

**Soil quality - Guidance on the determination of
background values (ISO 19258:2005)**

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NATIONAL FOREWORD

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ICS 13.080.99

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ICS 13.080.99

English Version

**Soil quality - Guidance on the determination of background
values (ISO 19258:2005)**

Qualité du sol - Guide pour la détermination des valeurs de
bruit de fond (ISO 19258:2005)

Bodenbeschaffenheit - Leitfaden zur Bestimmung von
Hintergrundwerten (ISO 19258:2005)

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Foreword

The text of ISO 19258:2005 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190 "Soil quality" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 19258:2011 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 345 "Characterization of soils" the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2011, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2011.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 19258:2005 has been approved by CEN as a EN ISO 19258:2011 without any modification.

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Soil quality — Guidance on the determination of background values

1 Scope

This International Standard provides guidance on the principles and main methods for the determination of pedo-geochemical background values and background values for inorganic and organic substances in soils.

This International Standard gives guidance on strategies for sampling and data processing and identifies methods for sampling and analysis.

This International Standard does not give guidance on the determination of background values for groundwater and sediments.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 10381-1, *Soil quality — Sampling — Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programmes*

ISO 10381-5, *Soil quality — Sampling — Part 5: Guidance on the procedure for the investigation of urban and industrial sites with regard to soil contamination*

ISO 11074:2005, *Soil quality — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 11074 and the following apply.

3.1

background content

content of a substance in a soil resulting from both natural geological and pedological processes and including diffuse source inputs

3.2

background value

statistical characteristic (3.8) of the background content

3.3

contaminant

substance or agent present in the soil as a result of human activity

NOTE There is no assumption in this definition that harm results from the presence of the contaminant.