

About CEPA

What is CEPA ?

Based in Brussels, CEPA is the Confederation of European Pest Management Associations.

CEPA represents, at the European level, 25 national and regional trade associations and an industry with a turnover of more than €3,000 million generated by 10,000+ companies with over 40,000 employees. In addition to the associations the CEPA membership also includes manufacturers, distributors and service companies in Europe.

When and why was CEPA set up?

CEPA was set up in 1974 by the Belgian, British, Dutch, French and Spanish national associations. These organisations had the vision to see that national associations could not, by themselves, defend the interests of their members at a European level.

History has proved them right. Today some 80% of national regulations reflect decisions taken at EU level through European Directives.

Mission

CEPA's mission is to act as the voice of the pest management industry vis à vis all relevant stakeholders.

Its goal is to promote the understanding of the pest management industry through an enhanced dialogue with policy makers and opinion leaders at a European level on matters affecting our sector.

Objectives

- To interact with the European Institutions on behalf of the pest management industry with fact based dialogue
- To represent the pest management industry with a single voice when challenged by European legislative initiatives
- To increase awareness of the pest management industry's contribution to the European economy as a factor for growth and employment
- To federate the pest management industry around meaningful initiatives that elevate the profession and its operators (CEPA Certified® scheme)
- To enable the exchange of information, particularly with regards to facilitating communication between the national associations and beyond that between all other bodies that are members of our confederation
- To provide early warning with regards to issues that have the potential to enhance or endanger our industry's development in geographical Europe
- To provide the necessary tools and expertise to deal with these issues as they arise
- To facilitate the collection of data about our industry
- To liaise with other business and interest groups on matters of joint interest.



Contact us



Please get in touch for an appointment and information about getting certified or obtaining CEPA Certified® endorsement.



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“The standard will create awareness of the value to society that the pest management industry represents.”

Why a European Standard?



The Confederation of European Pest Management Associations (CEPA) and its members have sponsored the development of a European standard (EN) for the pest management industry in collaboration with the European Standards Institute (CEN).

This European standard specifies the requirements, recommendations and basic competences under which pest management service companies must operate to meet the needs of their customers, be they private companies, public authorities or the general public.

As sponsors of the CEN project, CEPA and its members wish to ensure that the industry is recognised for a responsible approach to pest management in all countries of the European Union and EFTA.

The standard will create awareness of the value to society that the pest management industry represents through the maintenance of health and hygiene. The initiative will contribute to controlling unprofessional use and thus provide important support for products that are indispensable to protect the public, buildings and businesses but which are nevertheless under pressure from restriction or deregulation measures.

Finally, the introduction of a European standard and the dialogue it has fostered will enhance CEPA's interaction with the European Institutions and all its other European stakeholders.

How?

How can I become a CEPA Certified® operator?

Would your company like to be one of the first in Europe to gain CEPA Certified® status, a unique and new mark of professionalism in the service business?

The CEPA Certified® certification programme will give your business:

- Improved image with clients: they will value the CEPA Certified® Status
- Means to promote the professionalism of your business based on service and quality rather than on price
- Better service quality: the standard is designed to help your business improve
- A unique and independent benchmark of your company's professionalism compared to your competition
- Raised awareness among your customers that our industry plays a major role in public health.



In collaboration with local pest management associations, CEPA is creating a network of professional pest management companies across Europe that can demonstrate their competence to clients. We will also be targeting clients to encourage them to only specify CEPA Certified® companies. This will provide competitive advantage over those companies who do not have the standard. It will also help to avoid government regulation of our sector in which we have had no part: it is a way for us to control our own destiny.

CEPA has developed a self-evaluation tool to help you achieve the standard. It can be used before you start the certification process at no cost, allowing you to see if anything needs to be done before you proceed. Simply visit www.cepa-europe.org to find out more.

By achieving CEPA Certified® status you will quickly receive a significant return on investment, and be helping to promote the professionalism of our sector to clients.

Your next actions:

- Assess your company against the standard for free on the CEPA website, and address any non-conformities
- Then apply for CEPA Certified® status via the accredited national certifying body – see www.cepa-europe.org for details
- Once you are certified get your free listing in the CEPA Certified® Operator Directory.

The CEPA Certified® certification programme will help your company rise above its competitors, getting more business at a better price, and we are here to help you achieve this standard. We look forward to hearing from you.

How do I apply to become a CEPA Certified® certification body?

This is an open invitation for qualifying Certification Bodies that are interested in obtaining endorsement from CEPA to certify pest management companies against [EN] 16636 following the CEPA Certified® Protocol.

Over the past four years, the members of our confederation and the European Standards Bureau have worked together to develop this new service standard. Today CEPA is launching the CEPA Certified® Protocol, underpinned by EN16636, with a view to enhancing this benchmark service standard for European pest management companies.

Our aim is to ensure that the pest management industry is recognised for responsibly protecting European citizens and the environment in which they live against public health risks.

Recent research in the UK showed that 79% of pest management companies think EN16636 and its certification programme are a positive or very positive initiative. 85% of respondents would consider applying for certification (half of which under condition that the price is right).

By becoming a CEPA Certified® Certifying Body, you gain additional access to horizontal markets (retail, hospitality, etc.) where pest management



professionals operate. This also opens the door for other accreditations such as ISO 9001, 14001 and 18001 against which pest management companies may wish to be accredited.

CEPA Certified® endorsement is unique, and confers a high status on those who achieve it. CEPA has designed a toolkit and a wide network of support across Europe to ensure its member companies have the tools to achieve the standard. We have also set in place a marketing programme to clients to encourage them to select only those companies who have achieved CEPA Certified® status.

Selection and appointment criteria for certification bodies

CEPA will manage the endorsement process through the CEPA Steering Committee. The CSC will conduct the selection and appointment process in an independent, professional and credible manner.

The basic rules for selection are:

- CBs shall be competent, independent and reliable audit service providers (companies, not individuals) and demonstrate this by conforming to the following requirements:
 - Accredited against ISO 17065 (requirement for bodies certifying products, processes and services) for at least one certification programme
 - Experienced in carrying out audits in conformity with ISO 19011
 - This will be demonstrated by relevant records and accreditation certificates (from one of European accreditation bodies like UKAS, COFRAC, DAKKS, SWEDAC etc.)
- CBs will submit a list of auditors with a short CV showing some evidence of Pest management awareness
- Endorsement will be delivered by CEPA on a country by country basis.

Training to become a pest management auditor

To further support CEPA Certified® endorsed certification bodies, CEPA has developed an auditor training programme to help auditors to understand our business and enable them to execute our detailed protocol. These trainings, complete with a quiz to verify knowledge level progress, will be organised in each country where CEPA is represented by a local association.



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