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**Guidelines for the management of  
assets of water supply and wastewater  
systems —**

**Part 3:  
Wastewater collection networks**

*Lignes directrices pour la gestion d'actifs des systèmes d'eaux usées et  
d'eau potable —*

*Partie 3: Réseaux d'assainissement*



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ISO copyright office  
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax +41 22 749 09 47  
copyright@iso.org  
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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 224, *Service activities relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems — Quality criteria of the service and performance indicators*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 24516 series can be found on the ISO website.

## Introduction

This document is written within the overall concept of management of assets which is an activity all organizations undertake in some manner and to some degree. It focuses on the details of managing the physical assets at the operational level rather than the organizational (corporate management, structural or process) level.

Wastewater utilities are reliant on their assets to deliver their services to the resident populations in their jurisdictions. The assets (underground pipes, retention and detention tanks, treatment plants, etc.) collectively form the physical infrastructure of the wastewater utilities and are the consequence of the accumulated capital investments and operational expenditures on maintenance and rehabilitation over many years. In many of these utilities, the replacement value of these past investments will amount to many millions (even billions) of US dollars depending on the size of the community served. The infrastructure represents therefore a major societal investment in essential services contributing to public health and the protection of the environment.

In many countries, these assets have been identified as critical infrastructure, and programmes are in place to ensure their protection or their sustainability. Like many other organizations having assets, wastewater utilities undertake programmes of activities to manage the assets to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the community. These management activities can be at the strategic, tactical or operational level. The activities can be part of a formal management system, the result of specific legislative requirements, or simply the result of due diligence by the service operators and managers.

This document can serve as a supporting document for utilities operating an asset management system regardless of whether the utilities make use of any management system standard (e.g. ISO 55001).

In many countries, there is a recognized sustainability problem, sometimes referred to as the infrastructure gap, which recognizes that for various reasons, the infrastructure has not been maintained over the years on a truly sustainable basis, i.e. funding of rehabilitation programmes has been postponed, with a focus instead on short-term repairs or an allowed decrease in the level of service provided.

The condition of wastewater infrastructure greatly influences the adequacy of the wastewater service from aspects of quantity, quality, safety, reliability, environmental impact, degree of treatment and economic efficiency. System condition-based rehabilitation approaches serve to meet these requirements with a focus on a holistic approach of condition-based, risk-oriented maintenance.

As the installation and development of wastewater assets mature, the optimization of networks will become necessary in many places in order to respond to changing societal and economic conditions. Consequently, networks are subject not only to ageing as well as wear and tear but also to adaptation processes resulting from growth, new legislative requirements, or changing user service level expectations. This requires wastewater utilities not only to focus on maintenance and rehabilitation but also to keep future requirements and developments in mind. Rehabilitation will thus become essential in management of assets, with ever more stringent requirements on the design and execution of rehabilitation (partial replacement of specific sections of the entire network is also considered as rehabilitation).

In recent years, much effort has been applied to the whole issue of management of assets on two levels:

- What are the principles and structure of an asset management system?
- What are the good practices that can be implemented on a technical level to assess the condition of the assets and help decide when asset interventions (repair, renovation or replacement) take place?

This document describes the information required and how to collect and process reliable inventory, condition, operational and environment data about wastewater systems. Data on wastewater infrastructure notably include data on failure. These data serve mainly as a basis for systematic maintenance and can also contribute data needed for benchmarking.

Reliable failure statistics and the database description of the condition are of particular significance for establishing investigation, maintenance and rehabilitation priorities.

This document also provides guidance on how to define a strategy on management of assets with regard to the overall performance expected by the owner and other stakeholders. It includes several aspects of the operation and maintenance, including asset condition assessment and investment strategies (new assets and rehabilitation).

Guidance in [Clauses 4, 5, 6, 7](#) and [9](#) is taken from EN 752. This document provides a framework for the design, construction, rehabilitation, maintenance and operation of drain and sewer systems outside buildings and also focuses on “integrated sewer system management” in which management of assets is a part.

The approaches offered in this document are intended to be universally applicable, regardless of the structure of a given wastewater system. Any empirical numeric values given are mere support values; concrete plans always need to rely on utility and/or object-specific values.

The usual and expected goal of the effective management of assets is to provide maximum life and value in a cost-effective manner. However, in some circumstances where the assets are being operated to satisfy a short-term goal, this will not be to maximize the life of the assets, but could, for example, be to minimize costs while meeting other objectives within the planned timeframe.

This document is intended to provide guidance on the assets typically owned or operated by wastewater utilities that are expected to meet users’ needs and expectations over longer (multi-generational) periods.

Additional information on objectives and functional requirements of management of assets is provided in [Annex A](#).





# Guidelines for the management of assets of water supply and wastewater systems —

## Part 3: Wastewater collection networks

### 1 Scope

This document specifies guidelines for technical aspects, tools and good practices for the management of assets of wastewater networks to maintain value from existing assets.

This document does not apply to the management of assets of treatment plants, which are also physically part of the wastewater system and can influence the management of network assets.

NOTE 1 The management of the following individual assets will be covered by ISO 24516-4: wastewater pumping stations, retention and detention in the network, wastewater treatment plants and sludge treatment facilities.

This document includes examples of good practice approaches on the strategic, tactical and operational levels.

This document is applicable to all types and sizes of organizations and/or utilities operating wastewater networks, and all different roles/functions for the management of assets within a utility (e.g. asset owner/responsible body, asset manager/operator, service provider/operator).

NOTE 2 Depending on the size and structure of an organization, the utility can decide to what extent it applies the guidance in this document, but in any case, the philosophy of this document remains applicable to small and medium utilities.

### 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

### 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 <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1

##### **asset**

capital-forming goods used for the provision of the *service* (3.23)

Note 1 to entry: Assets can be tangible or intangible. Examples of tangible assets are: land, buildings, pipes, tanks, treatment plants, equipment and hardware. Examples of intangible assets are: software, databases.

Note 2 to entry: Contrary to consumables, assets can be depreciated (tangible assets) or amortized (intangible assets) in accounting systems.