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English Version

Solid biofuels - A guide for a quality assurance system

Biocombustibles solides - Guide du système d'assurance
Qualité

Feste Biobrennstoffe - Leitlinie für ein
Qualitätssicherungssystem

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 22 January 2007. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 335.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
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Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

Contents

Page

Foreword.....	3
Introduction	4
1 Scope	5
2 Normative references	5
3 Terms and definitions	5
4 Background	6
4.1 General.....	6
4.2 Purpose of this guide	6
5 Quality Assurance principles	7
5.1 General.....	7
5.2 Comparison of Quality Control and Quality Assurance	7
5.3 Previous, Current and Following Processes	8
5.4 Quality requirements	10
6 Designing a system for solid biofuels quality assurance	12
6.1 General.....	12
6.2 Step 1 – Description of process chain	13
6.3 Step 2 – Description of customers requirements.....	15
6.4 Step 3 – Analysis of quality influencing factors.....	18
6.5 Step 4 – Identification of Critical Control Points	20
6.6 Step 5 – Selection of appropriate Quality Assurance measures	23
6.7 Step 6 – Routines for separate handling nonconforming materials and biofuels	26
Annex A (informative) EN ISO 9001:2008 – Useful cross references within this guide	27
Annex B (informative) List of CEN/TC 335 Technical Specifications.....	28
Bibliography	30

Foreword

This document (CEN/TR 15569:2009) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 335 “Solid Biofuels”, the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

CEN/TC 335 has received a mandate from the European Commission (EC) to develop Standards for solid biofuels.

The documents produced by CEN/TC 335 Solid biofuels were based on the information available at the time when they were developed. The BioNorm project (EC part-funded) was designed to provide supporting information to CEN/TC 335 on solid biofuels. Part of the BioNorm Project (ENK6-CT2001-00556) was designed to fill the gaps in the understanding of Quality Assurance in this field [16].

This guide has been developed from the outcomes of the BioNorm-project by Working Group 2 of CEN/TC 335 and provides information on how to develop and implement a Quality Assurance system within the solid biofuels industry.

Introduction

Quality Assurance is defined as the “part of Quality Management focussed on providing confidence that quality requirements will be fulfilled” (CEN/TS 15234). To achieve this, the processes in the supply chain need to be in control. Effective control can be achieved, if Quality Assurance is being applied by each operator in the supply chain. A well designed Quality Assurance system for solid biofuels can contribute to a more transparent and efficient biofuel market. Based upon the requirements of the customer, and the known strengths and weaknesses of a raw material and a process, operators can demonstrate they have taken the measures to provide the desired quality. This establishes a confidence in the products. In this guide “product” refers to the solid biofuel.

Clause 4 sets out the reasoning behind using a Quality Assurance system for solid biofuels, and Clause 6 defines the intentions of this guide and its interconnection with the CEN/TS 15234, *Solid Biofuels — Fuel Quality Assurance*, from now on called “CEN/TS 15234” in this guide. The terms used in this guide are set out in CEN/TS 14588 and CEN/TS 15234.

Clause 7 sets out a step-by-step methodology to help operators within the solid biofuel supply chain to design a Quality Assurance System. The methodologies used in this guide are compliant with the requirements of CEN/TS 15234. However, this guide does not distinguish between different groups of operators (e.g. producer, supplier, etc.); it provides general guidance for the Quality Assurance applicable to each group of operators.

Annex A provides some guidance on the relevant parts of ISO 9001:2008 [1] and Annex B lists CEN/TC 335 Technical Specifications and Technical Reports.

It is recommended that a company specific manual is produced to reflect the Quality Assurance System.

The guidance and instructions given in this guide are recommendations, not requirements. The requirements to be fulfilled for Quality Assurance are set out in CEN/TS 15234.

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