

# [News story: CEN updates affecting chemical measurements March 2017](#)

The following list of standards were published by the European Standardisation Organisation, CEN, during the period January to March 2017, some of which are relevant to chemical measurement in support of regulation. The standards are divided into separate areas.

## **REACH regulation**

The following two standards supersede existing standards published in 2012 and describe improvements in the analytical procedure and guidance on interpreting results.

[EN ISO 14362-1:2017](#) – Textiles – Methods for determination of certain aromatic amines derived from azo colorants – Part 1: Detection of the use of certain azo colorants accessible with and without extracting the fibres.

[EN ISO 14362-3:2017](#) – Textiles – Methods for determination of certain aromatic amines derived from azo colorants. Detection of the use of certain azo colorants, which may release 4-aminoazobenzene.

These two standards relate to entry 43 to Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 which prohibits the use of azo colorants in textile and leather articles which may come into direct and prolonged contact with the human skin or oral cavity, which, by reductive cleavage of one or more azo groups, may release one or more of 22 listed aromatic amines in detectable concentrations, i.e. above 30 mg/kg (0.003 % by weight) determined by gas chromatography.

The following two standards supersede existing standards published in 2007 and describe improvements in the analytical procedure.

[EN ISO 17075-1:2017](#) Leather – Chemical determination of chromium (VI) content in leather – Part 1: Colorimetric method.

[EN ISO 17075-2:2017](#) – Leather – Chemical determination of chromium (VI) content in leather – Part 2: Chromatographic method.

Some studies have shown that sensitised individuals may react to the low levels of chromium (VI) that might migrate from leather articles coming into contact with the skin at a concentration of 3 mg/kg. This limit represents the quantitative limit of the analytical methods described in EN 17075.

## **Food**

[EN 14176:2017](#) – Foodstuffs – Determination of domoic acid in raw shellfish, raw finfish and cooked mussels by RP-HPLC using UV detection.

Domoic acid is produced by different species of Pseudo-nitzschia and other marine organisms such as the red alga Chondria armata and can potentially enter the food chain by contaminating shellfish and other types of seafood.

The standard describes a reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) system with a UV detector. The limit of detection is about 10 ng/mL to 80 ng/mL (0.05 mg/kg to 0.4 mg/kg), depending on the UV detector sensitivity.

[EN 14526:2017](#) – Foodstuffs – Determination of saxitoxin-group toxins in shellfish. HPLC method using pre-column derivatization with peroxide or periodate oxidation.

Saxitoxin (STX)-group toxins are a group of closely related tetrahydropurines and have been detected in filter-feeding bivalve molluscs such as oysters, mussels and scallops.

Information on saxitoxin-group toxins in shellfish can be found in the [EFSA Opinion on Contaminants in the Food Chain](#) (Question No EFSA-Q-2006-065E): Marine biotoxins in shellfish – Saxitoxin group (The EFSA Journal (2009) 1019, 1-76).

Food Standards Scotland are currently performing a review titled: [Shellfish Review: Bivalve mollusc classification and monitoring: consultation on changes to the official control programme](#) and are inviting views on the proposed changes. The consultation closes on the 12 May 2017.

## Fertilizer feeds

[EN 16317:2013 + A1:2017](#) – Fertilizers and liming materials – Determination of arsenic by inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) after aqua regia dissolution.

[EN 16320:2013 + A1:2017](#) – Fertilizers and liming materials – Determination of mercury by vapour generation (VG) after aqua regia dissolution.

[EN 15961:2017](#) – Fertilizers – Extraction of water-soluble calcium, magnesium, sodium and sulfur in the form of sulfates. This standard supersedes the existing standard published in 2011.

These standards are linked to EU Commission Mandate M/418 and M/335: Assigned to CEN concerning the modernisation of methods of analysis of fertilizers. The standards concern Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 relating to fertilisers which is currently the subject of review by the EU Commission.

[EN 16877:2016](#) – Animal feeding stuffs – Methods of sampling and analysis. Determination of T-2 and HT-2 toxins, Deoxynivalenol and Zearalenone, in feed materials and compound feed by LCMS.

T-2 toxin, HT-2 toxin, deoxynivalenol (DON) and zearalenone (ZON) are mycotoxins produced by fungi of the Fusarium genus and can be found in various cereal crops used as animal feed.

The limit of quantitation (LOQ) for HT-2 and T-2 toxin is  $\leq 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ , for DON  $\leq 100 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ , and for ZON  $\leq 20\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ .

This is a new standard linked to EU Commission Mandate M/521: Methods of Analysis in the Field of Animal Nutrition Part I concerning Regulation (EC) No 882/2004: Official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

## **Animal and vegetable fats**

[EN ISO 6320:2017](#) – Animal and vegetable fats and oils – Determination of refractive index.

