products, which are CE marked when made available on the market. The requested standardisation activities should therefore not cover non-harmonised products, which are outside the scope of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 when made available on the market.
- (7) The intention to request drafting of harmonised standards in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 is stated in point 2.4 of the annual Union work programme for European standardisation for 2018⁴.
- (8) The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) has indicated that the work covered by the request falls entirely within its area of competence.
- (9) It is therefore appropriate to request CEN to draft harmonised standards in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009.
- (10) Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 will apply from 16 July 2022. In order to ensure that harmonised standards are available before that date, the deadlines for the adoption of those standards by CEN should be set whenever it is technically feasible before 16 July 2022. Given that the execution of the request may require more time than initially foreseen, it may be necessary to extend the deadlines for adoption of the standards taking into account the progress made in the implementation of the work programme prepared by CEN for the execution of the request.
- (11) Whenever for technical reasons it is not deemed feasible to develop a harmonised standard before 16 July 2022, it is appropriate to request CEN to adopt technical specifications in the form of European standardisation deliverables as a first step. While such technical specifications cannot provide the presumption of conformity in accordance with Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, they could nevertheless help manufacturers to prove conformity of their products with requirements of that Regulation until harmonised standards can be developed. In a subsequent step, for all those requirements for which European standardisation deliverables are requested as a first step, CEN should develop the corresponding harmonised standards within deadlines that are technically feasible.

⁴ COM (2017) 453 final of 25 August 2017.

- (12) It is therefore appropriate to request CEN also to draft European standardisation deliverables in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009.
- (13) The European standardisation deliverables are not included in the annual Union work programme for European standardisation for 2018. There is an urgent need to request such deliverables given that some harmonised standards needed for smooth implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 cannot be developed before its date of application.
- (14) Some of the harmonised standards requested will rely on the same sampling methods or will use common terminology. For ease of reference, to simplify standardisation work and to avoid unnecessary repetitions such sampling methods or common terminology should be included in separate harmonised standards. In this way, any harmonised standard where sampling is an intermediate step or the relevant terminology is used could refer to the relevant standard covering those issues. Such standards alone cannot prove conformity with any of the requirements in Annexes I, II and III to Regulation (EU) 2019/1009.
- (15) It is therefore appropriate to request CEN also to draft harmonised standards on sampling methods and common terminology needed in the development of harmonised standards in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009.
- (16) Harmonised standards should include detailed technical specifications of the requirements or the tests for verifying conformity with the requirements. They should also indicate clearly the correlation between technical specifications or tests and the requirements they aim to cover. They should also be based on risk assessment and risk reduction methodologies and reflect the generally acknowledged state of the art.
- (17) Information as to which requirements are covered by a harmonised standard is necessary when assessing, in accordance with Article 10(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, the compliance of the documents drafted by the European standardisation organisations. Such information is also necessary before publication of references of harmonised standards in the *Official Journal of the European Union* in accordance with Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012. In each harmonised standard CEN should therefore describe the extent to which it aims to cover one or several requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009.
- (18) Several European and international standards exist in relation to fertilising products. Some European standards are mandatory for checking the compliance with various criteria set in Commission Decision (EU) 2015/2099⁵. If manufacturers intend to use the EU Ecolabel for marketing purposes, they have to respect the criteria in that Decision and apply the standards listed therein. Therefore, a manufacturer cannot choose unilaterally to extract the principles of a test method in a standard for a specific product category to the testing of a different product category. By contrast, the requirements set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 will be mandatory for all EU fertilising products made available on the internal market. However, the standards to be developed by CEN based on this request will remain voluntary for manufacturers of such fertilising products, who are also free to justify their choice of alternative standards or technical specifications to prove conformity with the provisions of that Regulation. It is therefore important that, in various standards proving conformity with identically worded provisions in the Regulation, the fundamental principles are also

⁵ Commission Decision (EU) 2015/2099 of 18 September 2015 establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for growing media, soil improvers and mulch (OJ L 303/20.11.2015, p. 75).

identical. Therefore, having in mind the different purpose and construction of Decision (EU) 2015/2099 and Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, CEN should use those standards as well as any other European or international standard as a basis for drafting the standards and European standardisation deliverables in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 only where such standards are suitable for proving conformity with the requirements in that Regulation.

