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**Geotechnical investigation and  
testing — Field testing —**

**Part 8:  
Full displacement pressuremeter test**

*Reconnaissance et essais géotechniques — Essais en place —*

*Partie 8: Essai au pressiomètre refoulant*

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## Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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This document was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 341, *Geotechnical investigation and testing*, in collaboration with ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 182, *Geotechnics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

A list of all parts in the ISO 22476 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

# Geotechnical investigation and testing — Field testing —

## Part 8: Full displacement pressuremeter test

### 1 Scope

This document specifies the equipment requirements, execution of and reporting on full displacement pressuremeter (FDP) tests.

NOTE This document fulfils the requirements for full displacement pressuremeter test as part of the geotechnical investigation services according to EN 1997-1 and EN 1997-2.

Tests with the full displacement pressuremeter cover the measurement in situ of the deformation of soils and weak rocks by the expansion/contraction of a cylindrical flexible membrane under pressure.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

ISO 22476-1, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Field testing — Part 1: Electrical cone and piezocone penetration test*

ISO 22476-8:2018

ISO 22476-4:2012, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Field testing — Part 4: Ménard pressuremeter test*

ISO 10012, *Measurement management systems — Requirements for measurement processes and measuring equipment*

ENV 13005:1999; *Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement*

### 3 Terms, definitions and symbols

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

##### 3.1.1

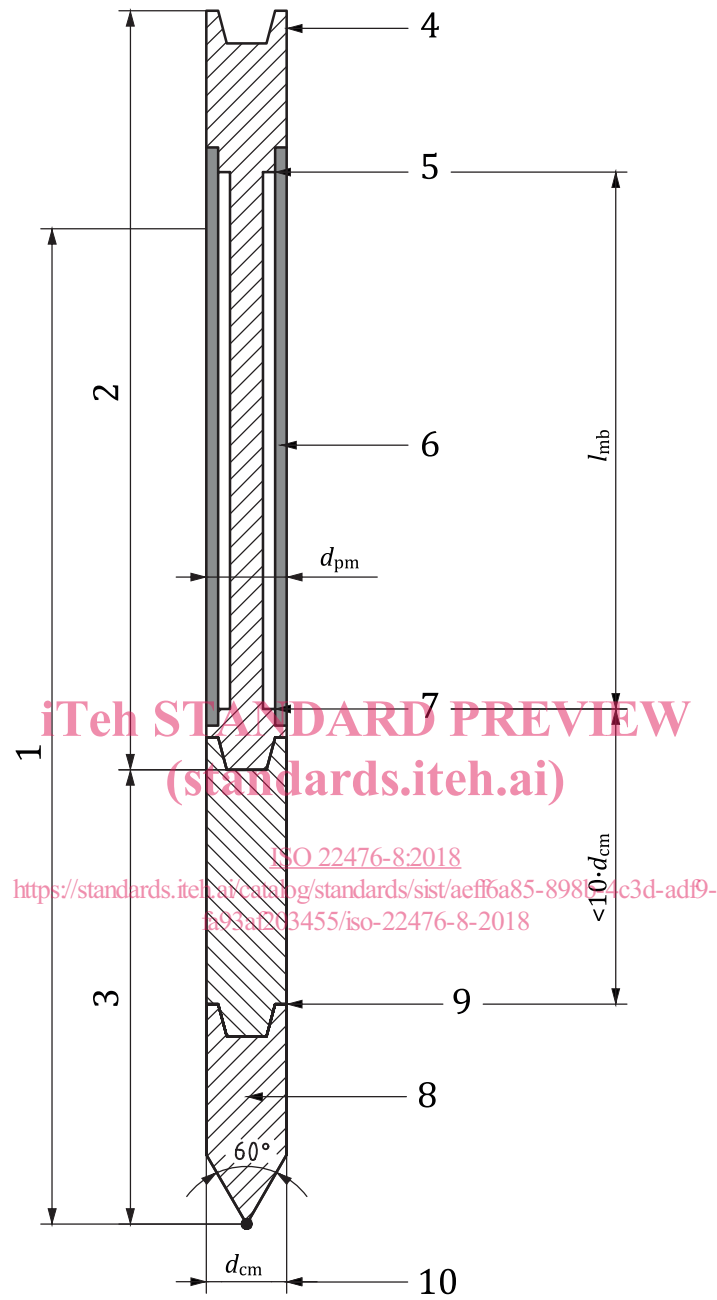
##### full displacement pressuremeter

##### FDP

assembly containing a *pressuremeter module* (3.1.2) and a *cone module* (3.1.3)

Note 1 to entry: The FDP is jacked or driven directly into undisturbed ground with an integral cone at its lower end thereby creating its own test hole. No preparation of the cavity is permitted either by pre-boring, pre-pushing or any other means.

Note 2 to entry: The applied pressure and associated expansion of the probe are measured and recorded so as to obtain the stress-displacement relationship for the soil as tested (see Figure 1).



