BUSINESS PLAN

CEN/TC 317
DERIVATIVES FROM COAL PYROLYSIS

1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC

1.1 Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal and/or international dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this CEN/TC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards:

- CEN/TC 317 wants to promote an adequate understanding by the International, National and Regional Authorities of the possible negative impacts of the standardized products on individual, environment, waste disposal and recycling level.
- Political harmonization primes about technical and scientifical assurance. Otherwise, aromaticity of the tar derivatives related or not to their classification is mainly argumentated by some local Regulatory Authorities to restrain or prohibit their use and consequently the trade.
- Tar derivatives are mainly used on industrial level for specific applications.

1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the CEN/TC:

The European market is equivalent to about 1 600 000 tonnes of raw materials and products and represents 7 % of the world market. This numbers do not include the materials and products from Ukraine and Russia.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

Harmonisation should help to promote competition, minimize restrictions, improve the image of the tar industry and shall help to recover lost markets. Robust definitions and appropriated terminology will help to distinguish tar and its derivatives as products and not wastes.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC

All the CEN national members are entitled to nominate delegates to CEN Technical Committees and experts to Working Groups, ensuring a balance of all interested parties. Participation as observers of recognized European or international organizations is also possible under certain conditions. To participate in the activities of this CEN/TC, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

Strong participation is provided by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Poland.

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEN/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

The Technical Committee has already established a set of European Standards in the derivatives from coal pyrolysis sector. There are two main fields of standardization:

1. At the moment there are 14 standards which are specifying the characteristics and test methods for coal tar and pitch based binders.

2. CEN/TC 317 also developed standards for the terminology and classification.

CEN/TC 317 is reviewing these standards frequently and will monitor all further innovations in Europe in order to develop new standards once the state of the art is better defined.

4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN/TCs defined objectives.

The Technical Committee has already prioritized the preparation of the most standards, which are now all complete. New standards will be prepared with a clear view to the safety and economic impact to the European member states.

The Technical Committee has established their standards for a lot of methods of tests in collaboration with ISO.

4.3 Environmental aspects

Key Environmental Issues Associated with the Scope of the Work covered by the CEN/TC 317

As every product has an impact on the environment during all stages of its life-cycle, there is a need to reduce any potential adverse impact by taking into account environmental issues in product standards.

It is therefore necessary to understand how the product interacts with the environment during its life-cycle, including emissions to air, discharges to water and soil.

A helpful tool for achieving this task is the environmental checklist, which is based on the availability of environmental information, product and environmental expertise and the application of the life-cycle thinking approach.

This check list, as described in the CEN Guide 4:2008, should be completed, updated and attached to drafts during all stages of the development of a standard.

The main goal of the CEN/TC 317 consists of demonstrating that coal tar is a valuable raw material and not a hazardous waste. The combustion of coal tar, often presented as the way to discard this product, affects adversely the environment as large quantities of Carbon dioxide and Sulfur dioxide are emitted into the air. In opposition, coal tar can be distilled under strict regulated conditions, avoiding any air and soil pollution, and leading to valuable chemical substances.

Drafting of New Work Item Proposal taking into Consideration of Environmental Impact

The project manager and their technical committee drafting a product standard will assess the relevant product environmental aspect, based on the availability of environmental information, product and environmental knowledge and the application of the life-cycle thinking.

Therefore, it might be useful to develop an environmental sector guide focusing on sector-specific environmental issues and describing more purposively and precisely the major environmental aspect of the sector.

In this context, it is advisable to use examples from the specific sector.
So, in TC 317, Creosote Grade A, containing more than 50 ppm of benzo(a)pyrene is no longer produced and marketed. Consequently, the input, due to leakages, on the soil and water is dramatically reduced.

Considerations of how to assess Progress in achieving Objectives regarding addressing Environmental Issues.

The use of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) will prevent of pollution when drafting analytical methods for products.

The use of processes, practices, techniques, materials, products to avoid, reduce or at least control the creation, emission or discharge of any type of pollutant, or waste, in order to reduce adverse environmental impact.

For example, hazardous, toxic or otherwise harmful substances and materials prescribed in product standards should be substituted by other less harmful substances and materials, whenever possible and feasible.

Also, when deveperò provisions in standards, the precautionary principle will be taken into account by focusing on options and solutions rather than on risk.

The integration of environmental aspects into product development can also be considered involving material reuse, recycling and recovery at end-of-life.

5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC WORK PROGRAMME

At the present time, 5 European countries (Germany, Belgium, Spain, Czech Republic and Denmark) are involved in tar distillation and more countries in the EU and associated (Norway, Iceland) are tar derivatives consumers.

The technical program of CEN/TC 317 has reached an advanced state, with the majority of high priority work items being published. There is therefore little risk that the program of work will fail to be completed.

The main problems facing CEN/TC 317 will be in identifying appropriate experts to undertake the revisions and reviews, ensuring that limited resources are used effectively.