
**Faecal sludge treatment units —
Energy independent, prefabricated,
community-scale resource-recovery
units — Safety and performance**

*Unités de traitement de matières de vidange — Unités de
récupération préfabriquées et autonomes en énergie pour des
ressources à l'échelle locale — Sécurité et performances*

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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.

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).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

International Workshop Agreement IWA 28 was developed and approved over a series of three workshops hosted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in Durban, South Africa, in June 2017, in Singapore in September 2017 and in Dakar, Senegal, in January 2018.

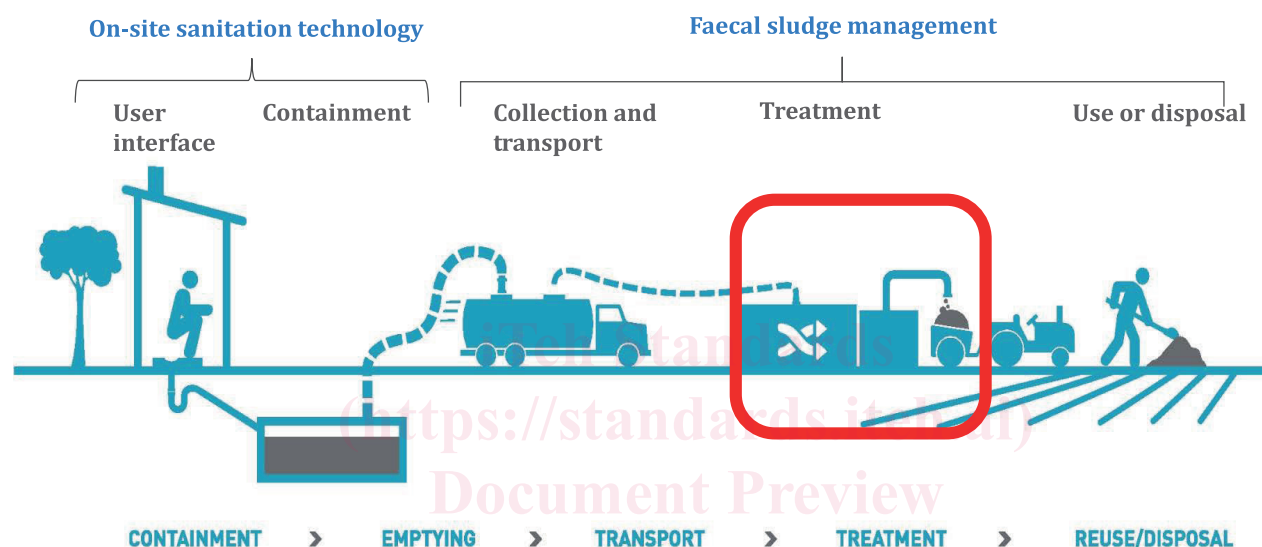
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Introduction

Hygienic sanitation facilities are crucial for public health, yet 61 % of the global population do not use safely managed sanitation services, i.e. excreta safely disposed of in situ or treated off-site (see Reference [186]).

Improved environmental sanitation has a multitude of socio-economic benefits. Functional sanitation systems improve health and welfare and are fundamental to human development. Integrated business models throughout the sanitation value chain can ensure the economic viability of processes that turn waste into valuable resources, such as biofuels or agriculture products. Sanitation systems can also conserve water, thus leading to even broader livelihood improvements. According to the World Health Organization, the estimated economic benefit of the return on a US\$1 investment in sanitation is in the range of US\$5 to US\$28 (see Reference [185]).



NOTE The focus of this document is treatment (as depicted in the red box).

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Figure 1 — Sanitation value chain

The focus of this technical document on non-sewered faecal sludge treatment units is represented by the red box along the sanitation value chain in [Figure 1](#), indicating the treatment components of faecal sludge management. The purpose of this document is to specify performance and safety requirements of community-scaled resource-oriented faecal sludge treatment units serving approximately 1 000 to 100 000 people, ensuring technical robustness and safety in terms of human health and the environment. This document aims to facilitate the commercialization and transfer of these treatment units into the market.

This document complements ISO 30500¹⁾ on-site user-interface non-sewered sanitation systems (depicted at left in [Figure 1](#)).