**Key**

- |   |                                 |    |                                           |
|---|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | full displacement pressuremeter | 6  | membrane                                  |
| 2 | pressuremeter module            | 7  | lower fixed membrane point                |
| 3 | cone module                     | 8  | cone                                      |
| 4 | push rod connector              | 9  | cone tip                                  |
| 5 | upper fixed membrane point      | 10 | 25 mm to 50 mm (according to ISO 22476-1) |

NOTE The example is not to scale.

**Figure 1 — Cross section of a full displacement pressuremeter**

**3.1.2****pressuremeter module**

cylindrical device designed to apply a uniform pressure to the walls of a cavity by means of an expandable flexible single-cell membrane

**3.1.3****cone module**

cylindrical device with a conical shaped lower end and a connection to which the *pressuremeter module* (3.1.2) can be attached

Note 1 to entry: The cone module can be instrumented with cone, friction sleeve and pore pressure sensors according to ISO 22476-1.

**3.1.4****membrane**

part of the *pressuremeter module* (3.1.2) that is expanded and thereby transmits pressure to the cavity wall

Note 1 to entry: The membrane is fitted on a mandrel. It may be externally or internally reinforced or protected. The reinforcement or protection is deemed to be part of the membrane.

**3.1.5****membrane length**

$l_{mb}$

distance between the upper and lower fixed points of the *membrane* (3.1.4)

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 1](#).

**3.1.6****pressuremeter system**

*pressuremeter module* (3.1.2), *cone module* (3.1.3), controlling devices and measuring system in combination with any lines connecting them together

**3.1.7****volume-displacement type pressuremeter**

*pressuremeter module* (3.1.2) fitted with a sensor to measure the change in the volume of the expanding cavity

**3.1.8****radial-displacement type pressuremeter**

*pressuremeter module* (3.1.2) fitted with sensors to measure the change in the radius or diameter of the expanding cavity

**3.1.9****membrane pressure loss**

pressure in the *pressuremeter module* (3.1.2) required to expand the *membrane* (3.1.4) in air, expressed as a function of the expansion

**3.1.10****membrane compressibility**

change in thickness of the *membrane* (3.1.4) as related to the change in internal pressure in the *pressuremeter module* (3.1.2)

**3.1.11****system compliance**

volume change in a *pressuremeter system* (3.1.6) in response to the internal pressure variation in a situation where the expansion of the *membrane* (3.1.4) is restricted

Note 1 to entry: The system compliance takes into account both the deformation of the *pressuremeter system* (3.1.6) and the *membrane compressibility* (3.1.10) and includes time effects.

**3.1.12  
applied pressure**

pressure applied by the external surface of the *membrane* (3.1.4) to the walls of the cavity in the soil or weak rock

**3.1.13  
calibration cylinder**

cylindrical tube of known elastic properties used for the restriction of the membrane expansion and hence for the determination of system compliance

**3.1.14  
reference reading**

reading of a sensor just before the *membrane* (3.1.4) touches the wall of the *calibration cylinder* (3.1.13) when expanding

**3.1.15  
cavity volume**

$V$   
volume of the cavity in the ground between the upper and lower fixed points of the *membrane* (3.1.4)

**3.1.16  
initial cavity volume**

$V_0$   
theoretical *cavity volume* (3.1.15), calculated as:

$$V_0 = l_{mb} \cdot \frac{1}{4} \pi (d_{cm})^2$$

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where

$l_{mb}$  is the membrane length;

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$d_{cm}$  is the maximum diameter of the cone module

**3.1.17  
volumetric strain**

$\varepsilon_v$   
change in the volume of the cavity with respect to the *initial cavity volume* (3.1.16)

$$\varepsilon_v = \frac{V - V_0}{V_0}$$

where

$V$  is the cavity volume;

$V_0$  is the initial cavity volume

Note 1 to entry: Conversions between the volumetric strain and the radial strain are given in [Annex E](#).

**3.1.18  
initial cavity radius**

$r_0$   
theoretical radius of the cavity, calculated as follows:

$$r_0 = 0,5 d_{cm}$$

where  $d_{cm}$  is the maximum cone module diameter



### 3.1.19 radial strain

$\varepsilon_r$   
change in the radius of the cavity with respect to the *initial cavity radius* (3.1.18):

$$\varepsilon_r = \frac{r - r_0}{r_0}$$

where

$r$  is the cavity radius;

$r_0$  is the initial cavity radius

### 3.1.20 rate of volumetric strain change

$\dot{\varepsilon}_V$   
change of the *volumetric strain* (3.1.17) with time:

$$\dot{\varepsilon}_V = \frac{\Delta V}{V_0} \cdot \frac{1}{\Delta t}$$

where

$\Delta V$  is the volume change over a selected period  $\Delta t$ ;

$V_0$  is the initial cavity volume;

$\Delta t$  is the time increment over which the volume change took place

### 3.1.21 rate of radial strain change

$\dot{\varepsilon}_r$   
change of the *radial strain* (3.1.19) with time:

$$\dot{\varepsilon}_r = \frac{\Delta r}{r_0} \cdot \frac{1}{\Delta t}$$

where

$\Delta r$  is the radius change over a selected period  $\Delta t$ ;

