

A recent and important development is that the Dutch standards organisation (NEN) has decided after 32 years to relinquish the Secretariat of ISO TC190 on soil quality. This is the result of a government decision to cease to fund the Secretariat.

A new lead standards organisation and Chair for TC190 must be found by the middle of 2018. No national standards body has so far come forward to take on the role although there is a possibility that France might offer. However, this could depend on whether President Macron appreciates the importance of sustainable use of soil and the role it plays in climate as did President Hollande.

This is of course a role that BSI could take on but is very unlikely to do unless there is industry support, both in terms of wanting BSI to do so, and almost certainly a willingness to provide funding, or ability and willingness to persuade DEFRA to provide funding.

As a result of a cut in the government grant to BSI, the BSI contributions toward travel cost of those attending ISO and CEN meetings has been reduced by 25%. In the case of the next meeting of TC190 in Seoul to BSI contribution towards costs will be less than 20% of the overall costs.

Very few of the organisations that are members of BSI EH4 committee on soil quality (the shadow committee for TC190) actively participate in the work of the committee and only three have made any financial contribution towards participation in the work of TC190, or the equivalent CEN Committees, TC345 and TC444. SCI has made a disproportionate contribution but it is not certain that we will be able to continue to do so as the costs in real terms rise at an increasing rate.

Mike Smith



Note: This is not a complete listing of on-going projects. At anyone time there are also a number of geotechnical and ground engineering standards progressing through the ISO/CEN/BS system.

GEOENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR SOIL & SITE ASSESSMENT – 30 June 2017

BSI PROJECTS		
BS 10175	Amendment in response to publication of ISO 18400 standards. Full review and revision likely 2018.	Draft for Public Comment expected July.
ISO 18400 Series		
BS ISO 18400-100	Umbrella	BS ISO published April 2017.
BS ISO 18400-101	Sampling plan	
BS ISO 18400-102	Sampling techniques and their application	
BS ISO 18400-103	Safety	
(BS) DIS 18400-104	Strategies	Draft FDIS will be prepared by DIN following meeting on June 15 & 16.
BS ISO 18400-105	Packaging, storage and sampling	BS ISO published April 2017.
BS ISO 18400-106	Quality assurance	
BS ISO 18400-107	Sampling report	
BS ISO 18400-201	On-site pretreatment	
(F)DIS 18400-202	Preliminary investigations	
(F) DIS 18400-203	Investigations of potentially contaminated sites	
ISO18400-204	Soil gas	Published as ISO Jan 2017. Will not be BS – overlaps BS 8576.
DIS 18400-205	Investigation of agricultural, near-natural and natural sites	DIS currently out for comment
DIS 18400-206	Sampling for biological assessments	Consultation on DIS completed in May. Will be BS.
OTHER ISO STANDARDS ON SOIL & SITE ASSESSMENT		
(BS) (EN) ISO DIS 11504	Impact of soil contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons	Proceeding to publication (no FDIS will be produced).
BS EN ISO DIS 15175 (REVISION)	Soil & groundwater protection	DIS was available for comment until 12 June.
BS ISO 15176 (REVISION)	Re-use of excavated soil and soil materials	Revision started under UK leadership (MAS). DIS expected Sept 2017.
BS ISO 15799 (REVISION)	Ecotoxicological characterization of soil & soil materials	CD issued for comment by 17.02.2017. DIS awaited
ISO 15800 (REVISION)	Human exposure	Revision initiated. Important because although might not be wanted in the UK could be adopted as EN and thus automatically become a BS.
ISO CD 16133	Design of monitoring programmes [for soil quality]	CD comment period ended 24 May.
ISO DIS 17924	Bioavailability of metals in soil to humans	To proceed to FDIS/publication
(BS) ISO 18504	Sustainable remediation	Standard finalised. To be published as BS (July?)
BS ISO 18512:2007	Guidance on long & short term storage of samples	May be revised – decision pending
BS EN ISO 19258 (REVISION)	Determination of background values	To proceed to FDIS/publication
NWIP 21365	Conceptual site models for potentially contaminated sites	New project initiated. Proceeding to CD.
ISO CD 25177 (Revision)	Field soil description	CD comment period ended 23 Jan 2016. UK now represented..

CD = Committee Draft, DIS = Draft International Standard, FDIS = Final Draft International Standard, NWIP = New Work Item Proposal, WD = Working Draft

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