

BNQ 3009-610: FIRST QUEBEC STANDARD PROVIDES FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION AGAINST DRY ROT FUNGUS

City of Québec, June 30, 2021 – Today, the Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) released the first benchmark standard for assessing and rehabilitating Quebec homes contaminated by dry rot fungus.

Available free of charge on the BNQ website, BNQ 3009-610 standard *Contamination des habitations par la mэрule – Investigation et réhabilitation du bâtiment* is a first in North America. The voluntary standard sets out the requirements relating to the assessment and rehabilitation of residential, wood-framed buildings contaminated by wood-rotting fungi. In doing so, it ensures the quality and consistency of services provided to consumers.

A Quebec benchmark

Across Quebec, more and more homes are being damaged by dry rot fungus which can develop in wood where there is high humidity and moisture, and poor ventilation. Since mold is generally a symptom of such contamination, the standard that defines actions to be taken against dry rot fungus must be used with the BNQ standard 3009-600, released in 2020. This standard deals with assessing and rehabilitating mold-contaminated residential buildings.

These reference documents are primarily designed for use by industry professionals and their employees who offer assessment and rehabilitation services for contaminated buildings, as well as building occupants, owners and managers, contractors, municipalities, and government and regulatory agencies.

The BNQ standard 3009-610 was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation (MAMH) and is inspired by evidence-based best practices and consensus of a multidisciplinary scientific and technical committee made up of service providers, consumers, and experts in the field.

The standard can be used as part of an expert assessment of dry rot fungus contamination or of rehabilitation work on a building. Moreover, regulatory authorities and insurance companies may require compliance with the standard. Lastly, it may also serve as a trusted benchmark in legal disputes in Quebec.

New training recognition program

The BNQ is also announcing a soon-to-be-introduced training recognition program to ensure that persons assessing and rehabilitating buildings have completed a BNQ-recognized training program that covers the content of the standard relating to the work to be done. Educational institutions can apply to have their training programs recognized by the BNQ. Regulatory authorities that wish to do so may also incorporate the training recognition program in their regulations.

"Unfortunately, dry rot fungus is causing damage in Quebec. The new standard will help enhance and standardize the quality of building assessment and rehabilitation work. The training recognition program is another aspect that will ensure greater consumer protection," notes Jean Rousseau, BNQ Senior Director.

"The Government of Quebec is pleased with the release of this standard aimed at controlling decontamination work related to dry rot fungus and other wood-rotting fungi in buildings. I am sure that the application of the standard will help improving families' quality of life", mentions Mrs. Andrée Laforest, Minister – Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation.

For more information on the BNQ 3009-610 standard *Contamination des habitations par la mэрule – Investigation et rэhabilitation du бђtiment*, visit the BNQ's website at <https://www.bnq.qc.ca/en/standardization/construction/contamination-of-residential-buildings-by-dry-root-fungus.html>.

About BNQ

Bureau de normalisation du Quэbec (BNQ), a business unit of Investissement Quэbec, is the authority for standards and certification in Quэbec. It develops consensus standards and certification protocols in accordance with the rules of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). BNQ is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). For more information about BNQ, visit www.bnq.qc.ca

– 30 –

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