



## TECHNICAL BOARD

### CEN/BT by correspondence

<b>For vote</b>	<b>Issue date:</b>	2019-04-03
<b><i>In accordance with IR2 Clause 6.1.4</i></b>	<b>Deadline:</b>	2019-06-25

### SUBJECT

#### Creation of a new CEN Technical Committee on Microbiology of the food chain

### BACKGROUND

On 2019-04-01, CCMC received a proposal from AFNOR for the creation of a new CEN Technical Committee in the area of Microbiology of the food chain (see Annex).

The new proposed technical committee will be responsible for developing standardization of horizontal microbiological methods for all food and animal feeding stuffs and for any other sample (excluding human samples) that can be the source of microbial contamination of food products. The purpose of this proposal is not to establish a brand new field of activity, but to turn an existing working group (CEN/TC 275/WG 6 "Microbiology of the Food Chain") into a technical committee, in order to better manage its activity.

By Resolution BT 65/2017, BT decided that the following criteria are to be met for acceptance of such a proposal for new work (in a new area):

- Vote according to Internal Regulations Part 2 clause 6.1.4;
- At least 5 members express commitment to participate.

As a consequence, BT Members are requested to state explicitly, by means of the commenting field provided in the BT-balloting tool, whether or not they are committed to participate in the work.

### PROPOSAL(S)

BT,

- having considered the proposal for a new field of technical activity submitted by AFNOR to CCMC on 2019-04-01 as included in Annex to BT N 11549;
- having considered that the following members have expressed commitment to participate:
  - <members>
- decides to create a new CEN/TC XXX with the following preliminary title and scope:

Title:

Microbiology of the food chain

Scope:

Standardization of horizontal microbiological methods for all food and animal feeding stuffs and for any other sample (excluding human samples) that can be the source of microbial contamination of food products.

- allocates the Secretariat of CEN/TC XXX to AFNOR;
- asks the new CEN/TC XXX to submit its final title and scope for BT approval after its first meeting.

2019-04-02 – CD



PROPOSAL for a NEW FIELD OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITY	
Date of circulation .....	<b>CEN/TC / SC N .....</b> (where appropriate)
Secretariat .....	<b>CENELEC/TC / SC (Sec) .....</b> (where appropriate)
Type of technical body proposed (TC / SC / BTTF)	.....

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Incomplete proposals risk rejection or referral to originator.**

The proposer has considered the guidance given in Annexes 1 and 2 during the preparation

**Proposal** (to be completed by the proposer)

<p><b>Title of the proposed new subject</b> (The title shall indicate clearly and unambiguously, yet concisely, the new field of technical activity which the proposal is intended to cover.)</p> <p>Microbiology of the food chain</p>
<p><b>Scope statement of the proposed new subject</b> (The scope shall precisely define the limits of the new field of technical activity. Scopes shall not repeat general aims and principles governing the work of the organization but shall indicate the specific area concerned.)</p> <p><i>Standardization of horizontal microbiological methods for all food and animal feeding stuffs and for any other sample (excluding human samples) that can be the source of microbial contamination of food products.</i></p>

## **Purpose and justification for the proposal.**

The purpose of this proposal is not to establish a brand new field of activity, but to turn an existing working group into a technical committee, in order to better manage its activity.

CEN/TC 275/WG 6 "Microbiology of the Food Chain" was established by CEN/TC 275 "Food analysis - Horizontal methods" in 1991, with a mandate to standardize microbiological methods of analysis. Most of its deliverables are developed in cooperation with ISO/TC 34/SC 9 "Foods products- Microbiology" under the CEN/ISO Vienna Agreement, in some cases with CEN taking the lead. The secretariat of both the ISO sub-committee and the CEN working group is held by AFNOR.

While CEN/TC 275/WG 6 and ISO/TC 34/SC 9 have cooperated very well together for many years, some recurring issues with managing the working group's large work program have led AFNOR to consider that a proper technical committee would be better suited to answer the stakeholders' need.

In particular, we identified two main benefits:

### 1. A field of activity dedicated to clearly identified stakeholders

Stakeholders in the field of microbial contaminant analysis in the food chain are different from the stakeholders in the field of analysis of other contaminants in food products. Indeed, at national level, CEN/TC 275/WG 6 and CEN/TC 275 are often followed by different mirror committees, which are not always well connected to each other. This gap between the two stakeholder groups may cause confusion. The cases of NWIP has proven especially problematic. There were many instances where, despite strong support experts in the WG, the NWIP vote faced a lack of interest at TC level. In order for NWIPs to be approved, many messages and warnings are usually needed to ensure that the position of stakeholders in the field of analysis of microbial contaminants in the food chain is communicated to stakeholders in the field of analysis of other contaminants in food products.

### 2. A well-organised technical body for more transparency and efficiency

CEN/TC 275 WG 6 work program is extensive, with 64 deliverables developed and 27 currently under development, many related to European Regulations (mainly Commission Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuff). In order to cope with this work program, sub-groups have been created. However, the organization in tasks groups has never been easy to handle. The most important issue with such sub-groups is the lack of transparency which leads to inefficient documentation management and experts' registration. This issue has been pointed out in particular by ISO experts participating to the work under the Vienna Agreement (CEN lead); ISO/TC 34/SC 9 has even formally invited WG 6 to transform into a proper decision-making body with the same leadership (resolution 835 of June 2018).

At its peak, WG 6 had established no less than 20 sub-groups, with a community of 220 experts. These sub-groups were needed as many projects called for expertise in very specific fields. Coupled with the scale of the WG activity, it means that no stakeholder or national mirror committee wants to receive all the messages and documents of the WG and that there is a strong need for compartmentalization.