This document aims to specify technical requirements and recommendations for community-scale resource-oriented faecal sludge treatment units in terms of performance, reliability, availability, maintainability and safety. This document further aims to promote trust among the different stakeholders involved in faecal sludge management, such as investors, technology developers, regulatory bodies, local service providers and users, increasing their willingness to implement innovative new technologies. Manufacturers and technology developers can use this document to gain consumer confidence in the reliability and safety of treatment units. Stakeholders can use this document as a benchmark to compare performance capabilities of different treatment unit options and identify which option is most suitable for their needs.

1) Under preparation. Stage at the time of publication: ISO/DIS 30500:2018.

This document specifies minimum requirements of all types of outputs from the treatment unit to ensure safety for human health and the environment. It does not specify or mandate the quality of resources recovered as these are highly dependent on the local (e.g. economic, social) context.

This document is intended to ensure the general performance, safety and sustainability of such units. This document also includes requirements for operability and maintainability to ensure safety and performance of the treatment unit. [Figure 2](#) illustrates the scope of this document with respect to treatment unit inputs and outputs.

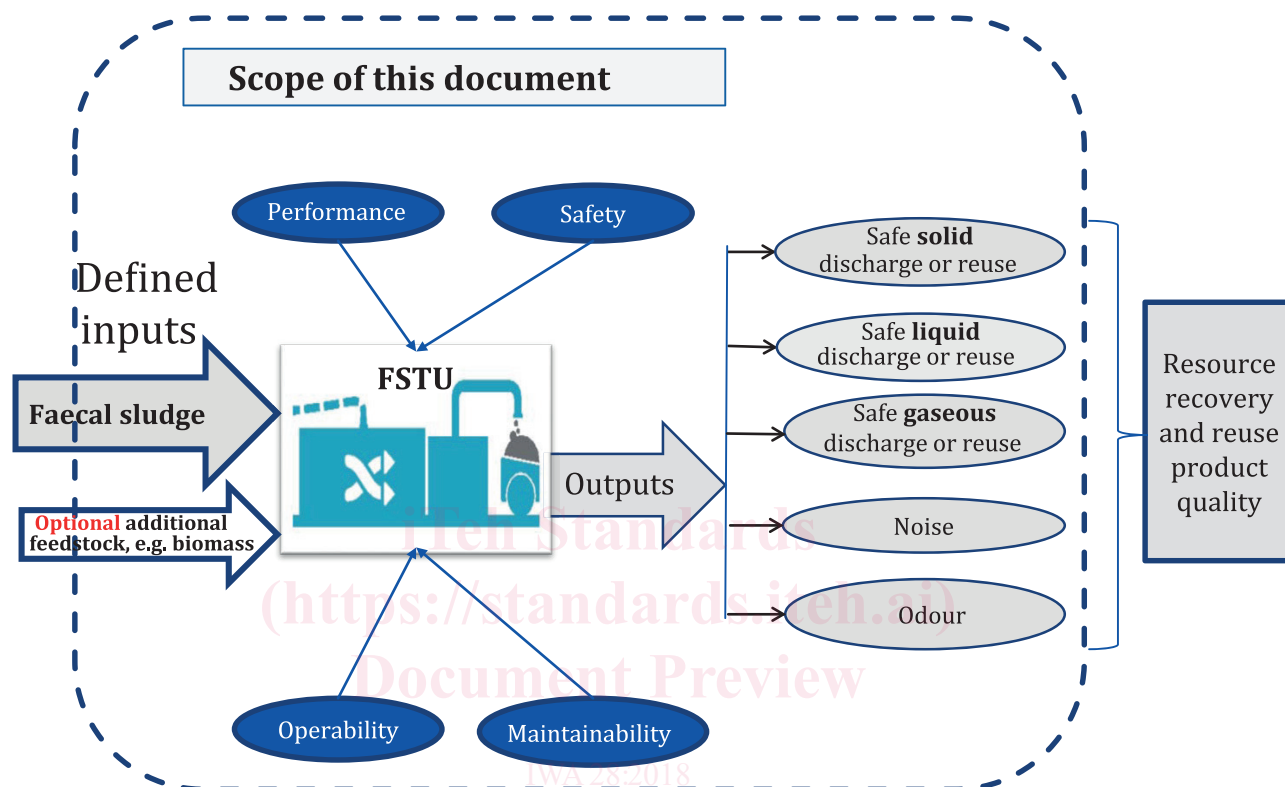


Figure 2 — Scope of this document

The dashed line in [Figure 2](#) shows the boundary of the scope of this document. Inputs are primarily faecal sludge derived from human excreta (likely contaminated with domestic waste) and can include additional inputs at the discretion of the manufacturer. This document does not specify which forms of excreta and additional inputs are treated within the unit (e.g. urine, faeces, greywater); these inputs are defined by the manufacturer.

Inputs are illustrated as partially within and partially outside the document's scope to illustrate that the manufacturer defines the input characteristics which meet the requirements set forth in this document. The performance, safety, operability and maintainability of the treatment unit are addressed in this document, as are human health and safety aspects of the treatment unit's solid, liquid and gaseous outputs. Noise and odour outputs of the treatment unit are also addressed within this document. However, the quality and value of any resource recovery and reuse products derived from treatment unit outputs are outside the scope of this document. Apart from the requirement for energy independence during steady-state operation, this document does not set performance targets with respect to the amount or type of energy or resources that needs to be recovered and/or locally used.

This document excludes transportation and any intermediary processes required to supply the treatment unit with the defined inputs.

Provisions of this document apply to the treatment unit according to its unit boundaries, i.e. within the process chain beginning with its specified inputs and ending with its outputs.

[Annex C](#) on sustainability highlights some of these considerations.

Faecal sludge treatment units — Energy independent, prefabricated, community-scale resource-recovery units — Safety and performance

