BRITISH STANDARD

BS EN 13041:2000
Incorporating amendment no. 1

Soil improvers and growing media — Determination of physical properties — Dry bulk density, air volume, water volume, shrinkage value and total pore space

The European Standard EN 13041:1999, incorporating amendment A1:2006, has the status of a British Standard

ICS 65.080

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National foreword

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The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags [A1] ⟨A1]. Tags indicating changes to CEN text carry the number of the CEN amendment. For example, text altered by CEN amendment A1 is indicated by [A1] ⟨A1].

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee AW/20, Top soil and other growing media.

A list of organizations represented on AW/20 can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Consumer Products and Services Sector Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Committee and comes into effect on 15 May 2000

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

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English version

Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of physical properties - Dry bulk density, air volume, water volume, shrinkage value and total pore space.

Amendements du sol et supports de culture – Détermination des propriétés physiques – Masse volumique apparente sèche, volume d'air, volume d'eau, valeur de rétraction et porosité totale

Bodenverbesserungsmittel und Kultursubstrate – Bestimmung der physikalischen Eigenschaften – Rohdichte (trocken), Luftkapazität, Wasserkapazität, Schrumpfungswert und Gesamtporenvolumen

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Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 223, Soil improvers and growing media, the Secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2000, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2000.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Foreword to amendment A1

This document (EN 13041:1999/A1:2006) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 223 “Soil improvers and growing media”, the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This Amendment to the European Standard EN 13041:1999 shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2006, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2006.

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1 Scope

This European Standard describes an instrumental method for the routine determination of the physical properties, dry bulk density, water volume, air volume, shrinkage value and total pore space of soil improvers or growing media.

This European Standard is not suitable for those materials which are very coarse, which do not make proper capillary contact or those which are pre-formed and non-particulate and have closed porosity. It is applicable to materials with particles ≤ 25 mm and/or flexible fibres ≤ 80 mm.

NOTE 1 The method is not applicable to liming materials or sewage sludges and is not suitable for materials like rockwool and foam slabs.

NOTE 2 The method is not applicable to inorganic materials.

NOTE 3 The requirements of the standard may differ from the national legal requirements for the declaration of the products concerned.

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

EN 12579	Soil improvers and growing media - Sampling
EN 13039	Soil improvers and growing media - Determination of organic matter content and ash
EN 13040:1999	Soil improvers and growing media - Sample preparation for chemical and physical tests, determination of dry matter content, moisture content and laboratory compacted bulk density.
ISO 11274:1998	Soil quality - Determination of the water retention characteristic - Laboratory methods.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard the terms and definitions in EN 12579 and the following apply.

3.1
air volume
that part of the volume of a sample filled by air measured under the conditions specified in this European Standard, in particular at a defined suction (e.g. minus 10 cm suction)

3.2
dry bulk density
ratio of the dry mass and volume of the sample in grams per litre

3.3
total pore space
total volume of voids filled with water and/or air measured under the conditions specified in this European Standard, in particular at a defined suction (e.g. minus 10 cm suction)

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3.4
shrinkage value
loss in volume of the sample after drying a moist sample

3.5
water volume
that part of the volume of a sample filled by water measured under the conditions specified in this European Standard, in particular at a defined suction (e.g. minus 10 cm suction)

3.6
particle density
the ratio of the total mass of oven-dry solid particles (minerals, organic matter) to the volume of these particles. The volume of the internal pores of the particles and the pore spaces between particles are excluded

4 Principle

The sample is saturated in water and then equilibrated on a sand box at minus 50 cm water pressure head. The sample is then transferred into double ring sample cylinders, re-wetted and equilibrated at minus 10 cm water pressure head. After equilibration the physical properties are calculated from the wet and dry weights of the same sample in the lower ring. ⟨A1⟩ After –10 cm water pressure head it is optional also to apply –50 and –100 cm water pressure head respectively. ⟨A1⟩

5 Apparatus

5.1 Double rings (figure A.1)

5.1.1 General

The double rings and fixing collars described in this clause, shall be made from any rigid material that will not deform at a temperature of up to 120 °C.

5.1.2 Lower sample ring

5.1.2.1 Sample ring of internal diameter (D_1) 100 ± 1 mm and height 50 ± 1 mm.

As each ring is individually made it is necessary to determine the volume (V_1), record the mass (m_1) and identify each lower sample ring. The volume shall be determined by measuring with a calliper gauge the mean height (at least quadruplicate measurements) (h_1) and mean diameter (d_1) of the sample rings. (At least triplicate measurements; top, middle and bottom).

5.1.2.2 Removable gauze-retaining ring or collar 2 cm high and 0,75 cm to 0,85 cm larger than the outer diameter of the sample ring.

5.1.2.3 Non-biodegradable synthetic gauze with a mesh size of about 0,1 mm.

5.1.3 Upper ring

5.1.3.1 Upper ring having the same internal diameter as the ring prepared in **(5.1.2.1)** and height 53 mm ± 1 mm.

5.1.3.2 Collar - fixed on the ring permitting the upper cylinder to be secured to the lower cylinder for the duration of the test.

5.2 Plastic tube, of approximately 14 cm diameter and 14 cm high to give a volume of about 2 litres. Tightly stretch and secure the gauze **(5.1.2.3)** to one end of the tube by means of an elastic band.

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5.3 **Water bath**, capable of holding at least 4 plastic tubes (**5.2**) standing on a coarse mesh and capable of being filled with water to the top of the plastic tubes.

