
Soil quality — Sampling —

Part 206:

**Collection, handling and storage of
soil under aerobic conditions for
the assessment of microbiological
processes, biomass and diversity in
the laboratory**

Qualité du sol — Échantillonnage —

*Partie 206: Collecte, manipulation et conservation de sols destinés à
l'évaluation de paramètres biologiques fonctionnels et structurels en
laboratoire*



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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
Website: www.iso.org

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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).

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).

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

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Biological characterization*.

This first edition of ISO 18400-206 cancels and replaces ISO 10381-6:2009, which has been technically revised.

A list of all the parts in the ISO 18400 series can be found on the ISO website.

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.

Introduction

Soils are both complex and heterogeneous because they consist of both living and non-living components occurring in different combinations. Therefore, the condition of the soil, from collection to completion of an experiment, is considered in this document in relation to effects on the soil organism community (i.e. microorganisms, plants and invertebrates). Temperature, water content, availability of oxygen and duration of storage are all known to affect these organisms, and thus the processes they mediate.

Soils can however be used effectively in the laboratory to investigate effects on soil organisms. In this context a distinction is made between microbial communities on the one side and plants and invertebrates on the other side, since the former are sampled as part of a soil sample, while the latter are added to a soil sample (usually only a few selected species which have been identified as test species beforehand). Therefore, this document covers two different issues:

- a) It provides guidance on the collection, handling and storage of soil for laboratory use where aerobic microbial activity is the main component of the study. It describes how to minimize the effects of differences in temperature, water content and availability of oxygen on aerobic processes to facilitate reproducible laboratory determinations^{[1][2]}.
- b) It also provides guidance on the collection, handling and storage of soil for laboratory use where the survival, reproduction, behaviour or growth of invertebrates or plants is the main components of the study. It describes how to minimize the effects of differences in temperature, and the water content as well as the fractionation of soil particles to facilitate reproducible laboratory determinations^{[1][2]}.

This document is one of a group of standards dealing with various aspects of site investigation and sampling. It needs to be used in conjunction with the other parts of ISO 18400. The role/position of the standards within the total investigation programme is shown in [Figure 1](#).

