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Interested committees:

Title: Draft BS EN 18056 Cultural Heritage. Waterlogged archaeological wood - Characterization of waterlogged archaeological wood to support decision-making processes for its preservation.

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Introduction

This draft standard is based on national and international discussions. Your comments on this draft are invited and will assist in the preparation of the consequent standard.

For international standards, comments will be reviewed by the relevant UK national committee before sending the consensus UK vote and comments to the international committee, which will then decide appropriate action. If the international standard is approved, it is usual for the text to be published as a British Standard.

For national standards, comments will be reviewed by the relevant UK national committee and the resulting standards published as a British Standard.

UK Vote

Please indicate whether you consider the UK should submit a negative (with supporting technical reasons) or positive vote on this draft. Please indicate if you are aware of any reason why this draft standard should not be published as a British Standard.

Submission of Comments

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Template for comments and secretariat observations

Date: xx/xx/20xx	Document: ISO/DIS xxxx
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1	2	(3)	4	5	(6)	7
MB	Clause No./ Subclause No./Annex (e.g. 3.1)	Paragraph/ Figure/Table/Note	Type of comment	Comment (justification for change) by the MB	Proposed change by the MB	Secretariat observations on each comment submitted
	3.1	Definition 1	ed	Definition is ambiguous and needs clarifying.	Amend to read '...so that the mains connector to which no connection...'	
	6.4	Paragraph 2	te	The use of the UV photometer as an alternative cannot be supported as serious problems have been encountered in its use in the UK.	Delete reference to UV photometer.	

English Version

Cultural Heritage - Waterlogged archaeological wood - Characterization of waterlogged archaeological wood to support decision-making processes for its preservation

Charakterisierung von archäologischem Nassholz als
Steuerungsinstrument

This draft European Standard is submitted to CEN members for enquiry. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 346.

If this draft becomes a European Standard, CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

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European foreword

This document (prEN 18056:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 “Conservation of Cultural Heritage”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This document is currently submitted to the CEN Enquiry.

Introduction

Even if waterlogged archaeological wood appears intact or in good condition upon excavation, it can result in an extremely unstable state caused by alteration produced by different agents. Uncontrolled drying, or even limited exposure to an unchecked climate, may cause undesirable permanent deformations of the wooden structure altering the integrity of the wooden object.

In waterlogged environments the microbial activity usually starts at the surface of the object and proceeds inwards. It affects the physico-mechanical properties of the material (e.g. strength, hardness, shrinkage and density) and the structural chemical components of the wood cells.

The application of a preservation strategy will only be successful once full knowledge of the material to be preserved has been recorded. Characterization of the wood is essential in order to manage the finds on the site and to identify the options for further action regarding in-situ preservation, reburial, remedial conservation or preservation by record.