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**Non-sewered sanitation systems —  
Prefabricated integrated treatment  
units — General safety and  
performance requirements for design  
and testing**

*Systèmes d'assainissement autonomes — Unités de traitement  
intégrées préfabriquées — Exigences générales de performance et de  
sécurité pour la conception et les essais*



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ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Project Committee ISO/PC 305, *Sustainable non-sewered sanitation systems*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

It is estimated that 2,3 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation systems. The devastating consequences of the lack of sanitation facilities include an estimated 1,8 billion people globally using a source of drinking water that is faecally contaminated and 361 000 children under 5 years of age dying per year, primarily from dysentery-like diarrhoeal diseases.

In March 2013, the United Nations (UN) issued a global call to action to eliminate the practice of open defecation by 2025. The UN and regional sanitation leaders have concluded that areas where open defecation is common have the highest levels of child death and disease, as a result of ingesting human faecal matter that has entered the food or water supply. A lack of safe, private sanitation is also associated with the highest overall levels of malnutrition, poverty, and disparity between rich and poor, and makes women and girls more vulnerable to violence.

On 1st January 2016, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were launched, including SDG 6: ensure access to water and sanitation for all. The SDGs are a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of the new UN sustainable development agenda.

Targets 6.2 and 6.3 of SDG 6 state:

- by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations;
- by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

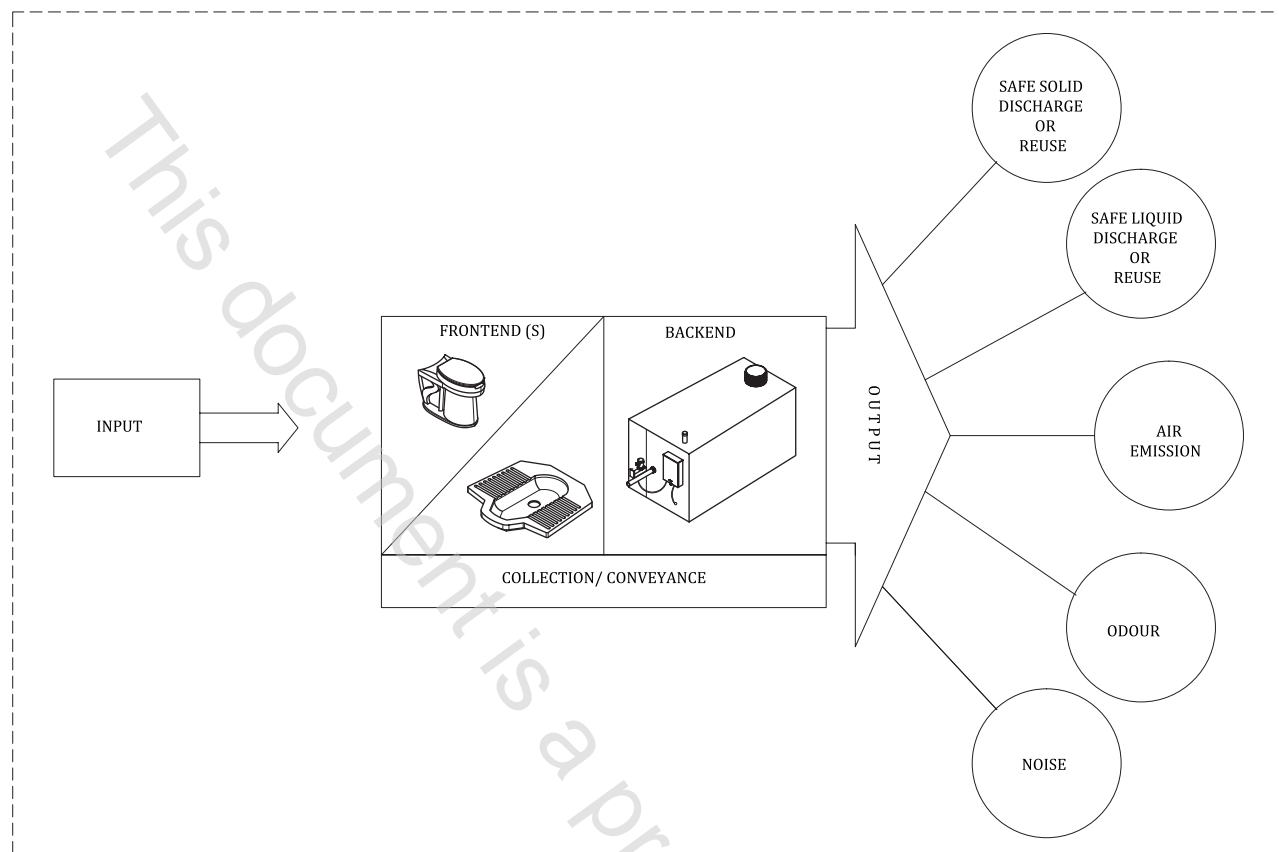
In this context, the purpose of this document is to support the development of stand-alone sanitation systems designed to address basic sanitation needs and promote economic, social, and environmental sustainability through strategies that include minimizing resource consumption (e.g. water, energy) and converting human excreta to safe output.

This document is intended to promote the implementation of sanitation systems where increased sustainability is desired, or where traditional sanitary sewer systems are unavailable or impractical and thus, to ensure human health and safety as well as protecting of the environment.