[EN ISO 663:2017](#) – Animal and vegetable fats and oils – Determination of insoluble impurities content.

[EN ISO 3960:2017](#) – Animal and vegetable fats and oils – Determination of peroxide value. Iodometric (visual) endpoint determination.

[EN ISO 8534:2017](#) – Animal and vegetable fats and oils – Determination of water content. Karl Fischer method (pyridine free).

[EN ISO 15774:2017](#) – Animal and vegetable fats and oils – Determination of cadmium content by direct graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry.

Milk and milk products (or fat coming from milk and milk products) are excluded from the scope of all the standards.

All these standards are revisions superseding earlier versions.

Further information on food legislation can be found on the Government Chemist website in the series [Food and feed law and legislation](#).

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## **[Press release: UK committed to helping Saudi Arabia deliver vital reforms](#)**

The UK is set to become a leading partner for Saudi Arabia in delivering its ambitious "[Vision 2030](#)" programme for internal reform and modernisation.

The Prime Minister will meet King Salman of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh today where they are expected to agree:

- 6-monthly strategic dialogues between UK and Saudi Foreign and Trade Ministers to maximise mutual prosperity and build on existing security, defence and intelligence cooperation

- UK assistance to Saudi Arabia in building a reformed Ministry of Defence, reviewing Saudi defence capabilities and joint working across the Saudi armed forces
- a new UK-Saudi Policy Dialogue on education to share best practice
- a seminar led by UK experts on tax and privatisation standards, to help Saudi Arabia diversify its economy and become less reliant on oil
- the sharing of healthcare best practice, including through the secondment of a UK expert based in Riyadh

The Prime Minister is also due to meet Princess Reema today in Saudi Arabia. Princess Reema is Vice President of the Saudi General Sports Authority and is leading Saudi Government efforts to increase diversity and participation in sport. Ahead of their meeting, the Prime Minister is set to announce that the UK will provide support to Saudi Arabia to increase opportunities for men and women across the country to participate in sport.

The Prime Minister and the King are also set to agree UK support to increase culture, leisure and entertainment opportunities for the Saudi public, including sharing our skills in audience development and marketing as well as helping them attract and build world-class cultural events.

The British Council's "Contemporary Collective" programme will train six young Saudi women in arts management, equipping them with the skills necessary to launch and run large scale cultural projects in the Kingdom.

Senior Cabinet members including the Chancellor, the International Secretary for Trade and the Foreign Secretary are expected to visit the Kingdom in the coming months to drive forward this important work across the board. The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Stephen Lovegrove, will also visit the Kingdom next month to progress discussions on Saudi defence reform.

Speaking ahead of her visit to Saudi Arabia, the Prime Minister said:

These new partnerships – on defence and security, trade and the economy, education, healthcare, culture and sport – evidence the breadth and depth of the UK's relationship with Saudi Arabia. We are firm supporters of Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030", an ambitious blueprint for internal reform that aims to deliver greater inclusivity for all Saudi citizens – something we agree is essential to Saudi Arabia's long-term stability and success. As a world leader across a range of sectors, the UK is well placed to help Saudi Arabia deliver these vital reforms.

## Further information

Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030" is an ambitious blueprint for reform that expresses Saudi Arabia's long-term goals and expectations, and is designed to build on its strengths and capabilities.

It is based on 3 pillars: Saudi Arabia as the heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds; creating an investment powerhouse; and building on its strategic position as a hub connecting three continents.

Specific goals include: + raising the share of non-oil exports in non-oil GDP from 16% to 50%; raising non-oil government revenue from SAR 163 billion to SAR 1 trillion + increasing women's participation in the workforce from 22% to 30% + to increase household spending on cultural and entertainment activities inside the Kingdom from the current level of 2.9% to 6%

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## [Press release: New charity investigation: The Alternative Animal Sanctuary](#)

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a statutory inquiry into [The Alternative Animal Sanctuary, registered charity number 1111406](#). The inquiry was opened on 2 March 2017.

The Lincolnshire-based charity offers permanent care to abandoned and neglected animals across England and Wales, and facilitates adoption where possible.

The Commission initially engaged with the charity in November 2016 as part of a proactive project focusing on a sample of charities contracting with third-party fundraising agencies. After examining the charity's arrangement with a fundraising agency, the Commission has serious concerns about the charity's apparent overreliance on the agency and the rate of return to the charity. Further regulatory concerns have been established regarding the significantly high costs and fees of the agreement, the trustees' original decision to enter into the agreement and the ongoing management of the arrangements by the trustees.

