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English Version

**Characterization of sludges - Protocol for organizing and  
conducting inter-laboratory tests of methods for chemical and  
microbiological analysis of sludges**

Caractérisation des boues - Protocole d'exécution d'essais  
interlaboratoires portant sur des méthodes d'analyses  
chimiques et microbiologiques des boues

Charakterisierung von Schlämmen - Protokoll zur  
Durchführung von Ringversuchen für Verfahren zur  
chemischen, mikrobiologischen und physikalischen  
Analyse von Schlämmen

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 30 September 2005. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 308.

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## Foreword

This Technical Report (CEN/TR 15175:2006) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 308 "Characterization of sludges", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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## Introduction

For international harmonization it is essential that a fit for purpose interlaboratory test using a range of typical sludges with relevant analyte concentrations be carried out prior to proposing for publication any method as a Technical Report.

At least ten laboratories from three different countries should participate in this test.

Only experienced laboratories routinely carrying out sludge analysis should participate.

The organizer should aim for 12 to 15 laboratories to participate in each test in as many countries as possible.

Efforts are needed to ensure that there is a minimum of intersample variation amongst the circulated samples.

It is recommended that each test includes a range of sludges that is representative of the proposed scope of the method, as a minimum this should include an untreated (raw) sludge, a treated (an aerobically digested) sludge, a presscake and samples of any other sludges relevant to the method being tested. In addition a spiking solution and a calibration check standard will generally be distributed.

If possible, samples should be in the same form as would normally be submitted to a laboratory for analysis.

For sample preparation methods without a final measurement stage (e.g. Aqua regia digestion for metal analysis), see Annex A.