

Water quality — Sampling —

Part 18: Guidance on sampling of groundwater at contaminated sites

ICS 13.060.45

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 5667-18:2001, incorporating corrigendum March 2008.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted by Technical Committee EH/3, Water quality, to Subcommittee EH/3/6, Sampling.

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

This is one of a series of standards on water quality, others of which have been, or will be, published as Sections of BS 6068. The various Sections of BS 6068 are comprised within Parts 1 to 7, which, together with Part 0, are listed below.

- Part 0 *Introduction*
- Part 1 *Glossary*
- Part 2 *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*
- Part 3 *Radiological methods*
- Part 4 *Microbiological methods*
- Part 5 *Biological methods*
- Part 6 *Sampling*
- Part 7 *Precision and accuracy*

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

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30 April 2009	Implementation of ISO corrigendum March 2008. Text modified in Annex A (3rd paragraph)

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Water quality — Sampling —

Part 18:

Guidance on sampling of groundwater at contaminated sites

Qualité de l'eau — Échantillonnage —

*Partie 18: Lignes directrices pour l'échantillonnage des eaux souterraines
sur des sites contaminés*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO 5667 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 5667-18 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Sampling (general methods)*.

ISO 5667 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Water quality — Sampling*:

- *Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programmes*
- *Part 2: Guidance on sampling techniques*
- *Part 3: Guidance on the preservation and handling of samples*
- *Part 4: Guidance on sampling from lakes, natural and man-made*
- *Part 5: Guidance on sampling of drinking water and water used for food and beverage processing*
- *Part 6: Guidance on sampling of rivers and streams*
- *Part 7: Guidance on sampling of water and streams in boiler plants*
- *Part 8: Guidance on sampling of wet deposition*
- *Part 9: Guidance on sampling from marine waters*
- *Part 10: Guidance on sampling of waste waters*
- *Part 11: Guidance on sampling of groundwaters*
- *Part 12: Guidance on sampling of bottom sediments*
- *Part 13: Guidance on sampling of sludges from sewage and water-treatment works*
- *Part 14: Guidance on quality assurance of environmental water sampling and handling*
- *Part 15: Guidance on preservation and handling of sludge and sediment samples*
- *Part 16: Guidance on biotesting of samples*

- *Part 17: Guidance on sampling of suspended sediments*
- *Part 18: Guidance on sampling of groundwater at contaminated sites*
- *Part 19: Guidance on sampling of sediments in the marine environment*

Annex A forms a normative part of this part of ISO 5667.

Introduction

The guidance in this part of ISO 5667 can be used in parallel with other guidance on investigating contaminated or potentially contaminated sites as any groundwater sampling from such sites is likely to form part of a much wider investigation programme.

Groundwater sampling, in general, is carried out to determine whether or not the groundwater in or beneath a site is contaminated. It can also be used to satisfy the following additional objectives:

- to establish whether any migration of contaminants, derived from the site, is occurring and characterize the spatial extent of any contamination and its form;
- to determine the direction and rate of groundwater flow and contaminant migration;
- to provide data for undertaking a risk assessment;
- to provide an early warning system for the impact of contaminants on the quality of groundwater resources, surface waters and other potential receptors in the vicinity of the site;
- to monitor the performance and effectiveness of remedial measures or facility design.
- to demonstrate compliance with licence conditions, or collect evidence for regulatory purposes.
- to assist in the selection of remedial measures and remediation process design.

This guidance includes sampling of groundwater from both the saturated (below water table) zone and the unsaturated (above the water table) zone.

Development of a groundwater sampling programme depends on the purposes of the investigation. This part of ISO 5667 provides guidance to inform the user of the necessary considerations when planning and undertaking groundwater sampling from potentially contaminated sites. Examples of typical sites include:

- present or former industrial sites with a history of potentially contaminatory activities;
- waste disposal (landfill) sites;
- sites where natural and/or artificial processes have led to potential land and groundwater contamination;
- sites where products have been spilled e.g. as a result of transportation accidents.

The guidance contained in this part of ISO 5667 covers selection of sampling points, the selection of sampling installations and devices, groundwater parameter selection and sampling frequency.

Prescriptive guidance on methods and applications is not possible. Therefore, this guidance provides information on the most commonly applied, and available, techniques and lists their advantages, disadvantages and limitations of use where these are known. When considering design of sampling strategies, the properties of the contaminant source, pathways for migration and the receptors need to be considered.

Water quality — Sampling —

Part 18:

Guidance on sampling of groundwater at contaminated sites

1 Scope

This part of ISO 5667 provides guidance on the sampling of groundwater at potentially contaminated sites. It is applicable to situations where contamination of the subsurface could exist as a result of downward migration of pollutants whose source is at the surface or just below it, and when the guidance provided in ISO 5667-11 is inappropriate.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 5667, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

piezometer

device consisting of a tube or pipe with a porous element or perforated section (surrounded by a filter) on the lower part (piezometer tip), that is installed and sealed into the ground at an appropriate level within the saturated zone for the purposes of water level measurement, hydraulic pressure measurement and/or groundwater sampling

2.2

nested piezometers

group of piezometers installed within a single larger-diameter borehole

NOTE In general, each piezometer should be designed to allow sampling over a specific depth interval within the aquifer. Piezometer tips are isolated from each other by installing a permanent impermeable seal between them.

2.3

multiple boreholes

group of individual boreholes or piezometers installed separately to form a monitoring network adequate for the purposes of an investigation

2.4

multi-level sampler

single installation for sampling groundwater from discrete depths within the sub-surface

NOTE The device can be driven directly into the ground, installed in a pre-existing borehole or installed in a purpose-drilled hole. When installed in a borehole, integral packers are used to isolate individual sample ports.

2.5

aquifer

geological formation (bed or stratum) of permeable rock or unconsolidated material (e.g. sand and gravels) capable of yielding significant quantities of water

2.6

aquitard

geologic stratum of formation of low permeability that impedes the flow of water between two aquifers

2.7

saturated zone

part of an aquifer in which the pore spaces of the formation are completely water-saturated

2.8

unsaturated zone

part of an aquifer in which the pore spaces of the formation are not totally water-saturated

2.9

groundwater

water in the saturated zone and/or unsaturated zone of an underground geological formation or artificial deposit such as made ground

2.10

perched water table

isolated body of groundwater, which is limited in lateral and vertical extent, located within the unsaturated zone overlying a much more extensive groundwater body

2.11

matrix potential

combination of forces, independent of gravity, acting on soil water (water contained within the pores of a soil/rock matrix) that exist as a result of the attraction of solid surfaces to water and the attraction of water molecules to each other

NOTE Generally, the smaller the particle size, the higher the matrix potential.

2.12

check valve

mechanical valve which allows fluids to pass in only one direction

NOTE The pressure of fluids flowing through the valve in one direction has the effect of opening the valve and in the other of closing it.

2.13

receptor

entity that is vulnerable to the adverse effect(s) of a hazardous substance or agent

EXAMPLES Human, animal, water, vegetation, building services, etc.

2.14

packer

device or material for temporarily isolating specified vertical sections within boreholes in which to perform groundwater sampling from discrete zones or locations within the borehole or aquifer

2.15

hydraulic conductivity

property of a water-bearing formation that relates to its capacity to transmit water through its internal, interconnected pathways

2.16

effective porosity

proportion of saturated openings or pores within a water-bearing formation which contribute directly to the flow of groundwater

NOTE Effective porosity is represented as the ratio of this volume of pore space to the total volume of rock.

2.17

field capacity

maximum amount of water that a soil or rock can retain after gravitational water has drained away