

Water quality — Vocabulary —

Part 3

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6107-3:1993
BS 6068-1.3:
1993**

*Incorporating
Amendment No. 1 to
BS 6068-1-3:1993
(renumbers the BS as
BS ISO 6107-3:1993)
and incorporating
Amendment No. 1 to
BS ISO 6107-3:1993*

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Environment and Pollution Standards Policy Committee (EPC/-) to Technical Committee EPC/44, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Consulting Scientists
- British Association for Chemical Specialities
- British Gas plc
- Chemical Industries' Association
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
- Department of the Environment (Water Directorate)
- Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland
- Department of Trade and Industry (Laboratory of the Government Chemist)
- Electricity Association
- Industrial Water Society
- Institution of Gas Engineers
- Institution of Water and Environmental Management
- Institution of Water Officers
- National Rivers Authority
- Royal Institute of Public Health & Hygiene
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- Scottish Association of Directors of Water and Sewerage Services
- Soap and Detergent Industry Association
- Society of Chemical Industry
- Water Companies Association
- Water Research Centre
- Water Services Association of England and Wales

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittees and panels:

- British Effluent and Water Association
- Public Health Laboratory Service

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Environment and Pollution Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 November 1993

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Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
National foreword	ii
Scope	1

National foreword

This British Standard, which has been prepared under the direction of the Environment and Pollution Standards Policy Committee, is identical with ISO 6107-3:1993, including amendment 1:2001, published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The international standard was prepared by Subcommittee 1, Terminology, of Technical Committee 147, Water quality, of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) with the active participation and approval of the UK.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags **A1** **A1**. Tags indicating changes to ISO text carry the number of the ISO amendment. For example, text altered by ISO amendment 1 is indicated by **A1** **A1**.

This British Standard is one of a series of standards on water quality that have been published as BS 6068. BS 6068 is published as a series of parts subdivided into sections. The sections have been published in Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Part 4, Part 5, Part 6 and Part 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.*

As and when the different sections of BS 6068 are amended or revised, they will be renumbered with the identifier of the corresponding international standard. For example, this standard has been renumbered from BS 6068-1.3:1993 to BS ISO 6107-3:1993. The BS 6068 identifier will remain but will be secondary to the international identifier.

The terms included in Section 1.1 are grouped under two main headings: “types of water” and “treatment and storage of water and waste water”. Section 1.2 covers additional terms relating to types of water and the treatment and storage of water and waste water as well as terms used in the sampling and analysis of water. This Section of BS 6068 and Section 1.3, Section 1.4, Section 1.5, Section 1.6, Section 1.7 include definitions for further water quality terms presented in alphabetical order.

The intention is to combine eventually the separate Sections into one glossary with the terms in alphabetical order.

Terms relating to the treatment of water used in steam generation have been defined in appendices to BS 1170 and BS 2486.

The equivalent terms in French, Russian and German mentioned in the note to the scope have been deleted from this standard.

Additional information. The definitions in this vocabulary have been formulated to provide standardized terminology for the characterization of water quality. Terms included in this vocabulary may be identical to those contained in vocabularies published by other international organizations but the definitions may differ because they have been drafted for different objectives.

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 does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 8, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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Scope

This part of ISO 6107 defines a third list of terms used in certain fields of water quality characterization.

NOTE In addition to the terms and definitions in the three official ISO languages (English, French and Russian), this part of ISO 6107 gives the equivalent terms and their definitions in the German language; these have been included at the request of ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 147 and are published under the responsibility of the member bodies of the Germany (DIN), Austria (ON) and Switzerland (SNV). However, only the terms and definitions in the official languages can be considered as ISO terms and definitions.

1 abstraction: The removal of water from any source, either permanently or temporarily, so that it

- a) ceases to be part of the resources of that area, or
- b) is transferred to another source within the area.

2 activated carbon treatment: A process intended for the removal of dissolved and colloidal organic substances from water and waste water by adsorption on activated carbon; for example for the amelioration of taste, odour or colour.

3 agglomeration: The coalescence of flocs or particles of suspended matter to form larger flocs or particles which settle or may be caused to float more readily.

4 alpha factor: In an activated sludge plant, the ratio of the oxygen transfer coefficient in mixed liquor to the oxygen transfer coefficient in clean water.

5 ammonia stripping: A method of removing ammoniacal compounds from water by making it alkaline, and aerating.

6 aquifer: Water-bearing formation (bed or stratum) of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding significant quantities of water.

7 autotrophic bacteria; chemolithotrophic bacteria: Bacteria which are able to multiply by using inorganic matter as the only source of carbon and nitrogen.

8 backwashing: The operation of cleaning a filter with water by reversing the direction of flow. This is often aided by scouring with air.

9 beta factor: In an activated sludge plant, the ratio of the oxygen saturation value in mixed liquor to the oxygen saturation value in clean water at the same temperature and atmospheric pressure.

10 biodegradation: Molecular degradation of organic matter resulting from the complex actions of living organisms, ordinarily in an aqueous medium.

[A₁] 11 biodegradation maximum level: Maximum degree of biodegradation of a chemical compound or organic matter in a defined test above which no further biodegradation takes place during the test.

NOTE 1 Adapted from ISO 10708.

NOTE 2 The biodegradation maximum level is expressed as a percentage.

12 biodegradation phase: Time from the end of the lag phase in a defined test until about 90 % of the maximum level of biodegradation has been reached.

NOTE Adapted from ISO 10708. [A₁]

13 biofilm (of a sand filter): The film, consisting of living, dead or moribund organisms, that forms on the surfaces of the medium in a slow sand filter or other biological filter. (See also **90**, *zoogloal film*.)

14 biomass: The total mass of living material in a given body of water.

[A₁] 15 biomineralization: Mineralization brought about by biological activity.

NOTE Adapted from ISO 7827. [A₁]

16 biota: The living components of an aquatic system.

17 biotic index: A numerical value used to describe the biota of a water body, serving to indicate its biological quality.

18 catchment area; catchment basin: The area draining naturally to a water course or to a given point.

19 chemical tracer: A chemical substance added to, or naturally present in a stream or body of water, that allows the flow of water to be followed.

20 chemolithotrophic bacteria: See **7**, *autotrophic bacteria*.