
**Geotechnical investigation and testing —
Identification and classification of soil —**

Part 1:
Identification and description

*Recherches et essais géotechniques — Identification et classification des
sols —*

Partie 1: Identification et description



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO 14688 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 14688-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 182, *Geotechnics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Geotechnical investigation and testing*.

ISO 14688 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Identification and classification of soil*:

- *Part 1: Identification and description*
- *Part 2: Classification principles and quantification of descriptive characteristics*

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Geotechnical investigation and testing — Identification and classification of soil —

Part 1: Identification and description

1 Scope

This part of ISO 14688, together with ISO 14688-2, establishes the basic principles for the identification and classification of soils on the basis of those material and mass characteristics most commonly used for soils for engineering purposes. The relevant characteristics may vary and therefore, for particular projects or materials, more detailed subdivisions of the descriptive and classification terms may be appropriate.

The general identification and description of soils is based on a flexible system for immediate (field) use by experienced persons, covering both material and mass characteristics by visual and manual techniques.

Details are given of the individual characteristics for identifying soils and the descriptive terms in regular use, including those related to the results of tests from the field.

This part of ISO 14688 is applicable to natural soils *in situ*, similar man-made materials *in situ* and soils redeposited by man. The identification and description of rocks is covered by ISO 14689.

The identification and classification of soil for pedological purposes, as well as in the framework of measurements for soil protection and for remediation of contaminated areas, is covered by ISO 11259.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 14688. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 14688 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 11259, *Soil quality — Simplified soil description*

ISO 14688-2, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Identification and classification of soil — Part 2: Classification principles and quantification of descriptive characteristics*

ISO 14689, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Identification and description of rock*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 14688, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 soil

assemblage of mineral particles and/or organic matter in the form of a deposit but sometimes of organic origin, which can be separated by gentle mechanical means and which includes variable amounts of water and air (and sometimes other gases)