

# The Diffusive Monitor

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## By way of Introduction

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of *The Diffusive Monitor*, which is a free publication of the Health and Safety Executive CAR Committee (Committee on Analytical Requirements), Working Group 5. This working group is concerned with workplace, indoor and environmental applications of diffusive sampling for assessing air quality.

The newsletter was started in May 1988 as a consequence of the Diffusive Sampling Symposium held in Luxembourg the previous year and is published approximately once a year. It contains articles on diffusive monitoring techniques and applications, and is a useful source of information on European and international standardisation in this area and of sampling rate data. Contributions are mostly from members of the Working Group, which has an international membership.

Contributions to the newsletter are not, however, intended to be exclusively from HSE/CAR/WG 5, and any reader is welcome to submit an item for consideration. The only limitations are that articles should have some diffusive sampling application and should not be too obviously commercial.

The newsletter has a world circulation of some 200 people, all of whom have specifically requested the publication, so if you wish to contribute articles, you can be assured of a wide and receptive audience. Articles are not peer-reviewed, but are subject to the Editor's discretion.

Copies of the newsletter may be obtained from the Editor by registering

at [mike.wright@hsl.gov.uk](mailto:mike.wright@hsl.gov.uk) (see page 18).

## Current News

### CEN air quality standards

As described in issues 12 and 13 of *The Diffusive Monitor* the responsibility for developing European Standards devolves to expert working groups (WGs) reporting to Technical Committees of the Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN). The work programmes of TC137 (workplace exposure) and TC264 (air quality) derive mainly from the requirements of the Chemical Agents Directive (98/24/EC) and the Ambient Air Directive (96/62/EC) respectively. With regard to the Ambient Air Directive, data quality objectives (performance requirements) are described in several daughter directives [3-5]. Consequently TC264 has been mandated to develop standards for both reference methods and performance requirements. In the case of the diffusive sampler performance requirements developed by TC264/WG11 these have now been published as EN 13528 parts 1 and 2 [6, 7]. prEN 13528 Part 3 is at the formal vote stage. The 5 part benzene draft standard of TC264/WG13 (prEN 14662) is well advanced [8-12]. At the request of the Commission, the question of equivalence of methods has been addressed by an ad hoc group of TC264. Their findings will be published in the near future as a CEN report following approval by the Commission.

In TC137 the development of measurement procedures for specific substances was left to ISO and in particular to WGs of ISO TC146/SC2 and SC6. The text of the Chemical Agents Directive does not contain data





































