

GEOENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR SOIL & SITE ASSESSMENT – 9 March 2018

Introduction

As expected, the Dutch standards organisation (NEN) relinquished the Secretariat of ISO TC190 on soil quality at the end of 2017. This is the result of a Dutch government decision to cease to fund the Secretariat. The German standards organisation (DIN) has taken over the Secretariat with France (AFNOR) playing a major role in running the Sub-Committees and Working Groups. The UK provides no Secretariat support. The structure of TC190 has been simplified and the number of Sub-committees and Working Groups reduced.

Draft standards for review

The following standards are among those currently out for comment and should be available on the BSI standards development website (<http://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com> - it is necessary to register in order to access drafts for public comment including ISO Draft International Standards (DISs). Searching on the number of the standard should bring up a page describing the standard and giving access to the draft and commenting system):

- *BS ISO DIS 15176 Soil quality – Characterization of excavated soil and other soil materials intended for re-use.* This is a revision of the existing BS published in 2002. The closing date for comments is 5 April.
- *ISO DIS 15800 Soil quality – Characterization of soil with respect to human exposure.* This is a revision of the 2003 version which was not adopted as a British Standard. The closing date for comments is 8 April.

Revision of BS 10175

The response to the request for views regarding the need or otherwise for a formal revision of BS1075 +A2: 2017 has been disappointingly limited including from members of the BSI committee (EH4). BSI EH4 will have to decide at its next meeting in June whether to initiate revision given the apparent indifference of users of the standard. In the meantime, anyone that has views about the need for revision should continue to send them to BSI (jessy.mathew@bsigroup.com).

Sampling soils for VOCs

BSI has approved this project but work has yet to start. A drafting panel has been set up but we are awaiting availability of a BSI editor/standard developer. Whether one should attempt to measure the concentration of volatiles in soils is a matter for discussion but if it is to be done, then it should be done properly which is not necessarily the case at present.

BS ISO 1400 Series of Standards – Soil quality – Sampling

There has been little progress regarding the remaining five members of the BS ISO 18400 series of standards (-104, -202, -203, -205 and -206). I found out in December that all the standards, other than 18400-206, had disappeared into a DIN black hole and despite reassurances from time to time from the Secretariat, they were not being worked on. Hopefully, they are now back in the pipeline, but it is likely to be towards the end of 2018 and possibly well into 2019 before they are published.

ISO 18400-104 (sampling strategies): The changes to DIS 18400-104 required to produce the FDIS were agreed with DIN in June 2017. However, despite assurances to the contrary, no work appears to have been done on it by the time the then Secretary of the Working Group retired at the end of October. Work on the FDIS by DIN has been completed and the draft sent to ISO for processing. Given the length of the document it could be several months before the FDIS emerges from ISO.

ISO 18400-202 (preliminary investigations): The draft text of the FDIS was passed to DIN in June 2016. No work had been done on it by DIN by the end of February.

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.

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ISO 18400-203 (potentially contaminated sites): The draft text of the FDIS was passed to DIN in June 2016. No work had been done on it by DIN by the end of February.

ISO 18400-205 (natural and near natural etc. sites): My advice on what to do about the comments on the DIS was sent to DIN in September 2017. This was not circulated to the Working Group until December 2017. According to the ISO timetable ISO 18400-205 should have been published by 20 February 2018. The project will be axed by ISO if sufficient progress has not been made by 20 August 2018. No work had been done on it by DIN by the end of February.

ISO 18400-206 (sampling for biological testing): This is being produced by a different SC and WG. It is currently being processed to FDIS. There have been no undue delays in its production.

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BSI PROJECTS		
BS 10175 Amendment 2	Amendment in response to publication of ISO 18400 standards.	New version of BS 10175 published.
BS10175	Discussion about possible revision was started at the meeting of BSI EH4 to be held on 26 October. Public consultation about the need for revision carried out February/March.	A decision about whether to revise the standard is pending
New British Standard	Sampling of soils for determination of VOCs	Preparation will start early in 2018.
BS ISO 18400 Series		
(BS) DIS 18400-104	Strategies	Draft FDIS sent to ISO by DIN
(BS) (F)DIS 18400-202	Preliminary investigations	Draft FDISs sent to DIN for processing July 2016 – still not sent to ISO
(F) DIS 18400-203	Investigations of potentially contaminated sites	
(BS) DIS 18400-205	Investigation of agricultural, near-natural and natural sites	Draft FDIS being prepared by DIN
(BS) DIS 18400-206	Sampling for biological assessments	Proceeding to FDIS.
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	Comments on DIS dealt with. Text of FDIS being prepared.
BS ISO 15176 (REVISION)	Re-use of excavated soil and soil materials	Revision started under UK leadership (MAS). DIS available for comment until 5 April.
BS ISO 15799 (REVISION)	Ecotoxicological characterization of soil & soil materials	Comment period on DIS closed.
ISO 15800 (REVISION)	Human exposure	DIS available for comment until 8 April.
BS EN ISO DIS 16133	Design of monitoring programmes [for soil quality]	Consultation on DIS completed.
ISO DIS 17924	Bioavailability of metals in soil to humans	To proceed to FDIS/publication
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
CD 21365	Conceptual site models for potentially contaminated sites	Comment resolution meetings held 9 November & 29 January. Draft DIS likely to be completed by the end of March.
BS EN ISO 21577 (revision)	Field soil description	DIS issued for comment by 23 February 2018

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

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