- (19) The standards and the European standardisation deliverables should not interpret or add to the requirements set in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009. For instance, when a requirement refers to a "contaminant in an EU fertilising product", the test methods included by CEN in a standard or a European standardisation deliverable should not measure the leaching of that contaminant from the product nor its bioavailable share in the product.
- (20) The European standardisation organisations have agreed to follow the Guidelines for the execution of standardisation requests⁶.
- (21) In order to ensure transparency and facilitate the execution of the requested standardisation activities CEN should prepare a work programme and submit it to the Commission.
- (22) In order to enable the Commission to better monitor the requested standardisation work, CEN should provide the Commission with access to an overall project plan containing detailed information on the execution of the standardisation request. CEN should promptly inform the Commission if they consider that additional standards or European standardisation deliverables would need to be developed or if they consider that more time would be necessary for the execution of this request.
- (23) In accordance with Article 10(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 each standardisation request is subject to acceptance by the relevant European standardisation organisation. It is therefore necessary to provide for the rules on validity of this request if it is not accepted by CEN.
- (24) In order to ensure legal certainty as to the validity of the request after its execution, it is appropriate to provide for a date of expiry of this Decision. Given that the execution of the request may require more time than initially foreseen, it may be necessary to extend the date of expiry taking into account the progress made in the implementation of the work programme prepared by CEN for the execution of the request.
- (25) Given that several European standards have been developed on the basis of standardisation mandates M/335 of 2003, M/418 of 2007 and M/454 of 2009 in support of Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 which will be replaced by Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, it is appropriate to provide for the end of validity of those standardisation mandates. Considering that Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 will be repealed as of 16 July 2022, the mandates M/335, M/418 and M/454 should remain valid until that date.
- (26) The European standardisation organisations, the European stakeholders' organisations receiving Union financing and the Fertilisers Working Group have been consulted.
- (27) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, established by Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012,

⁶ SWD(2015) 205 final of 27 October 2015.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Requested standardisation activities

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is requested to draft harmonised standards and European standardisation deliverables listed in Annex I to this Decision in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 for EU fertilising products by the deadlines set in that Annex. However, where CEN adopts a harmonised standard listed in Tables 1 and 2 of Annex I before the deadline for adoption of the corresponding European standardisation deliverable listed in Table 3 of Annex I, it shall no longer be required to adopt the corresponding European standardisation deliverable.

The standards and standardisation deliverables referred to in the first paragraph shall meet the relevant requirements set out in Annex II.

Article 2

Work programme

CEN shall prepare a work programme indicating all the standards and standardisation deliverables listed in Annex I, the responsible technical bodies and a timetable for the execution of the requested standardisation activities in line with the deadlines set out in that Annex.

CEN shall submit the draft work programme to the Commission by 15 May 2020. CEN shall inform the Commission of any amendments to the work programme.

CEN shall provide the Commission with access to an overall project plan.

Article 3

Reporting

1. CEN shall report annually to the Commission on the execution of the request referred to in Article 1 indicating the progress made in implementation of the work programme referenced to in Article 2.
2. CEN shall submit the first annual report to the Commission by 1 April 2021.
3. Subsequent annual reports shall be submitted to the Commission by 1 April each year.
4. CEN shall provide the Commission with the final report by 1 October 2024.
5. CEN shall promptly report to the Commission any major concerns relating to the scope of the request referred to in Article 1 and the deadlines set in Annex I. CEN shall also inform the Commission if it identifies the need to cover the requirements in a different harmonised standard or a European standardisation deliverable than the one indicated in Annex I and provide reasons for such need.

Article 4

Validity of the standardisation request

If CEN does not accept the request referred to in Article 1 within a month of receiving it, the request may not constitute a basis for the standardisation activities referred to in that Article.

This Decision shall expire on 1 April 2026.

Article 5
Expiry of existing standardisation mandates

Standardisation mandates M/335 of 20 June 2003, M/418 of 5 December 2007 and M/454 of 1 October 2009 shall expire on 15 July 2022.

Article 6
Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the European Committee for Standardisation.