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and test methods to ensure safety, performance and sustainability of community-scale resource-oriented faecal sludge treatment units that serve approximately 1 000 to 100 000 people. This document applies to treatment units that:

- a) primarily treat faecal sludge;
- b) are able to operate in non-sewered and off-grid environments;
- c) are prefabricated.

This document does not apply to sanitation treatment units requiring sewer infrastructure, or to those requiring electric grid access during steady state operation.

Treatment units to which this document applies exhibit resource recovery capability (e.g. recovering energy, reusable water, soil amendment) and are capable of being energy neutral or energy net positive.

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 7250 (all parts), *Basic human body measurements for technological design*

ISO/IEC 17065:2012, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*

ISO 20816-1, *Mechanical vibration — Measurement and evaluation of machine vibration — Part 1: General guidelines*

ISO 55000, *Asset management — Overview, principles and terminology*

IEC 60050, *International electrotechnical vocabulary*

IEC 60204-1, *Safety of machinery — Electrical equipment of machines — Part 1: General requirements*

IEC 60942, *Electroacoustics — Sound calibrators*

IEC 61260-1, *Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters — Part 1: Specifications*

IEC 61672-1, *Electroacoustics — Sound level meters — Part 1: Specifications*

IEC 82079-1, *Preparation of instructions for use — Structuring, content and presentation — Part 1: General principles and detailed requirements*

API 650, *Welded steel tanks for oil storage*

ASTM D7348-13, *Standard test methods for loss on ignition (LOI) of solid combustion residues*

AWWA D-100, *Welded carbon steel tanks for water storage*

DIN 4109-1, *Sound insulation in buildings*

EN 13137, *Characterization of waste — Determination of total organic carbon (TOC) in waste, sludges and sediments*

EN 13725, *Air quality — Determination of odour concentration by dynamic olfactometry*

EN 15259, *Air quality — Measurement of stationary source emissions — Requirements for measurement sections and sites and for the measurement objective, plan and report*

EN 15936, *Sludge, treated biowaste, soil and waste — Determination of total organic carbon (TOC) by dry combustion*

FDBR-RL7, *Acceptance testing of waste incineration plants with grate firing systems*

NFPA 30:2018, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*

UL 58, *Standard for steel underground tanks for flammable and combustible liquids*

UL 142, *Standard for steel aboveground tanks for flammable and combustible liquids*

Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

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 General

3.1.1

human excreta

waste products of human metabolism, in solid or liquid form, generally urine and/or faeces

[SOURCE: ISO 24521:2016, 3.3]

3.1.2

faecal sludge

untreated sludge generated from the storage of *human excreta* (3.1.1) that can be mixed with flush water, solid *domestic waste* (3.2.1) and other liquids

3.1.3

input

substances fed to the treatment unit for the purpose of treating those substances

Note 1 to entry: Input to treatment units covered by this document is required to be derived primarily from *faecal sludge* (3.1.2), which can be contaminated by liquid and solid *domestic waste* (3.2.1) and can include different forms of *biomass* (3.2.2).

