



**CEN/SABE Team**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL TC's Co-operation Team**

Date: 2008-03-20

Reference: **ENV TC 216**

Prepared by: Mr Beltman and Mr de Brouwer

**SUBJECT:**           **Discussion paper on horizontal standardization**

**SUMMARY:**       Please find attached a document prepared by NEN on horizontal standardization. It is to be discussed at the next ENV TC CT meeting in Athens.

**ACTION  
REQUIRED:**       For discussion

**MEMBERS**

Chair and secretary of:

TC 223	Soil improvers and growing media
TC 230	Water analysis
TC 264	Air quality
TC 292	Characterisation of waste
TC 308	Characterisation of sludge
TC 343	Solid recovered fuels
TC 345	Characterisation of soil
TC 351	Dangerous Substances CPD
BT/TF 151	Horizontal

SABE Chairman and vice-chairman

SABE/IPPC Monitoring team leader

Environmental coordinators of CEN member bodies

CEN/EHD

CSNPE Convenor

**Corresponding Members**

Chair and secretary of:

TC 164	Water supply
TC 165	Waste water engineering
TC 260	Fertilisers
ECOS	European Environmental Citizens' Organisation for Standardisation
PEER	Partnership for European Environmental Research Network

## Discussion note on horizontal standardization

**The current discussion note does not intend to start discussion on the possible future use of horizontal standardization at this moment. It merely aims to reach consensus on the need and process to develop a broadly supported vision on horizontal standardization in the CEN-environmental field.**

### Introduction

Horizontal standardization (defined as standardization dealing with a topic covering multiple (environmental) TC's) has been on the agenda of CEN-Environment ever since the start of project HORIZONTAL in 2002. With the finalization of project HORIZONTAL the issue of publication of horizontal standards in the CEN standardization infrastructure becomes prominent again.

In the discussions on horizontal standardization two levels can be discerned as is shown in figure 1.

1. the discussion of implementation of documents that are a direct result of project HORIZONTAL: In this discussion the operational question how to implement these documents into the CEN-system is important. This needs a pragmatic approach that provides a solution over a short term and for a defined set of documents.
2. a fundamental discussion on validity, content and process of horizontal standardization: This discussion is strategic in nature and necessitates a broad approach to develop a common vision on (im)possibilities for development as well as coexistence and use of horizontal and vertical standards in the environmental field. The outcomes of this discussion are relevant over the longer term in order to provide a consistent and broadly supported approach to horizontal standardization within the CEN-environmental field. Relevant questions in this discussion are for example:
  - Which advantages and disadvantages are seen with regard to horizontal and vertical standardization
  - Under which circumstances should horizontal or vertical standardization preferentially be developed and applied
  - What are the risk factors in horizontal standardization as evidenced by the experience of CEN TF151? And what are the lessons that can be learned from this experience?
  - Is it possible to develop a set of criteria for distinguishing situations and circumstances in which vertical or horizontal standards should be applied?
  - is it possible to develop a preferential approach to enable implementation of horizontal standardization into the CEN-standardization practice?