The Commission took action to obtain and examine copies of the charity's mailing material which is used to solicit donations under the agency agreement. This has raised further concerns regarding the transparency of the mailing material. The Commission is concerned that the public is unaware of the proportion of donations that is consumed by the costs and fees associated with the agreement against what is used on caring for abandoned and neglected animals.

The inquiry will examine the administration, governance and financial management of the charity, in particular the extent to which the trustees have:

- acted in the charity's best interests and acted in accordance with their legal duties
- responsibly managed the charity's resources and financial affairs, including the adequacy of the charity's financial controls
- ensured that conflicts of interests have been adequately avoided or managed
- complied with their duties, including the submission of the charity's annual reports and accounts to the Commission
- prudently managed the arrangements with a third party fundraising agency
- been transparent with beneficiaries and the general public regarding the distribution of donations.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. Reports of [previous inquiries](#) by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's details can be viewed on the Commission's [online charity search tool](#).

Ends

PR 28/17

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## Notes to editors

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
  2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
  3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the Commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
  4. The Commission's decision to announce the opening of a statutory inquiry is based on whether it is in the public interest to do so and with consideration of our objective to increase public trust and confidence in charities.
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# **News story: Champions League policing bolstered by £1.4m UK Government grant**

The security operation surrounding the Champions League final in Cardiff has been boosted by a £1.4million contribution from UK Government, Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns announced today.

The UK Government has confirmed that it has approved a Special Grant application made by the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner to cover the additional costs of policing the biggest game in European club football on 3 June.

Cardiff's Principality Stadium will play host to the showpiece event which is expected to attract a worldwide audience of several hundred million and generate £45m for the Cardiff economy.

The City of Cardiff Stadium will also host the women's Champions League final (1 June) and around 250,000 people are expected to descend on the capital to enjoy the four-day festival of events during the week.

## **Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:**

Cardiff has consistently proven its calibre in delivering high profile events on an international stage. The eyes of the world will once again be upon us as we prepare to host the Champions League finals.

The safety and security of the hundreds of thousands of people set to flood into the city and surrounding areas at this time is of paramount importance. The UK Government is determined to ensure that Wales, and the UK, are seen in the best possible light on the worldwide stage and the policing of the event will be crucial in achieving this.

I am delighted that we have been able to provide this funding for South Wales Police. I know the whole city is looking forward to giving visiting supporters a wonderful welcome at what will be a safe and successful Champions League final later this year.

## **Minister for Policing and the Fire Service Brandon Lewis said:**

I am pleased to confirm that £1.4million in special grant funding has been allocated to support South Wales Police at the Champions League final in Cardiff. I am sure it will be a fantastic event for the city of Cardiff to host.

The UK Government has protected police funding since the 2015

Spending Review and it is right that in exceptional circumstances we provide additional resources in order to make sure we keep our communities safe and secure.

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## [Weather, existing socio-economic factors compounded Colombian landslide tragedy – UN agency](#)

4 April 2017 – Very heavy rainfall triggered the landslides that hit Colombia over the weekend, but “exceptional” level of rains were not the sole cause, the United Nations weather agency said today, noting that many other factors, such as loss of forest cover, added to the devastation.

“The weather was not the only cause of the tragedy, many other socio-economic factors, including deforestation, came into play,” Clare Nullis, a spokesperson for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), [told the media](#) at a regular press briefing at the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG).

March is typically a rainy month in the country, but the quantities of rainfall seen in the past week have been exceptional, she explained, adding that the municipality of Mocoa, hardest-hit by the landslides, saw 129 millimetres of rainfall within 24 hours on 31 March.

Of that amount, 80 per cent of the precipitation fell in just three hours, explaining the size of the tragedy.

According to a Flash Update by the UN [Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(in Spanish\)](#), as of 2 April 254 people have been confirmed to have perished in the disaster, 262 have been injured and 441 are missing.

The casualty figures are approximate and are expected to rise.

Furthermore, as of 3 April, more than 500 municipalities are at the of risk of landslides in the country, and of those 182 had orange to red alerts, noted Ms. Nullis.

She added that while the national meteorological service is very strong and well-equipped, it faced considerable challenges.

“There are more than 700,000 rivers and bodies of water, and it is impossible to have monitoring stations at each one of them,” said the WMO spokesperson.

Further, clarifying that the cause of the disaster was not El Niño, crediting a senior official at the Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, she said that climate variability and climate change

would continue to produce rain and drought, and that prevention is the most important.

She also informed the briefing that in the short-term, Colombian Meteorological Agency weather forecasts indicate that there would be no or very light rainfall in the affected areas till 6 April.

The long-term predictions for the season were for above average rainfall in the area.