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**Assessment specification of coalbed  
methane resources**

*Spécifications d'évaluation des ressources en méthane de houille*



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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)).

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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 Technical Committee ISO/TC 263, *Coalbed methane (CBM)*.

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).

# Assessment specification of coalbed methane resources

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the objectives, tasks, work processes, classification, report preparation and acceptance of coalbed methane (CBM) resource evaluation.

## 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 18871, *Method of determining coalbed methane content*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

### 3.1

#### **coalbed methane CBM**

methane-rich gas naturally occurring in coal seams (and surrounding rock) typically comprising of 80 % to 95 % methane with lower proportions of ethane, propane, nitrogen and carbon dioxide

Note 1 to entry: In common international use, this term refers to methane recovered from un-mined coal seams using surface boreholes.

[SOURCE: ISO 18875:2015, 2.1]

### 3.2

#### **CBM abundance**

amount of hydrocarbons in unit area

[SOURCE: ISO 18875:2015, 2.28, modified — “resource” has been deleted from the term.]

### 3.3

#### **CBM content**

volume of hydrocarbon gas per unit mass of coal, usually expressed in cubic metre of gas per tonne of coal under standard temperature and pressure (STP) conditions

Note 1 to entry: The unit is m<sup>3</sup>/t or cm<sup>3</sup>/g. STP conditions are 100 000 Pa and 0 °C (273,15 K).

[SOURCE: ISO 18875:2015, 2.5]

### 3.4

#### **resource**

quantities of petroleum, recoverable and unrecoverable, that are estimated to exist originally in naturally occurring accumulations, discovered and undiscovered, plus those quantities already produced