The two levels as described above can be summarized as follows

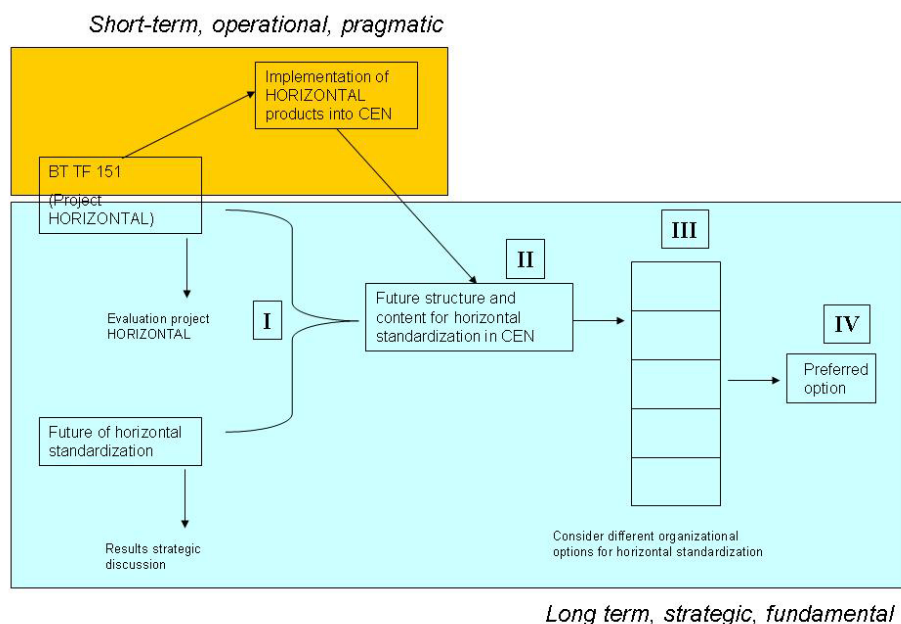


Figure 1 – Scheme showing the different discussions on horizontal standardization in the CEN-environmental field (Roman numerals refer to possible steps for a workprogram as indicated under the section 'Future approach')

As is shown in Figure 1, it is envisaged that a strategic discussion will be fueled from different sources. These include the evaluation of project HORIZONTAL, the approach followed for implementation of HORIZONTAL documents and the opinions of stakeholders in the member states on possible future use of horizontal standardization. The aim of this discussion is to come to a broadly supported view on future structure and content for horizontal standardization in CEN. This will provide a basis to consider different options for implementation of horizontal standardization in the CEN-system.

### **Roles of different committees**

In the process described in Figure 1, BT TF 151, ENV-TCs-CT and SABE are involved. Their roles are considered to be as follows:

- BT TF 151: this is the place to discuss implementation of HORIZONTAL-documents into the CEN-system. It also serves to provide an evaluation of project HORIZONTAL.
- ENV-TCs-CT: this is the place to have a strategic discussion which includes to assess the lessons learnt from the TF 151 experience as well as opinions of stakeholders, NSB's CEN and EC on horizontal standardization in order to obtain consensus on content and process of horizontal standardization.
- SABE: decision-making body that needs to discuss and approve the form of future horizontal standardisation and advise BT based on the outcomes of the discussions.

### **Future approach**

Based on the above, it is envisaged that the discussion on horizontal standardization takes two routes.

1. The operational discussion on implementation of project HORIZONTAL documents is considered to be within the domain of BT TF 151.
2. The strategic discussion to develop a coherent and broadly supported vision on the role and process of horizontal standardization can take place under ENV-TCs-CT and SABE. In order to structure this discussion, a possible idea may be to activate a project group 'Strategy horizontal standardization'.

The work program of the second project may be as follows:

- I. Inventory of viewpoints on horizontal/vertical standardization, based on opinions among NSBs, stakeholders, TCs and BT TF 151 and based on results of evaluation of project HORIZONTAL.
- II. Preparation of a report presenting a general vision on coexistence of horizontal and vertical standardization and the way this can be organized, based on results of the inventory phase. This may also include identification of future topic and needs for horizontal standardization. Approval of this report in SABE (and ENV-TCs-CT) is needed to provide a basis for further development of a strategy to give horizontal standardization a place in the CEN-structure
- III. Preparation of a report providing different options to implement horizontal standardization in the CEN-structure. These options can take different forms such as use of the existing structure, establishment of horizontal TC, modification of procedures within the CEN-structure etc. Based on this report a discussion can take place to identify the preferential approach to be followed.
- IV. Confirmation of the preferential approach and decision on further route to come to practical implementation of the preferred option

### **Relevant questions for BT TF 151, ENV-TCs-CT and SABE**

The following questions are relevant and requested to be addressed in BT TF 151, ENV-TCs CT and SABE:

1. Is there agreement that with regard to horizontal standardization, two separate topics need to be discerned? These are (1) implementation of project HORIZONTAL documents, which is a short-term, operational project and (2) development of a general vision on horizontal standardization, which is a longer-term, strategic process.
2. What is the opinion on the relevance to initiate a strategic discussion on the role of horizontal standardization?
3. What is the opinion on the proposed working program to have a strategic discussion on horizontal standardization?
4. Is there agreement on the subsequent roles of BT TF 151, ENV-TCs CT and SABE?
5. Which decisions need to be taken in relation and further to this discussion note?