$r_0$  is the initial cavity radius;

$\Delta t$  is the time increment over which the radial displacement took place

### 3.1.22 rate of pressure application

$\dot{p}$   
rate of change of the applied pressure with time.

$$\dot{p} = \frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$

where

$\Delta p$  is the pressure change over a selected period  $\Delta t$ ;

$\Delta t$  time increment over which the pressure took place

3.1.23

**thrust machine**

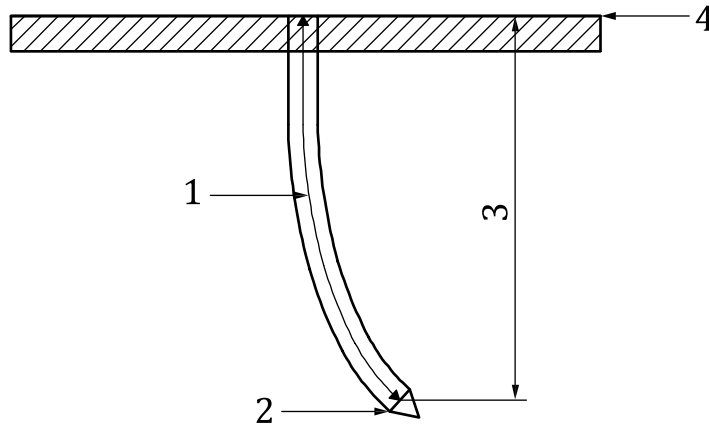
equipment that pushes the FDP (3.1.1) and rods (3.1.24) into the ground at a constant rate of penetration

3.1.24

**push rods**

string of rods for the transfer of forces to the FDP (3.1.1)

Note 1 to entry: The fixed horizontal plane (Figure 2) usually corresponds to the level of the ground surface (on shore or off shore). This may be different from the starting point of the test.



**Key**

- 1 penetration length
- 2 base of the conical part of the cone module
- 3 penetration depth
- 4 fixed horizontal plane

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**Figure 2 — Penetration length and penetration depth**

3.1.25

**penetration depth**

$z$   
depth to the base of the cone, relative to the fixed horizontal plane

3.1.26

**penetration length**

sum of the length of the push rods (3.1.24) and of the FDP (3.1.1), reduced by the height of the conical part, relative to the fixed horizontal plane

Note 1 to entry: See Figure 2.

3.1.27

**test depth**

depth where a pressuremeter test is performed, measured at membrane mid-height and relative to the fixed horizontal plane

3.1.28

**measuring system**

all sensors, ancillary parts and software used to transfer and to store the measurements made during the full displacement pressuremeter test

3.1.29

**unload-reload cycle**

controlled decrease in the pressure and volume or radius, after which the expansion is resumed

**3.1.30**

**reload-unload cycle**

controlled increase in the pressure and volume or radius during the final contraction phase of the test after which the contraction is resumed

**3.1.31**

**zero load reading**

stable output of a measuring system if there is zero load on the sensors, i.e. the parameter to be measured has a value of zero while any auxiliary power supply required to operate the measuring system is switched on

**3.1.32**

**drift**

absolute difference of the zero load readings or reference readings of the measuring system before and after the execution of the full displacement pressuremeter test

**3.1.33**

**uncertainty**

expanded uncertainty with a coverage factor 2

Note 1 to entry: Coverage factors are defined in ENV 13005.

**3.2 Symbols**

Symbol	Description	Unit
$A_c$	cross-sectional projected area of the cone	mm <sup>2</sup>
$d_{cm}$	maximum diameter of the cone module	mm
$d_{pm}$	maximum diameter of the pressuremeter module	mm
$d_t$	internal diameter of the calibration cylinder	mm
$h_c$	height of the conical part of the cone module	mm
$l_{mb}$	membrane length	mm
$M_s$	system stiffness	kPa/mm <sup>3</sup>
$P$	pressure	kPa
$p_h$	pressure difference between the pressure sensor and the pressure at the midheight of the membrane	kPa
$p_r$	pressure reading in the pressuremeter module	kPa
$p_m$	pressure loss pressure to overcome the membrane resistance	kPa
$p_{offset}$	offset of the pressure	kPa
$p_{rm}$	pressure reading corrected for the membrane resistance	kPa
$p_{ref}$	pressure at reference volume $V_{ref}$	kPa
$p_0$	pressure at initial cavity volume $V_0$	kPa
$\dot{p}$	rate of pressure change	kPa/s
$r$	cavity radius	mm
$r_{offset}$	offset of the real radius with the sensor reading of the radius	mm
$r_0$	initial cavity radius	mm
$t$	time	s
$V$	cavity volume	mm <sup>3</sup>
$V_{offset}$	offset of the real volume with the sensor reading of the volume	mm <sup>3</sup>
$V_{ref}$	reference volume	mm <sup>3</sup>
$V_0$	initial cavity volume	mm <sup>3</sup>
$z$	penetration depth	m