5.4 **Sand suction table** (figure A.3)

A1 For example prepare the sand suction table in accordance with Annex A, using the fine sand to obtain the required suction. The pressure head in the plastic tubes (–50 cm) is measured from the bottom of the tube. The pressure head in the rings (–10 cm, −50 cm and –100 cm) is measured from the middle of the lower ring (Figure A.3). The setting of the pressure head can be checked with a tensiometer or pressure transducer. A1

5.5 **Ventilated drying oven**, set at 103 °C ± 2 °C.

5.6 **Analytical balance**, with a scale interval of 0,1 g.

5.7 **Shallow vessel, spoon or scoop**, approx. 50 ml capacity.

6 Preparation

Prepare the laboratory sample in accordance with clause **8.4** of EN 13040:1999.

7 Procedure

7.1 Moistening, saturating and equilibration at minus 50 cm pressure head

7.1.1 Fill at least 2 tubes (**5.2**) with the test portion taking care to prevent artificial air voids. Cover each tube with synthetic gauze (**5.1.2.3**) secured with an elastic band. Place the tube on the grid in a dry water bath (**5.3**).

7.1.2 Slowly, with constant flow, fill the bath with water until the level reaches to within 1 cm below the top of the tube. Filling should take approximately 30 min.

7.1.3 If a tube shows signs of floating, place a weighted disc on the top of the tube allowing air to evacuate and at the same time ensuring that compaction of the sample does not take place, (figure A.4).

7.1.4 Allow to stand maintaining a constant water level until the sample is thoroughly wetted, (up to 36 h).

7.1.5 Remove the tubes and without delay transfer the tubes to the sand suction table. The bottom of the tube should be fully in contact with the sand. Apply a minus 50 cm pressure head, measured from the bottom of the tube, for 48 h.

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7.2 Filling tubes

7.2.1 Secure the gauze (**5.1.2.3**) with the collar (**5.1.2.2**) to the base of the lower sample ring (**5.1.2**). Attach and secure the upper sample ring (**5.1.3**) to the lower sample ring.

7.2.2 Empty the tubes containing the equilibrated (minus 50 cm) wet sample from (**7.1.5**) onto a clean surface and gently mix taking care not to cause any physical damage to the sample.

7.2.3 Transfer using the shallow vessel (**5.7)** approximately 50 ml portions of the mixed sample to the prepared sample rings taking care to avoid compaction or artificial air voids and filling the cylinder and removable ring completely.

7.2.4 Fill at least 4 units with the sample. Place the unit on the grid in a dry water bath. Slowly, with constant flow, fill the bath (**5.3)** with water until the level reaches to within 1 cm below the top of the tube. Filling should take approximately 30 min.

7.2.5 Maintain a constant water level for 24 h. (figure A.5).

NOTE Two different baths may be used, one for minus 10 cm and one for minus 50 cm.

7.3 [A1]Suction –10 cm water pressure head[A1]

7.3.1 Carefully remove the units and without delay transfer to the sand bath (**5.4**) making sure there is contact between sand and the lower part of the unit. Cover the sand box and apply a minus 10 cm pressure head, measured from the middle of the lower ring.

7.3.2 It is important to regularly check that no air bubbles are present in the suction level regulator tubes.

Apply the suction until equilibrium is reached. A minimum of 48 h and up to 72 h is required.

7.4 Separation of rings

7.4.1 Remove the double ring sample cylinders from the sand box and place on a flat solid surface. Carefully remove the upper ring in a vertical movement. Using a knife or straight edge strike off the material level with the top of the sample ring without causing compaction. The levelling of fibrous materials can best be done by cutting off excess matter with a pair of scissors exercising considerable care to avoid other disturbances.

7.4.2 Remove any materials adhering to the outside of the sample ring and record the mass (m_2) taking care not to turn the ring.

[A1] *Text deleted* [A1]

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7.5 Optional suction –50 and –100 cm water pressure head

NOTE After –10 cm water pressure head it is possible also to determine the air and water volume at –50 and –100 cm water pressure head. The following procedure (7.5) can be skipped only if values for water and air volume at –10 cm are necessary.

7.5.1 Carefully place the ring to the sand bath (5.4) making sure there is contact between the sand and the lower part of the ring. Cover the sand box and apply a –50 cm pressure head, measured from the middle of the ring.

7.5.2 It is important to regularly check that no air bubbles are present in the suction level regulator tubes.

7.5.3 Apply the suction until equilibrium is reached. A minimum of 48 h and up to 72 h is required.

7.5.4 Record the mass (m_3).

7.5.5 Carefully place the ring to the sand bath (5.4) making sure there is contact between the sand and the lower part of the ring. Cover the sand box and apply a –100 cm pressure head, measured from the middle of the ring.

7.5.6 It is important to regularly check that no air bubbles are present in the suction level regulator tubes.

7.5.7 Apply the suction until equilibrium is reached. A minimum of 48 h and up to 72 h is required.

7.5.8 Record the mass (m_4).

7.6 Drying

7.6.1 Place in the drying oven (5.5) without altering the structure and dry at (103 ± 2) °C to constant mass (m_5).

7.6.2 Remove the ring and measure with a calliper gauge the mean height (quadruplicate measurements) (h_2) and mean diameter (triplicate measurements; top middle and bottom) (d_2) of the dried samples.

NOTE This procedure cannot be carried out with some granular materials because they do not retain their shape on drying. In these cases, it is recommended to measure the height prior to drying.

7.7 Organic matter (W_{om})

Determine the organic matter content in accordance with EN 13039.

7.8 Ash content (W_{ash})

Determine the mineral matter content in accordance with EN 13039.

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