
**Geotechnical investigation and
testing — Laboratory testing of soil —**

**Part 4:
Determination of particle size
distribution**

*Reconnaissance et essais géotechniques — Essais de laboratoire sur
les sols —*

*Partie 4: Détermination de la distribution granulométrie des
particules*



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Apparatus	2
4.1 General	2
4.2 Sieving method	3
4.3 Hydrometer method	4
4.4 Pipette method	4
4.5 Reagents	6
5 Test procedure	6
5.1 Selection of test method	6
5.2 Sieving method	7
5.2.1 General	7
5.2.2 Specimen preparation	9
5.2.3 Test execution	10
5.3 Hydrometer method	12
5.3.1 General	12
5.3.2 Specimen preparation	14
5.3.3 Test execution	15
5.4 Pipette method	15
5.4.1 General	15
5.4.2 Specimen preparation	16
5.4.3 Test execution	16
5.5 Combined tests	16
6 Test results	18
6.1 Sieving	18
6.1.1 Fraction passing each sieve	18
6.2 Hydrometer	18
6.2.1 Total dry mass	18
6.2.2 Fraction passing each sieve	19
6.2.3 True hydrometer reading	19
6.2.4 Effective depth	19
6.2.5 Equivalent particle diameter	19
6.2.6 Modified hydrometer reading	20
6.2.7 Fraction smaller than equivalent particle diameter	20
6.2.8 Correction for material larger than 2 mm	21
6.3 Pipette	21
6.3.1 Total dry mass	21
6.3.2 Fraction passing each sieve	21
6.3.3 Equivalent particle diameter	21
6.3.4 Fraction smaller than equivalent particle diameter	22
6.3.5 Correction for material larger than 2 mm	22
7 Test report	22
Annex A (normative) Calibration, maintenance and checks	24
Annex B (informative) Pre-treatment of samples	30
Bibliography	31

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 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.

ISO 17892-4 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 341, *Geotechnical investigation and testing*, in collaboration with ISO Technical Committee TC 182, *Geotechnics*, in accordance with the agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This first edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/TS 17892-4:2004), which has been technically revised.

It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO/TS 17892-4:2004/Cor 1:2006.

A full list of parts in the ISO 17892 series, published under the general title *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Laboratory testing of soil*, can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

This part of ISO 17892 covers areas in the international field of geotechnical engineering never previously standardized. It is intended that this part of ISO 17892 presents broad good practice throughout the world and significant differences with national documents is not anticipated. It is based on international practice (see Reference [2]).

Geotechnical investigation and testing — Laboratory testing of soil —

Part 4: Determination of particle size distribution

1 Scope

This part of ISO 17892 specifies a method of determining the particle size distribution of soils.

This part of ISO 17892 is applicable to the laboratory determination of the particle size distribution of a soil test specimen by sieving, or sedimentation, or a combination of both within the scope of geotechnical investigations.

The particle size distribution is one of the most important physical characteristics of soil. Classification of soils is mainly based on the particle size distribution. Many geotechnical and geohydrological properties of soil are related to the particle size distribution.

The particle size distribution provides a description of soil based on a subdivision in discrete classes of particle sizes. The size of each class can be determined by sieving and/or sedimentation. Coarse soils are usually tested by sieving, but fine and mixed soils are usually tested by a combination of sieving and sedimentation, depending on the composition of the soil.

The sieving method described is applicable to all non-cemented soils with particle sizes less than 125 mm. Two sedimentation methods are described: the hydrometer method and the pipette method.

NOTE This part of ISO 17892 fulfils the requirements of the particle size distribution testing in accordance with EN 1997-2.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3310-1, *Test sieves — Technical requirements and testing — Part 1: Test sieves of metal wire cloth*

ISO 3310-2, *Test sieves — Technical requirements and testing — Part 2: Test sieves of perforated metal plate*

ISO 4788, *Laboratory glassware — Graduated measuring cylinders*

ISO 14688-1, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Identification and classification of soil — Part 1: Identification and description*

ISO 17892-1, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Laboratory testing of soil — Part 1: Determination of water content*

ISO 17892-3, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Laboratory testing of soil — Part 3: Determination of particle density*

3 Terms and definitions

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