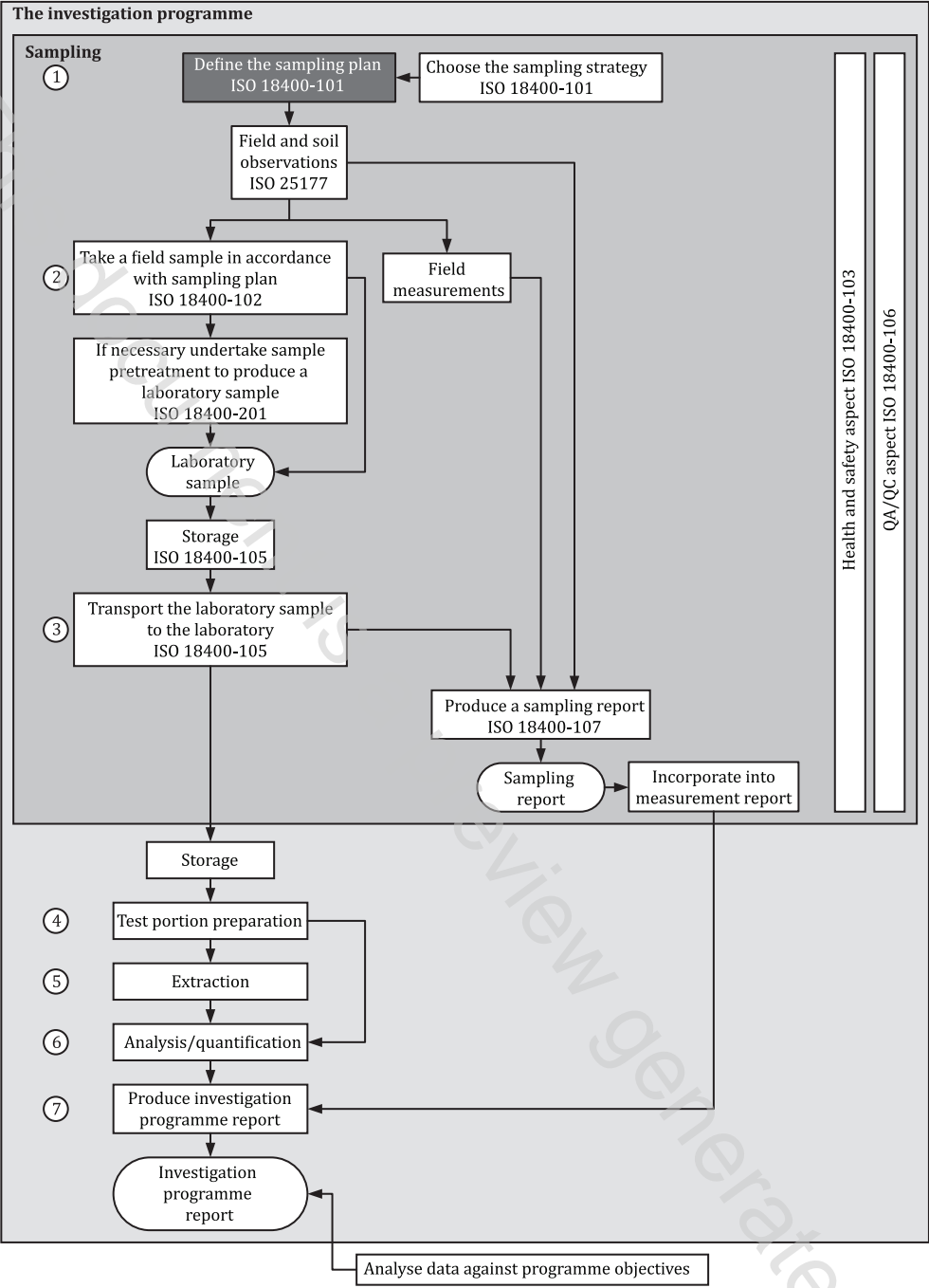


Figure 1 — Links between the essential elements of an investigation programme

NOTE 1 The numbers in circles in Figure 1 define the single steps of the investigation programme.

NOTE 2 Figure 1 displays a generic process which can be amended when necessary.

Soil quality — Sampling —

Part 206:

Collection, handling and storage of soil under aerobic conditions for the assessment of microbiological processes, biomass and diversity in the laboratory

1 Scope

This document provides standard procedures for the collection, handling and storage of soil for subsequent biological testing under aerobic conditions in the laboratory. It applies to the collection, handling and storage for assessing the effects of soil on microorganisms, invertebrates (e.g. survival, reproduction, growth, behaviour) and plants (e.g. development, growth). This document is not applicable to the handling of soil where anaerobic conditions need to be maintained throughout.

This document describes how to minimize the effects of differences in temperature, water content, and availability of oxygen on aerobic processes as well as the fractionation of soil particles to facilitate reproducible laboratory determinations^{[1][2]}.

This document is mainly applicable to temperate soils. Soils collected from extreme climates (e.g. permafrost, tropical soils) can require special handling.

NOTE This document does not provide standard procedures on the collection, handling and storage of soil organisms when assessing the structure and function of soil organism communities in the field. Such standard procedures are provided in ISO 23611-1 to ISO 23611-6.

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 18400-101, *Soil quality — Sampling — Part 101: Framework for the preparation and application of a sampling plan*

ISO 18400-107, *Soil quality — Sampling — Part 107: Recording and reporting*

ISO 18400-202, *Soil quality — Sampling — Part 202: Preliminary investigations*

3 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

aerobic

descriptive of a condition in which molecular oxygen is freely available