



BSI Standards Publication

**Water quality - Guidance on field and
laboratory procedures for quantitative analysis
and identification of macroinvertebrates
from inland surface waters**

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of [EN 17136:2019](#).

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EH/3/5, Biological Methods.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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English Version

Water quality - Guidance on field and laboratory
procedures for quantitative analysis and identification of
macroinvertebrates from inland surface waters

Qualité de l'eau - Guide sur les procédures
de terrain et de laboratoire pour l'analyse
quantitative et l'identification des macro-
invertébrés des eaux de surface continentales

Wasserbeschaffenheit - Anleitung zu Feld- und
Laborverfahren zur quantitativen Analyse
und Bestimmung von Makroinvertebraten
aus Binnenoberflächengewässern

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 14 December 2018.

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European foreword

This document ([EN 17136:2019](#)) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 230 “Water analysis”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2019, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2019.

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Introduction

WARNING — Working in or around water is inherently dangerous. Care should be taken when working with different and generally toxic preservatives. This standard does not purport to address the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to adopt appropriate health and safety practices in compliance with national regulatory conditions.

Macroinvertebrates are important in water quality assessment and form one of the biological quality elements in the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC). Macroinvertebrates are a very diverse group of organisms for which an efficient and effective procedure for analysis is not always obvious. Their large size range, very different appearances and the diverse range of habitats they live in produce specific problems for collecting and analysis. This standard aims to provide a general procedure for the quantitative analysis of macroinvertebrate samples for the WFD in particular and scientific studies in general. It is not intended to give a full and exact overview of all possible methods. Although specific situations and investigation objectives may require adjustments to the outlined procedure the general principles given in this guideline should still be valid.