3.1.4

prefabricated

factory produced, either as a fully assembled unit or as a set of components that assemble to form the unit

3.1.5**design requirement**

requirement that specifies or constrains the design of a system or system componentcf. functional requirement, implementation requirement, interface requirement, performance requirement, physical requirement

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765:2017, 3.1146]

3.1.6**risk assessment**

overall process comprising a risk analysis and a risk evaluation

[SOURCE: ISO 14971:2007, 2.18]

3.1.7**safety assessment**

review of the aspects of design and operation of the treatment unit, which are relevant to the protection of persons or the safety of the treatment unit, including the analysis of the safety and protection provision established in the design and operation of the treatment unit and the analysis of risks associated with normal conditions and accident situations

3.1.8**design process**

process of converting the requirements of the functional specification into the technical specification

[SOURCE: ISO 13880:1999, 3.3]

3.1.9**functioning as intended**

conforming to all expectations in terms of performance, capacity and safety as specified by the manufacturer

EXAMPLE The treatment process is functioning as intended when the process is stable and the output criteria are met.

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3.1.10**reasonably foreseeable misuse**

use of a machine in a way not intended by the designer, but which can result from readily predictable human behaviour

[SOURCE: ISO 12100:2010, 3.30]

3.2 Input, energy balance and resource recovery**3.2.1****domestic waste**

waste that arises from domestic use of a private dwelling

3.2.2**biomass**

material of biological origin excluding material embedded in geological and/or fossilized formations

[SOURCE: ISO 16620-1:2015, 3.1.2]

3.2.3**steady state**

condition in which all relevant operational parameters are not significantly changing with time

3.2.4

energy balance

accounting of *input* (3.1.3) and/or generation of energy supply versus energy outputs based on energy consumption by energy use

[SOURCE: ISO 50002:2014, 3.6, modified — Notes to entry have been deleted.]

3.2.5

energy independent

able to perform the intended functions of the treatment unit relying exclusively on energy from its defined *input* (3.1.3) during *steady state* (3.2.3) operation

3.2.6

energy positive

generating excess energy from the treatment unit's defined *input* (3.1.3) (e.g. as biocrude or biogas) that can be used in applications beyond the treatment unit

3.2.7

thermal treatment

treatment process using heat to convert energy from the treatment unit *input* (3.1.3) into a useful form

3.2.8

calorific value

quantity of heat produced by the combustion, the constituents of the combustible mixture being taken at reference conditions and the products of combustion being brought back to the same conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 22967:2010, 3.2.2, modified — The words “at a constant pressure equal to 0,101 325 MPa, of unit volume or mass of gas” have been deleted from the definition and the Note to entry has been deleted.]

3.2.9

biochemical oxygen demand

BOD

mass concentration of dissolved oxygen consumed under specified conditions by the aerobic biological oxidation of a chemical compound or organic matter in water

[SOURCE: ISO 9408:1999, 2.5, modified — Note to entry has been deleted.]

3.2.10

chemical oxygen demand

COD

mass concentration of oxygen equivalent to the amount of a specified oxidant consumed by a chemical compound or organic matter when a water sample is treated with that oxidant under defined conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 9408:1999, 2.6, modified — Note to entry has been deleted.]

3.2.11

volatile organic compound

VOC

organic liquid and/or solid that evaporates spontaneously at the prevailing temperature and pressure of the atmosphere with which it is in contact

[SOURCE: ISO 17895:2005, 3.1, modified — The word “any” has been deleted at the start of the definition and the Notes to entry have been deleted.]

3.3 Performance