

### Introduction

Over the past thirty years or so BSI committee EH4 (soil quality) has produced only BS 10175, BS 8485, and BS 8576 and amendments thereto, with BS 10176 currently in the pipeline. All other standards for which EH4 is responsible have been produced internationally, either within ISO and/or CEN (the European standards organisation). In recent years the UK has initiated only one project within ISO TC190, BS ISO 18504 on sustainable remediation for which Paul Nathanail was the Convenor of the Working Group with the German standards organisation (DIN) providing the Secretariat. Similarly, the BS committee responsible for BS 5930 (B526/3) responds otherwise only to standards produced at international level (although it should be noted that BSI holds the Secretariat for the corresponding ISO and CEN committees and there is active participation in all Working Groups).

EH4 responds to proposals made to ISO and/or CEN, sometimes supporting proposals but often abstaining when the proposed standard seems of little relevance to the UK or we lack the necessary expertise within EH4. These decisions are made in consultation with all members of the committee who are free to consult the organisation they represent (e.g. AGS, ICE, NHBC). However, once a project has been adopted, we try as far as possible to ensure that the resulting standard is suitable for adoption as a BS. This is essential in the case of proposed European Standards (ENs) as they are automatically adopted as BSs, in contrast to ISO standards which we are under no obligation to adopt as BSs.

EH4 struggles to find experts willing or able to actively participate in the work of ISO and CEN Working Groups and is too reliant on just a few people. At the moment there will only be one person attending the annual meeting of ISO TC190 (soil quality) and associated Working Groups in October. Even this very limited participation will only be possible due to the contribution made by the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) towards travel costs. No one gets paid for producing standards.

It seems likely that due to committee reorganisation within CEN, EH4 will have to accept responsibility for characterisation of wastes currently covered by a defunct BS committee. This will add to our work load and difficulties finding willing experts.

Participation in CEN might cease to be a problem if we leave the UK without an agreement: we will cease overnight to be a member of the single market and hence eligible for full membership of CEN.

### Proposed BS10176 - Sampling soils for VOCs

It is planned to release the Draft for Public Comment (DPC) on 1 July.

### New ISO Project on Sampling Soils for Volatiles (NP23987)

This new ISO project has been approved and will be handled by a new Working Group under French leadership. The UK supported the proposal which will be wider in scope than BS10176.

### ISO EN 21365 Conceptual site models

The draft FDIS has been completed and sent to AFNOR and ISO for processing.

### ISO DIS 15800 Soil characterization in respect of human exposure

The Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) has been issued for comment by 12 July.

### New Project on Selection of Remedial and Protective Measures.

AFNOR has submitted a New Work Item Proposal (NWIP 24212) for a guidance document on the selection and application of remediation techniques. It is intended to have world-wide applicability, including in countries that do not have the range of services available in the UK and similarly developed countries (e.g. it will look at what can be done with technologies available in the country). It is also intended to help the user in such countries to judge whether techniques they are being offered by foreign companies are likely to be applicable. UK experts will be required. The UK

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## GEOENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR SOIL & SITE ASSESSMENT – 24 June 2019

has voted in favour of the project proceeding at ISO level but has yet to decide whether it should also be an EN. Some potential UK “experts” to contribute to the work of the WG have been identified but there is scope to add more if anyone is interested.

### **BS EN ISO 22475-1 Geotechnical investigation and testing – Sampling of soil, rock and groundwater – Part 1: Technical Principles**

This is a revision of BS EN ISO 22475-1:2006. A draft for public comment (prEN, DIS) was issued on 1 November 2018. The commenting period ended on 25 December. UK comments were sent to the ISO & CEN Secretariats in February. The draft was approved by members of CEN TC341 but disapproved by members of ISO TC182. A second DIS will be produced by the ISO Working Group.

### **Future of BS1377**

BSI has now published the first ten Standards in the series BS EN ISO 17892 and the final two standards will be published by mid/late 2019. On the day they are published, they supersede the equivalent test methods in BS 1377. The clauses in BS1377-2:1990 that have been superseded by the published parts of BS EN 17892 have been withdrawn. BS1377 will be reviewed over the next few months with a view, for example, to deleting superseded clauses, and updating references and cross-references. Once this has been done, consideration will be given to what else, if anything needs to be done.

**Mike Smith**



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## GEOENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR SOIL & SITE ASSESSMENT – 24 June 2019

<b>BSI PROJECTS</b>		
BS 10175	Currently no plans for revision	
New British Standard BS10176	Sampling of soils for determination of VOCs	DPC expected 1 July 2019
Amendment of BS 5930	Ground investigation	BSI agreed to preparation of Amendment in June.
<b>ISO/CEN GEOTECHNICAL STANDARDS</b>		
BS EN ISO 22475-1	Geotechnical investigation and testing – Sampling of soil, rock and groundwater – Part 1: Technical Principles	Second DIS to be prepared.
<b>OTHER ISO STANDARDS ON SOIL &amp; SITE ASSESSMENT Etc.</b>		
<b>BS ISO 15176: 2019</b>	<b>Guidance on characterization of excavated soil and other materials intended for re-use</b>	<b>Published June 2019</b>
ISO DIS 15800 (REVISION)	Human exposure	FDIS published for comment by 12 July
BS ISO 18512:2007	Guidance on long & short term storage of samples	May be revised – decision pending
BS EN ISO DIS 21365	Conceptual site models for potentially contaminated sites	Proceeding to FDIS
BS EN ISO 21577 (revision)	Field soil description	FDIS published for comment by 19 July
ISO NP 23987	Sampling and measuring of volatiles in soil quality field investigations	Project approved.
ISO NP 24212	Remediation techniques applied to contaminated sites	Project approved in ISO – proposal should also be EN awaiting approval.
CEN NP XXXX	Characterization of granular solids with potential for use as construction material – Compliance leaching test – Up-flow percolation test	Proposal awaiting approval – BSI has abstained.
BS ISO 12404 (revision)	Selection & application of analytical screening methods for on-site use	Revision initiated

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

### RECENTLY PUBLISHED ANALYTICAL AND OTHER SOIL QUALITY STANDARDS

PD CEN/TR 17309: 2019	Test methods for environmental characterization of solid matrices - Guide to flash point testing	June 2019
BS ISO 21479: 2019	Soil quality. Determination of the effects of pollutants on soil flora. Leaf fatty acid composition of plants used to assess soil quality	June 2019
BS ISO 20951: 2019	Soil Quality — Guidance on methods for measuring greenhouse gases (CO <sub>2</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O, CH <sub>4</sub> ) and ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ) fluxes between soils and the atmosphere	June 2019

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