Done at Brussels, 10.2.2020

For the Commission
Thierry BRETON
Member of the Commission





Brussels, 10.2.2020
C(2020) 612 final

ANNEXES 1 to 2

ANNEXES

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards
the EU fertilising products in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European
Parliament and of the Council**

ANNEX I

Table 1. List of harmonised standards to be drafted, and deadlines for their adoption

No	Title of standard	Requirements and reference information to be covered by the standard	Deadline for adoption by CEN
1.	European Standard: Organic and Organo-mineral fertilisers – Determination of specific elements	<p>Determination of the cadmium, nickel, mercury and lead content To use as basis the standards Extraction: EN 13650 Determination: EN 16319 (for Cd/Ni/Pb) or EPA method 7473 with EN 13040 for the preparatory phase (for Hg) or EN 16320 (for Hg) or ISO 16772 (for Hg) or EN 13650 or ISO 11885 or ICP - MS or ICP-OES method</p> <p>Determination of the inorganic arsenic content To use as basis the standards: Extraction : EN 13650 Determination : EN 16317 or ISO 11885 or ICP - MS or ICP-OES method or HPLC</p> <p>Determination of the total P₂O₅, K₂O, MgO, CaO and Na₂O content To use as basis the standards Extraction: EN 13650 or EN 16174 Determination: ISO 11885 or CEN/TS 16170 or CEN/TS 16171</p> <p>Determination of the copper and zinc content To use as basis the standards Extraction: EN 13650 Determination: ISO 11885</p> <p>Determination of the total SO₃ content To use as basis the standards Extraction: EN 15925 Determination: EN 15749 or</p>	01 April 2024

27.	European Standard: Growing media – Determination of specific parameters	Determination of the electrical conductivity To use as basis the standard: EN 13038	01 April 2024
		Determination of pH To use as basis standard: EN 13037	
		Determination of dry matter To be developed	
		Determination of the nitrogen, P₂O₅ and K₂O content extractable by CaCl₂/DTPA To use as basis the standard: EN 13651	
		Determination of the total copper and zinc content To use as basis the standards: EN 13650	
		Determination of quantity To use as basis the standards : EN 12580 or EN 15238 or EN 15761	
		Determination of the chloride content To use as basis the standard Determination: EN 16195	
28.	European Standard: Plant biostimulants - Determination of specific elements	Determination of the cadmium and lead content To use as basis the standards Extraction: by aqua regia EN 13650 or EN 16964 Determination: EN 16319 (Cd/Pb) or EN 16170 or EN 16963 or EN 16317 or ISO 11885	01 April 2024
		Determination of the nickel content To use as basis the standards Extraction: by aqua regia EN 13650 Determination: ISO 11885 or EN 16319	
		Determination of the mercury content To use as basis the standard: EN 16320 or EN 16175-1	
		Determination of the copper and zinc	

		<p>content</p> <p>To use as basis the standards</p> <p>Extraction: by aqua regia EN 13650</p> <p>Determination: EN 16319 (Cd/Pb) or EN 16170 or EN 16963 or EN 16317 or ISO 11885</p>	
		<p>Determination of the total chromium content</p> <p>To use as basis the standards:</p> <p>Extraction: by aqua regia EN 13650</p> <p>Determination: ISO 11885 or EN 16319</p>	
29.	<p>European Standard:</p> <p>Plant biostimulants - Determination of inorganic arsenic</p>	<p>Determination of the inorganic arsenic content</p> <p>To be developed</p>	01 April 2024
30.	<p>European Standard:</p> <p>Plant biostimulants - Determination of phosphonates</p>	<p>Determination of the phosphonates content</p> <p>To be developed</p>	01 April 2024
31.	<p>European Standard:</p> <p>Plant biostimulants - Determination of chromium VI</p>	<p>Determination of the chromium VI content</p> <p>To use as basis the standards: EN 15192 or ISO 17075-2</p>	01 April 2024
32.	<p>European Standard:</p> <p>Microbial plant biostimulants – Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp</p>	<p>Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp</p> <p>To use as basis standard: EN ISO 6579 or CEN/TR 15215</p>	01 April 2024
33.	<p>European Standard:</p> <p>Microbial plant biostimulants –</p>	<p>Detection of <i>Escherichia coli</i></p> <p>To use as basis standards: ISO 16649-2 or EN ISO 9308-3</p>	01 April 2024