However, this document does not attempt to exhaustively address sustainability concerns with respect to non-sewered sanitation systems (NSSS). There are many aspects to sustainability that are not covered in this document.

The concept of a NSSS is indicated in [Figure 1](#), showing the integration of the frontend(s) and backend(s) along with the input and output. Inputs entering the NSSS primarily comprise of human faeces and urine, menstrual blood, bile, flushing water, anal cleansing water, toilet paper, other bodily fluids/solids. Outputs substances exiting the NSSS include the products of the backend treatment process such as solid output and effluent, as well as noise, air, and odour emissions.

By design, such sanitation systems operate without connection to any sewer or drainage network. The NSSS can be either manufactured as one package or manufactured as a set of prefabricated elements designed to be assembled without further fabrication or modification that influences the system function. The prefabricated components of NSSS are intended to require minimal work to be integrated and quickly provide fully functioning sanitation systems.



**Figure 1 — Concept of a non-sewered sanitation system**

In NSSS, the frontend includes user interfaces such as a urinal, squatting pan, or sitting pan, which may apply evacuation mechanisms ranging from conventional flush, pour flush, and dry toilets to novel evacuation mechanisms such as those employing mechanical forces requiring little to no water. Conventional and novel evacuation mechanisms may be combined with urine diversion applications (e.g. urine diversion flush toilet, urine diversion dry toilet). Backend treatment technologies and processes of NSSS range from biological or chemical to physical unit processes (e.g. anaerobic and aerobic digestion, combustion, electrochemical disinfection, membranes). Some systems use only one of these technologies or processes while others apply various unit processes in combination through several treatment units.



# Non-sewered sanitation systems — Prefabricated integrated treatment units — General safety and performance requirements for design and testing

## 1 Scope

This document specifies general safety and performance requirements for design and testing as well as sustainability considerations for non-sewered sanitation systems (NSSS). A NSSS, for the purposes of this document, is a prefabricated integrated treatment unit, comprising frontend (toilet facility) and backend (treatment facility) components that

- a) collects, conveys, and fully treats the specific input within the system, to allow for safe reuse or disposal of the generated solid, liquid, and gaseous output, and
- b) is not connected to a networked sewer or networked drainage systems.

This document is applicable to sanitation systems that are either manufactured as one package, or manufactured as a set of prefabricated elements designed to be assembled in one location without further fabrication or modification that influences the system function. The plane or surface (e.g. flooring, concrete pad) upon which a fully assembled NSSS is situated is beyond the scope of this document. This document is not applicable to sanitation systems constructed *in situ*.

This document also covers NSSS backend components that are designed to be integrated with one or more specified frontends.

Although this document is primarily applicable to the development of sanitation systems that are not connected to water and electricity networks, it can also be applied to systems that can utilize water mains and/or electricity.

This document defines the basic treatable input as primarily human excreta and gives options for extending the range of input substances. Requirements for the quality of the outputs from the sanitation system are given for solid and liquid discharges as well as odour, air, and noise emissions.

It contains criteria for the safety, functionality, usability, reliability, and maintainability of the system, as well as its compatibility with environmental protection goals.

This document does not encompass the following aspects:

- guidelines for selection, installation, operation and maintenance, and management of sanitation systems;
- transportation of treated output outside of the sanitation system (e.g. manual transport, transportation by truck or trunk pipes) for further processing, reuse, or disposal;
- treatment processes taking place at another location separate from that of the frontend and backend components;
- reuse and disposal of sanitation system output.

## 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.

ISO 20816-1, *Mechanical vibration — Measurement and evaluation of machine vibration — Part 1: General guidelines*

ISO/IEC 17065:2012, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*

IEC 60942:2017, *Electroacoustics — Sound calibrators*

IEC 61260-1:2014, *Electroacoustics — Octave-band and fractional-octave-band filters — Part 1: Specifications*

IEC 61672-1:2013, *Electroacoustics — Sound level meters — Part 1: Specifications*

EN 997:2012, *WC pans and WC suites with integral trap*

EN 13725:2003, *Air quality — Determination of odour concentration by dynamic olfactometry*

EPA Method 1A, *Sample and Velocity Traverses for Stationary Sources with Small Stacks or Ducts*

NSF/ANSI 41:2011, *Non-liquid saturated treatment systems*

WHO *Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality*, 4th edition

### 3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

##### 3.1.1 System structure

###### 3.1.1.1

###### **non-sewered sanitation system**

###### **NSSS**

system that is not connected to a networked sewer, and collects, conveys, and fully treats the specific *input* (3.1.2.1) to allow for safe reuse or disposal of the generated solid *output* (3.1.2.2) and/or *effluent* (3.1.2.7)

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, a NSSS that fully treats the specific input is a NSSS that meets the performance testing requirements specified in [Clause 7](#).

###### 3.1.1.2

###### **evacuation mechanism**

mechanism that delivers energy/movement to convey the *input* (3.1.2.1) from the *frontend* (3.1.1.3) to the *backend* (3.1.1.4) of the *non-sewered sanitation system* (3.1.1.1), such as conventional flushing mechanisms, pour flush, dry, and novel mechanisms

###### 3.1.1.3

###### **frontend**

any user interface such as urinal, squatting or seat pan of a *non-sewered sanitation system* (3.1.1.1) employed for human defecation and urination, including the *evacuation mechanism* (3.1.1.2) and all system components that are clearly visible to the user