
**Soil quality — Guidance on the choice
and evaluation of bioassays for
ecotoxicological characterization of soils
and soil materials**

*Qualité du sol — Lignes directrices pour l'évaluation des essais
appliqués dans le domaine de la caractérisation écotoxicologique des
sols et des matériaux du sol*

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 17616 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Soil and site assessment*.

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Introduction

The characterization of contaminated soils may be based on strategies considering chemical analysis and/or bioassays. ISO 15799 provides guidance on the selection of experimental methods for the assessment of the ecotoxic potential of soils and soil materials (e.g. excavated and remediated soils, refills, embankments) with respect to their intended use, and possible adverse effects on aquatic and soil dwelling organisms. An assessment strategy giving instructions for the choice and evaluation of bioassays, and for the evaluation of the test results including empirically derived critical dilution levels that take into account the sensitivity of the test system and the intended use/re-use of the site under investigation, is proposed. This approach is based on the results of a research program and intends to contribute to an effective and comparable risk assessment within the ecotoxicological characterization of contaminated soil. The test systems included in this approach are not mandatory and may be replaced or accomplished by other test methods. Nevertheless, the test systems selected have proved to characterize contaminated soils appropriately with respect to their ecotoxic properties towards aquatic and terrestrial organisms maintaining the essential soil functions.

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Soil quality — Guidance on the choice and evaluation of bioassays for ecotoxicological characterization of soils and soil materials

1 Scope

This International Standard is one of a series providing guidance on the characterization of soils and soil materials in relation to their retention and habitat function and uses. It should be read in conjunction with the other standards in this series. It provides guidance on the choice and evaluation of tests applied for ecotoxicological characterization of soils and soil materials. Recommendations for test strategies with respect to the protection of ground and surface waters and the maintenance of the habitat function of soil are included. The tests recommended represent a minimum test battery that may be accomplished by additional tests, or even be replaced by others, according to the intended uses or protection goals envisaged. The effect values indicated in this International Standard do not refer to regulation, but represent the lowest level at which a response is supposed to result in an adverse effect.

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2 Normative references (standards.iteh.ai)

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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ISO 6341, *Water quality — Determination of the inhibition of the mobility of Daphnia magna Straus (Cladocera, Crustacea) — Acute toxicity test*

ISO 8692, *Water quality — Freshwater algal growth inhibition test with unicellular green algae*

ISO 11074:2005, *Soil quality — Vocabulary*

ISO 11267, *Soil quality — Inhibition of reproduction of Collembola (Folsomia candida) by soil pollutants*

ISO 11268-1, *Soil quality — Effects of pollutants on earthworms (Eisenia fetida) — Part 1: Determination of acute toxicity using artificial soil substrate*

ISO 11268-2, *Soil quality — Effects of pollutants on earthworms (Eisenia fetida) — Part 2: Determination of effects on reproduction*

ISO 11269-2, *Soil quality — Determination of the effects of pollutants on soil flora — Part 2: Effects of chemicals on the emergence and growth of higher plants*

ISO 11348 (all parts), *Water quality — Determination of the inhibitory effect of water samples on the light emission of Vibrio fischeri (Luminescent bacteria test)*

ISO 13829, *Water quality — Determination of the genotoxicity of water and waste water using the umu-test*

ISO 15176:2002, *Soil quality — Characterization of excavated soil and other soil materials intended for re-use*

ISO 15685, *Soil quality — Determination of potential nitrification and inhibition of nitrification — Rapid test by ammonium oxidation*

ISO 15799:2003, *Soil quality — Guidance on the ecotoxicological characterization of soils and soil materials*

ISO 15952, *Soil quality — Effects of pollutants on juvenile land snails (Helicidae) — Determination of the effects on growth by soil contamination*

ISO 16240, *Water quality — Determination of the genotoxicity of water and waste water — Salmonella/microsome test (Ames test)*

ISO 16387, *Soil quality — Effects of pollutants on Enchytraeidae (Enchytraeus sp.) — Determination of effects on reproduction and survival*

ISO 17155:—¹⁾, *Soil quality — Determination of abundance and activity of soil microflora using respiration curves*

ISO 17402:—¹⁾, *Soil quality — Guidance for the selection and application of methods for the assessment of bioavailability in soil and soil materials*

ISO 20079, *Water quality — Determination of the toxic effect of water constituents and waste water on duckweed (Lemna minor) — Duckweed growth inhibition test*

ISO 20665:—¹⁾, *Water quality — Determination of chronic toxicity to Ceriodaphnia dubia*

ISO 20666:—¹⁾, *Water quality — Determination of the chronic toxicity to Brachionus calyciflorus in 48 h*

ISO 20963, *Soil quality — Effects of pollutants on insect larvae (Oxythyrea funesta) — Determination of acute toxicity*

ISO 22030, *Soil quality — Biological methods — Chronic toxicity in higher plants*

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3 Terms and definitions

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For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 Assessment

3.1.1

soil-related assessment

assessment of the ecotoxic potential of soils, soil substrates and soil materials based on chemical analysis, biological tests and field inventories (monitoring) such as that mentioned in the TRIAD approach ^[9]

NOTE TRIAD means an assessment approach based on a combination of chemical (i.e. residue analysis), ecotoxicological (i.e. laboratory tests) and ecological (i.e. monitoring) data.

3.1.2

risk

expression of the probability that an adverse effect on soil functions will occur under defined conditions and the magnitude of the consequences of the effect occurring

1) To be published.

3.1.3**LID-value**

lowest-ineffective-dilution value

lowest value of the dilution factor (LID) for which the test gives an ecotoxicological relevant reduction (e.g. 20 % inhibition of luminescence)

EXAMPLE A LID 8 corresponds to a dilution of soil extract of 1:8.

NOTE 1 The exact definitions are given in the standard of the respective bioassay. According to ISO 13829 for the umu-test, it is the “ D_{Li} value”. According to ISO 16240, it is the “decisive D_{min} value”.

NOTE 2 For further information, see Annex A.

3.2 Types of soil and other soil materials**3.2.1****soil**

upper layer of the Earth’s crust composed of mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and organisms

[ISO 11074:2005]

3.2.2**soil material**

material coming from soil and displaced and/or modified by human activity, including excavated soil, dredged materials, manufactured soils, and treated soils and fill materials

[ISO 17402:—1]

3.2.3**topsoil**

upper part of a natural soil which is generally dark coloured and has a higher organic matter and nutrient content when compared to the subsoil below

3.3 Terms relating to soil characteristics**3.3.1****habitat function**

ability of soils/soil materials to serve as a habitat for microorganisms, plants, soil-living animals and their interactions (biocenoses)

[ISO 15799:2003]

3.3.2**retention function**

ability of soils/soil materials to adsorb pollutants in such a way that they cannot be mobilized via the water pathway and translocated into the food chain

[ISO 15799:2003]

3.3.3**contaminant**

substance or agent present in the soil as a result of human activity

cf. **pollutant** (3.3.4)

NOTE There is no assumption in this definition that harm results from the presence of the contaminant.

[ISO 15176:2002]