	biostimulants- Determination of the pH for liquids		
47.	European Standard: Plant biostimulants – Determination of quantity	Determination of quantity (indicated by mass or volume) To use as basis the standard: EN 12580 or EN 15238 or EN 15761	01 April 2024
48.	European Standard: Plant biostimulants – Determination of dry matter	Determination of dry matter To be developed To use as basis the standards: EN 15934 and ISO 11465	01 April 2024
49.	European Standard: Plant biostimulants – Determination of chloride	Determination of the chloride content To use as basis the standard: EN 16195 and NF U42-371 or EN ISO 10304-1	01 April 2024
50.	European Standard: Fertilising products – Stability of chelating and complexing agents	Determination of the stability of chelating agents To be developed	01 April 2024
		Determination of the stability of complexing agents To be developed	
51.	European Standard: Compost and digestate properties when used in fertilising products	Determination of the PAH₁₆ content in compost and digestate To use as basis standard: EN 16181	01 April 2024
		Determination of the content of macroscopic impurities (glass, metal, plastics) above 2mm in compost and digestate To use as basis technical specification: CEN TS/16202	
		Determination of temperature and time profile during composting and digestion To be developed	
		Determination of the oxygen uptake rate in	

	methods and sample preparation To be developed	
4.	European Standard: Growing media and soil improvers - Sampling methods and sample preparation To use as basis standards: EN 12579 or EN 13040	01 April 2024
5.	European Standard: Growing media and soil improvers - Terminology To use as basis standards: EN 12579 or EN 13040	01 April 2024
6.	European Standard: Plant biostimulants – Sampling methods and sample preparation To be developed	01 April 2024
7.	European Standard: Microbial plant biostimulants – Preparation of sample for microbial analysis To be developed	01 April 2024
8.	European Standard: Plant Biostimulants – Terminology To be developed	01 April 2024
9.	European Standard: Plant Biostimulants – Claims – General Principles To be developed	01 April 2024

Table 3. List of new European standardisation deliverables to be drafted, and deadlines for their adoption

Technical Specifications:

No	Title of technical specification	Requirements and reference information to be covered by the standard	Deadline for adoption by CEN
1.	Technical Specification: Organic and Organo-mineral fertilisers – Determination of specific elements	Determination of the cadmium, nickel and lead content To use as basis the standards Extraction: EN 13650 Determination: EN 16319 (for Cd/Ni/Pb) or EN 13650 or ISO 11885 or ICP - MS or ICP-OES method	01 April 2022
		Determination of the inorganic arsenic content	

		To use as basis the standard: EN 13650	
		Determination of quantity To use as basis the standard: EN 12580 or EN 15238 or EN 15761	
		Determination of the chloride content To use as basis the standard Determination: EN 16195	
29.	Technical Specification: Plant biostimulants - Determination of specific elements	Determination of the cadmium and lead content To use as basis the standards Extraction: by aqua regia EN 13650 or EN 16964 Determination: EN 16319 (Cd/Pb) or EN 16170 or EN 16963 or EN 16317 or ISO 11885 Determination of the nickel content To use as basis the standards Extraction: by aqua regia EN 13650 Determination: ISO 11885 or EN 16319 Determination of the mercury content To use as basis the standard: EN 16320 or EN 16175-1 Determination of the copper and zinc content To use as basis the standards Extraction: by aqua regia EN 13650 Determination: EN 16319 (Cd/Pb) or EN 16170 or EN 16963 or EN 16317 or ISO 11885 Determination of the total chromium content To use as basis the standards: Extraction: by aqua regia EN 13650 Determination: ISO 11885 or EN 16319 (Cd/Pb)	01 April 2022
30.	Technical Specification: Plant	Determination of the inorganic arsenic content	01 April 2022

	biostimulants - Determination of inorganic arsenic	To be developed	
31.	Technical Specification: Plant biostimulants - Determination of phosphonates	Determination of the phosphonates content To be developed	01 April 2022
32.	Technical Specification: Plant biostimulants - Determination of chromium VI	Determination of the chromium VI content To use as basis the standards: EN 15192 or ISO 17075-2	01 April 2022
33.	Technical Specification: Microbial plant biostimulants – Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp	Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp To use as basis standard: EN ISO 6579 or CEN/TR 15215	01 April 2022
34.	Technical Specification: Microbial plant biostimulants – Detection of <i>Escherichia coli</i>	Detection of <i>Escherichia coli</i> To use as basis standards: ISO 16649-2 or EN ISO 9308-3	01 April 2022
35.	Technical Specification: Microbial plant biostimulants – Detection of <i>Enterococcaceae</i>	Detection of <i>Enterococcaceae</i> To use as basis standards: EN 15788 or EN ISO 7899-2 or EN ISO 7899-1 or BEA method	01 April 2022
36.	Technical Specification: Microbial plant biostimulants – Detection of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Detection of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> To use as basis standard: EN ISO 11290-1	01 April 2022

