



NEN

Certification of bio-based content

Procurement of bio-based products is gaining more and more attention as a driver for the uptake of bio-based products. For example, the European Commission has established an *Experts group for bio-based products* that focuses on public procurement for their recommendations, and procurement is in the scope of several European research projects including OpenBio¹, InnProBio² and a new COSME³ call. Procurers can apply standards to specify the requirements for relevant aspects of bio-based products and use certificates and labels to demonstrate that the requirements are met.

One principal aspect of a bio-based product is its bio-based content. A bio-based product is defined as *a product wholly or partly derived from biomass* (EN 16575:2014). The bio-based content can be measured using the (future) European Standard (Fpr)EN 16785-1:2015, which specifies a method of determining the bio-based content in products, based on the radiocarbon analysis and elemental analysis and which is applicable to any solid, liquid and gaseous product containing carbon.

Procurers may require that the claim of bio-based content is assessed by an independent third party (i.e. certifying body). NEN is setting up a European committee of experts, which will develop a certification scheme for certification against EN 16785-1 that can be used by certifying bodies. European stakeholders are invited to join this committee.

¹ Opening bio-based markets via standards, labelling and procurement

² Forum for bio-based innovation in public procurement

³ Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Roadmap

During the final stages of publication of EN 16785-1, the certification scheme will be established, so that certification is possible directly when the standard is available. The following steps have been scheduled to realize this.

- **June – October 2015**
 - engaging stakeholders and establishing Committee of Experts
- **October 2015 – kick-off meeting Committee of Experts (Brussels)**
 - establishment of procedures
 - presentation of draft certification scheme
- **November 2015 – Committee of Experts meeting 2**
 - discussion of comments
- **December 2015 – Committee of Experts meeting 3**
 - finalisation of certification scheme
 - preparation of pilots
- **January – March 2016**
 - validation in pilots
 - final publication of certification scheme
- **March 2016 – onwards**
 - maintenance of certification scheme by committee of experts

Participation

Stakeholders from industry, governments and other interested parties are invited to become a member. Please note that an annual membership fee will apply. Participants can indicate their interest in participation via email to: energy@nen.nl

NEN Certification scheme management

In addition to managing the development and maintenance of national, European and international standards, NEN provides services in relation to certification. These services include the development, maintenance and operation of certification schemes with a group of experts, registration and publication of certified companies, et cetera. In all cases, NEN does not certify; that is done by certifying bodies. NEN provides the full service, including development, operation and promotion of the scheme and online certificates register.

Examples

NEN provides these services in a range of sectors, including healthcare, asset management, sustainability of biomass and many others, both with national and with international scope.

The following are examples of our certification schemes:

- **Better Biomass** - www.betterbiomass.com
- **Microval** - www.nen.nl/MicroVal-validation.htm
- **HKZ - Healthcare** - www.hkz.nl (In Dutch)

More information

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