Established as a CEN Technical committee, the new technical body will be able to set up dedicated working groups which will all use electronic platforms. Follow-up regarding Professional Standardization Support (PSS) to WG convenors will also be better ensured. With more transparency and efficiency, the new structure is also expected to secure the continued cooperation with ISO/TC 34 /SC 9 and facilitate the smooth running of parallel adoption of EN ISO standards.

Is the proposed new subject actively, or probably, in support of European legislation or established public policy?

Yes       No

If Yes, indicate if the proposal is

▪ in relation to EC mandate(s): .....(which one(s))

▪ in relation to EC Directive(s)/Regulation(s): Commission Regulation (EC) 2073/2005

▪ in relation to other legislation or established public policy: .....(give details)

#### Proposed initial programme of work

The proposed programme of work shall correspond to and clearly reflect the aims of the standardization activities and shall therefore show the relationship between the subject proposed.

Each item on the programme of work shall be defined by both the subject aspect(s) to be standardized (for products, for example, the items would be the types of products, terminology, characteristics, other requirements, data to be supplied, test methods, performance requirements, etc.). Supplementary justification may be combined with particular items in the programme of work (e.g. output from a research project).

The proposed programme of work shall also suggest priorities, target dates and the most appropriate type of deliverable (e.g. EN, TS) for each item

The new TC will take over the current work program of WG 6.

#### A statement from the proposer as to how the proposed work may relate to or impact on existing work, especially existing CEN, CENELEC, ISO and IEC deliverables.

The proposer should explain how the work differs from apparently similar work, or explain how duplication and conflict will be minimized. If seemingly similar or related work is already in the scope of other committees of the organization, or in other organizations, the proposed scope shall distinguish between the proposed work and the other work. The proposer shall indicate whether his or her proposal could be dealt with by widening the scope of an existing committee or by establishing a new committee.)

The new TC will continue to work with ISO/TC 34/SC 9 and will establish the relevant liaison with CEN/TC 275.

#### A listing of relevant existing documents at the international, regional and national levels.

Any known relevant documents (such as standards and regulations) shall be listed, regardless of their source, and should be accompanied by an indication of their significance.

The new TC will take over all deliverables already developed by WG 6.

#### Known patented items

Yes       No If "Yes", see CEN-CENELEC Guide 8 and provide full information in an annex

**A simple and concise statement identifying and describing relevant affected stakeholder categories (including small and medium sized enterprises) in particular those who are immediately affected from the proposal (see Annexes 1 and 2) and how they will each benefit from or be impacted by the proposed deliverable(s)**

Main categories of stakeholders affected:

- Industry and commerce: Agro-industry and their suppliers
- Academic and research bodies
- Standards application business: Testing laboratories for microbiological analysis, certification bodies
- Consumers
- Governments, in particular food safety agencies

<p><b>Liaisons:</b>  <b>A listing of relevant external European or international organizations or internal parties (other CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, ISO and/or IEC committees) to which a liaison should be established (in the case of ISO and IEC committees via the Vienna or Dresden Agreements).</b></p> <p>CEN/TC 275 - Food analysis - Horizontal methods</p> <p>CEN/TC 302 - Milk and milk products - Methods of sampling and analysis</p> <p>CEN/TC 327 - Animal feeding stuffs - Methods of sampling and analysis</p> <p>CEN/TC 455 - Plant Biostimulants</p> <p>ISO/TC 34 / SC 9 - Microbiology</p>	<p><b>Joint/parallel work:</b>  <b>Possible joint/parallel work with:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CEN (please specify committee ID)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CENELEC (please specify committee ID)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ISO (please specify committee ID) <b>ISO/TC 34 /SC 9</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IEC (please specify committee ID)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)</p>
<p><b>Name of the Proposer</b>  <i>(include contact details)</i></p> <p>AFNOR</p> <p>11 Rue Francis de Pressensé</p> <p>93571 La Plaine Saint Denis</p> <p>France</p> <p>In case of questions, do not hesitate to contact Ms Gwenola HARDOUIN (<a href="mailto:gwenola.hardouin@afnor.org">gwenola.hardouin@afnor.org</a>)</p> <p><b>An expression of commitment from the proposer to provide the committee secretariat if the proposal succeeds.</b></p> <p>In case of acceptance of the proposal, AFNOR is willing to undertake the secretariat of the Technical Committee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Signature of the proposer</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Alain COSTES  AFNOR Standardisation Director</p>	

**Annex(es) are included with this proposal** (give details)

## **Informative Annex 1 "Principal categories of market needs"**

- Consumer protection and welfare
- Environment
- Innovation
- Support to:
  - public policy
  - European legislation/regulation
- Market access/barriers to trade, i.e. enhancing the free movement of:
  - services
  - goods
  - people
- Interoperability
- Health/Safety
- Terminology

## **Informative Annex 2 "Principal categories of stakeholders"**

- Industry and commerce,
  - where particularly appropriate, to be identified separately as
    - Large enterprises (those employing 250 staff or more)
    - Small and medium sized enterprises (SME), (those employing 250 staff or fewer)
- Government
- Consumers
  - including those organizations representing interests of specific societal groups, e.g. people with disabilities or those needing other particular consideration)
- Labour
- Academic and research bodies
- Non-governmental organisations (NGO),
  - including organizations representing broad or specific environmental interests
- Standards application business (e.g. testing laboratories, certification bodies)

Sometimes it is valuable also identify the immediate affected stakeholders from industry and commerce in terms of their position in a product value chain, as follows:

- Supplier
- Manufacturer
- Intermediary (e.g. warehousing, transport, sales)
- Service provider
- User of the product or service
- Maintenance / disposal

NOTE: 'Immediately affected stakeholders' are considered to be those who, within the context of the proposal, would be in a position to implement the provisions of the intended standard(s) into their products, services or management practices.