	Determination of mycorrhizal fungi		
44.	Technical Specification: Microbial Plant biostimulants – Determination of <i>Rhizobium</i> spp	Determination of <i>Rhizobium</i> spp To be developed	01 April 2022
45.	Technical Specification: Microbial Plant biostimulants – Determination of <i>Azospirillum</i> spp	Determination of <i>Azospirillum</i> spp To be developed	01 April 2022
46.	Technical Specification: Microbial plant biostimulants- Determination of the microorganisms concentration	Determination of the microorganisms concentration To be developed	01 April 2022
47.	Technical Specification: Microbial plant biostimulants- Determination of the pH for liquids	Determination of the pH for liquids To be developed	01 April 2022
48.	Technical Specification: Plant biostimulants – Determination of quantity	Determination of quantity (indicated by mass or volume) To use as basis the standard: EN 12580 or EN 15238 or EN 15761	01 April 2022
49.	Technical Specification: Plant biostimulants – Determination of dry matter	Determination of dry matter To be developed To use as basis the standards: EN 15934 and ISO 11465	01 April 2022

ANNEX II

Requirements for the standards referred to in Article 1

Part A. General requirements

- (1) The harmonised standards and the European standardisation deliverables, or parts thereof, shall provide detailed technical specifications of requirements or test methods with the purpose of allowing analysis and verifying compliance of EU fertilising products with relevant requirements referred to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 and set out in Annexes I, II and III to that Regulation. The structure of a standard and a European standardisation deliverable shall be such that a clear distinction can be made between its clauses and sub-clauses, which are necessary for compliance with the relevant requirements and those which are not. The requirements shall be taken into account from the beginning and throughout the entire process of developing of standards and European standardisation deliverables.
- (2) CEN shall include in each harmonised standard a clear and precise description of the relationship between its content and the corresponding requirements set out in Annexes I, II and III to Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 that it aims to cover. Each harmonised standard developed on the basis of the request referred to in Article 1 of this Decision shall refer to this Decision.
- (3) CEN shall provide the Commission with the titles of the requested harmonised standards in all the official languages of the Union.
- (4) When a harmonised standard or a European standardisation deliverable covering a requirement cannot be used for technical reasons to some categories of products for which this requirement is provided, it shall indicate those products that are not covered by it. When a harmonised standard or a European standardisation deliverable does not cover all the test methods required to demonstrate compliance with certain requirements, it shall indicate those test methods that are not covered by it. When a harmonised standard or a European standardisation deliverable contains test methods or technical specifications, which do not support the demonstration of compliance of the EU fertilising products with the requirements set out in Annexes I, II and III to Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, such test methods or technical specifications shall be clearly distinguished from the tests or specifications supporting the requirements.
- (5) The standards and the European standardisation deliverables shall not provide any additional requirements to the requirements set out in Annexes I, II and III to Regulation (EU) 2019/1009.
- (6) CEN shall ensure that the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 are not altered by the technical specifications in harmonised standards or European standardisation deliverables.
- (7) When developing the harmonised standards and the European standardisation deliverables requested in Annex I to this Decision, CEN shall take into account the fact that EU fertilising products belonging to products function categories (PFCs) 1 to 6 in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 could be used to formulate a blend as provided in PFC 7 of that Regulation. The methods developed for PFCs 1 to 6 shall provide reliable results even if used for testing a blend. The harmonised standards and the European standardisation deliverables shall indicate when a specific standard or European standardisation deliverable cannot be used as such in case of a blend.

- (8) The harmonised standards and the European standardisation deliverables shall reflect the generally acknowledged state of art.
- (9) CEN shall ensure that the reproducibility and reliability of the tests for quantitative and qualitative analysis, except environmental tests, are assessed in relevant inter-laboratory tests. These tests shall be carried out on multiple samples for each relevant type of existing EU fertilising product.
- (10) Harmonised standards and European standardisation deliverables shall also reflect the technical and human capacities of the laboratories that will be entrusted with conformity assessment and market surveillance duties.
- (11) Harmonised standards and European standardisation deliverables shall not prevent innovation and therefore several alternative test methods shall be referred to therein where such alternative test methods are available. By doing so, CEN shall verify the equivalence of the different methods in their capacity to demonstrate the compliance of products to a given requirement.

