Draft for Public Comment

Form 36

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Responsible committee: AW/20 Topsoil, other growing media and turf

Interested committees:

Title: BS EN 18253 Draft Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of total organic carbon by dry combustion.

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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 Please indicate if you are aware of any reason why this draft standard should not be published as a British Standard.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

- **Annotated drafts are not acceptable and will be rejected.**
- All comments should be submitted online at **https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/**. You will need to register in order to comment.

Template for comments and secretariat observations

Date: xx/xx/20xx	Document: ISO/DIS xxxx

1	2	(3)	4	5	(6)	7
MB	Clause No./ Subclause No./Annex **(e.g. 3.1)**	Paragraph/ Figure/Table/Note	**Type of comment**	**Commend (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.	

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

DRAFT
prEN 18253

October 2025

ICS 65.080

English Version

Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of total organic carbon by dry combustion

Amendements du sol et supports de culture - Détermination du carbone organique total par combustion sèche

Bodenverbesserungsmittel und Kultursubstrate - Bestimmung von organischem Gesamtkohlenstoff durch trockene Verbrennung

This draft European Standard is submitted to CEN members for enquiry. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 223.

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.

This draft European Standard was established by CEN in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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Recipients of this draft are invited to submit, with their comments, notification of any relevant patent rights of which they are aware and to provide supporting documentation.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
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European foreword

This document (prEN 18253:2025) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 223 “Soil improvers and growing media”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This document is currently submitted to CEN Enquiry.

This document has been prepared under a standardization request addressed to CEN by the European Commission. The Standing Committee of the EFTA States subsequently approves these requests for its Member States.

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1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of total organic carbon (TOC) in soil improvers and growing media containing more than 1 g carbon per kg of dry matter (0,1 %).

NOTE Samples with a low dry matter content can have an influence on the achievable limit of quantification as defined in the scope (i.e. 1 g carbon per kg of dry matter).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

CEN/TS 17732:2022, *Soil improvers and growing media - Terminology*

EN 12579:2024, *Soil improvers and growing media - Sampling*

prEN 13040-1:2025, *Soil improvers and growing media — Sample preparation — Part 1: Sample preparation for chemical and physical tests, determination of dry matter content, moisture content and laboratory bulk density*

CEN/TS 17776:2022, *Organic and organo-mineral fertilizers - Determination of the total organic carbon (TOC) content by dry combustion*

EN ISO 10693:2014, *Soil quality - Determination of carbonate content - Volumetric method (ISO 10693:1995)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document the terms and definitions given in CEN/TS 17732:2022 and the following apply.

3.1
total carbon (TC)
quantity of carbon present in the sample in the form of organic, inorganic and elemental carbon

Note 1 to entry: In agreement with Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 [7], carbon derived from urea and polymers containing urea are not considered as organic in this document.

[SOURCE: CEN/TS 17732:2022, 3.7.21 modified (note 1 to entry added)]

4 Principle

4.1 Method A (direct method)

The carbon dioxide released by the following combustion in an oxygen containing gas flow free of carbon dioxide, is measured by infrared spectrometry, thermal conductivity detection, or by the detector provided by the equipment used. To ensure complete combustion, catalysts and/or modifiers may be used. The released amount of carbon dioxide indicates the TOC.

The carbonates present in the sample shall be previously removed by treating the sample with acid. The carbon dioxide released by the following combustion step indicates the TOC directly.

Alternatively, the combustion temperature may be set at 600°C, thus only releasing organically bound carbon.

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