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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

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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.

1 Scope

This guide has been developed to provide information about the Solid Biofuel Quality Assurance, and presents a methodology that helps operators in the solid biofuels industry design an appropriate Quality Assurance system according to their demands. It acts as a supporting document for the application of CEN/TS 15234, *Solid biofuels — Fuel quality assurance*, developed by CEN/TC 335.

This guide is applicable for all operators dealing with solid biofuels within the scope of CEN/TC 335 from the following sources (CEN/TS 14961):

- products from agriculture and forestry;
- vegetable waste from agriculture and forestry;
- vegetable waste from food processing industry;
- wood waste, with the exception of wood waste which may contain halogenated organic compounds or heavy metals as a result of treatment with wood preservatives or coating, and which includes in particular such wood waste originated from construction and demolition waste;
- fibrous vegetable waste from virgin pulp production and from production of paper from pulp, if it is co-incinerated at the place of production and heat generated is recovered;
- cork waste.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

CEN/TS 14588:2003, *Solid biofuels — Terminology, definitions and descriptions*

CEN/TS 14961:2005, *Solid biofuels — Fuel specification and classes*

CEN/TS 15234:2006, *Solid biofuels — Fuel Quality Assurance*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in CEN/TS 14588:2003 and CEN/TS 15234:2006 (CEN—Terminology, definitions and descriptions for solid biofuels) and the following apply.

3.1

manual

process or site specific document reflecting all activities related to the quality assurance system implemented and applied in practise [16]