Part B. Specific requirements

1. Standards on organic fertilisers in Annex I

The harmonised standards shall describe the test methods to be applied for verifying the conformity of organic fertilisers with the requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009. The harmonised standards shall cover the relevant requirements (listed in Table 1 of Annex I to this Decision) and which have a direct reference to provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, as listed in the following table.

Requirement	Reference to provisions
Organic fertilisers - Determination of the mercury content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 1(A), point 2(c)
Organic fertilisers - Determination of the cadmium, nickel and lead content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 1(A), point 2(a), (d) and (e)
Organic fertilisers - Determination of the chromium VI content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 1(A), point 2(b)
Organic fertilisers - Determination of the biuret content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 1(A), point 2
Organic fertilisers - Determination of the inorganic arsenic content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 1(A), point 2(f)
Organic fertilisers - Determination of the total chromium content	Annex IV, Part II, Module A, point 2.2 (j) Annex IV, Part II, Module

Growing media - Determination of quantity	Annex III, Part II, PFC 4, points 2 and 3
Growing media - Determination of dry matter	Annex I, Part II, PFC 4, third dash
Growing media - Determination of the chloride content	Annex III, Part I, point 8
Growing media - Determination of the phosphonates content	Annex I, Part II, point 6
Growing media - Determination of the total chromium content	Annex IV, Part II, Module A, point 2.2 (j) Annex IV, Part II, Module B, point 2.2 (k) Annex IV, Part II, Module D1, point 2.2 (k)

7. Standards on plant biostimulants in Annex I

The harmonised standards shall describe the test methods to be applied for verifying the conformity of plant biostimulants with the requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009. The harmonised standards shall cover the relevant requirements (listed in Table 1 of Annex I to this Decision) and which have a direct reference to provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, as listed in the following table.

Requirement	Reference to provisions
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the cadmium and lead content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 6, point 2(a) and (c)
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the chromium VI content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 6, point 2(b)
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the mercury content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 6, point 2(d)
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the nickel content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 6, point 2(e)
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the inorganic arsenic content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 6, point 2(f)
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the copper and zinc content	Annex I, Part II, PFC 6, point 3

	Annex II, Part II, CMC 7, second dash
Plant biostimulants - Determination of quantity (indicated by mass or volume)	Annex III, Part I, point 1(c)
Microbial plant biostimulant - Determination of microorganisms concentration	Annex III, Part II, PFC 6(A)
Plant biostimulants - Determination of dry matter	Annex I, Part II, PFC 6 Annex III, Part II, PFC 6
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the chloride content	Annex III, Part I, point 9
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the phosphonates content	Annex I, Part II, point 6
Plant biostimulants - Determination of the total chromium content	Annex IV, Part II, Module B, point 2.2 (k) Annex IV, Part II, Module D1, point 2.2 (k)

8. Standards on inhibitors and specific component material categories in Annex I

The harmonised standards shall describe the technical specifications and test methods to be applied for verifying the conformity of specific component material categories with the requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 2019/1009. The harmonised standards shall cover the relevant requirements (listed in Table 1 of Annex I to this Decision) and which have a direct reference to provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009, as listed in the following table.

Requirement	Reference to provisions
Fertilising products – Determination of the stability of chelating agents	Annex II, Part II, CMC1, point 3(a)
Fertilising products – Determination of the stability of complexing agents	Annex II, Part II, CMC, point 3(b)
Fertilising products – Determination of the PAH₁₆ content in composts and digestates	Annex II, Part II, CMC 3, point 4(a) Annex II, Part II, CMC 5, point 4
Fertilising products – Determination of the content of macroscopic impurities (glass, metal, plastics) above 2mm in composts and digestates	Annex II, Part II, CMC3, point 4(b) and (c)

Annex 2 - Scoring system for the selection criteria for the convenor

CALL	1
ROLE OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR	Convenor
WORKING GROUP	CEN/TC 455/WG 4
ELEMENTS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE TENDER	
PROFILE	50%
Required expertise and experiences	25%
Expertise knowledge	General knowledge of the methods 15%
At least X years of practical experience in the topic to be standardised	-
Knowledge of the European policies and legislation	10%
Management competences, experience or ability to:	25%
· present complex issues in the given context as a definition in an understandable way	5%
· coordinate a group of experts	5%
· contribute as content provider to the requested deliverables	5%
· ensure the consolidation and integration of all contents provided by the participant experts	5%
· reach consensus	5%
SUPPLY OF DELIVERABLES	15%
Understanding of tasks and responsibilities	7%
Number of days of work	2%
Comprehension of the scope	2%
Quality of the proposal (clarity, match with description given...)	3%
Ability to supply deliverables at specified target dates	8%
Calendar of the proposal vs expected	8%
EXPERIENCE IN EUROPEAN AND/OR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION	10%
Number of projects	5%
Number of years	5%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS	10%
English level	4%
Participation to events/working groups in English...	6%
PRICE	15%
Daily rate	EUR/MD
Number of work days	MD
Travel costs	EUR
Other costs	EUR
TOTAL	100%



