
Soil quality — Field soil description

Qualité du sol — Description du sol sur le terrain

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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).

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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 25177:2008), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition is as follows.

- The 2015 edition of the World Reference Base for soil resources^[24] has been adapted.
- References to geotechnical standards ISO 14688-1^[3] and ISO 14688-2^[4] have been made.
- A new [Clause 4](#) describing how to use this document has been added and subsequent clauses have been renumbered.
- A new [Clause 5](#) describing objectives and methods has been added and subsequent clauses have been renumbered. The aspects to describe and how to do this is more separate from the observations and background information.
- The numbering and encoding have been made more consequent and logical.
- New aspects about coarse anthropogenic elements, oil-water reaction pan and signs of pollution or contamination have been added.
- A new [Clause 11](#) about reporting has been added.
- A new [Annex A](#) about landforms has been added and subsequent annexes have been renumbered.
- The former Annex B listing reference soil groups of the WRB^[24] has been removed.
- A new [Annex G](#) about common coarse elements found in soil and soil surface has been added.
- A new [Annex H](#) about recording soil description observations for specific types of soil quality investigations has been added.

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.

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