**Annex 4
Application form**

**Open call for tenders for
one Convenor, five Project leaders and three Experts
for the execution of work in CEN/TC 455/WG 4 “Other safety parameters”**

**as part of the European Commission Standardisation Request M/564
to the European Committee for Standardisation referring to the
EU fertilising products in support of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009
of the European Parliament and of the Council**

A- Contact details of the Applicant

Name:
Position:
Phone:
Email address:

**B- Information about the organisation/s the applicant is working for
(name, website, contact person, phone, email)**

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C- Curriculum Vitae (maximum 4 pages A4)

Please add it as a separate document.

D- Please specify for which service you apply (tick-boxes)

I hereby apply for	Call no.	Service	Objective
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Convenor WG 4	CEN/TC 455/WG 4
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Project leader	see 2 a-c): Plant biostimulants – Determination of specific elements – Part 1: Digestion by aqua regia for subsequent determination of elements Plant biostimulants – Determination of specific elements – Part 2: Determination of total content of Cd, Pb, Ni, As, Cr, Cu and Zn Plant biostimulants – Determination of specific elements – Part 3: Determination of mercury
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Project leader	see 2 d) Plant biostimulants – Determination of chromium (VI)
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Project leader	see 2 d) Plant biostimulants – Determination of chromium (VI)
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Expert	see 2 e) Plant biostimulants – Determination of dry matter
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Project leader	see 2 f) Plant biostimulants – Determination of phosphonates
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Expert	see 2 f) Plant biostimulants – Determination of phosphonates
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Project leader	see 2 g) Plant biostimulants – Determination of inorganic arsenic

E- Please describe and prove evidence of the required skills and expertise

Please fill in Table 2.



Table 2 – Your compliance with the selection criteria (please provide references to your CV)

REQUIRED EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCES	
Personal background	
Expertise knowledge	
At least X years of practical experience in the topic to be standardised	
Knowledge of the European policies and legislation	
Management competences, experience or ability to:	
present complex issues in the given context as a definition in an understandable way	
coordinate a group of experts	
contribute as content provider to the requested deliverables	
ensure the consolidation and integration of all contents provided by the participant experts	
reach consensus	
Institutional Background	
Equipment and staff for preliminary tests and method development available	
Certified and/or accredited laboratory	
SUPPLY OF DELIVERABLES	
Understanding of tasks and responsibilities	
Number of days of work	
Comprehension of the scope	
Quality of the proposal (clarity, match with description given...)	
Ability to supply deliverables at specified target dates	
Calendar of the proposal vs expected	
DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS	
Number of projects	
Number of years	
All tests provided by an accredited laboratory (EN ISO 17025)	
EXPERIENCE IN EUROPEAN AND/OR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION	
Number of projects	
Number of years	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS	
English level	
Participation to events/working groups in English...	



F- Information on the costs of the expert¹

- Daily rates:
- Number of man-days:
- Travel expenses¹:

Total costs:

G- Proposal how to supply the deliverables (TS/hEN) in time, breakdown of tasks and responsibilities (if necessary in a separate document)

H- Declaration and signature

Hereby I certify that all documents provided are veracious and in conformity with reality and I certify not to be in any situation as described in the exclusion criteria², i.e.:

- a) subject of a non-likely judgment of recourse for a professional infringement
- b) to be in an irregular tax situation or in an irregular special taxation situation
- c) to provide with incomplete or erroneous information

I also certify that I had no conflict of interest by submitting the present offer.

Signature:
(print name here)

Date :

¹ Please mention:

- The travel expenses for the Convenor WG 1 will be reimbursed separately, please include an estimation.
- The travel expenses for the Project leader WG 1 will not be reimbursed separately, please include the estimated travel expenses into the daily rate.

² https://ec.europa.eu/oib/doc/tenders-submission-guide_en.pdf, 2.2.3.2