
**Soil quality — Pretreatment of samples
for physico-chemical analysis**

*Qualité du sol — Prétraitement des échantillons pour analyses physico-
chimiques*



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Published in Switzerland

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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 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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 document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 11464 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Chemical methods and soil characteristics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 11464:1994), which has been technically revised.

Soil quality — Pretreatment of samples for physico-chemical analysis

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the pretreatments required for soil samples that are to be subjected to physico-chemical analyses of stable and non-volatile parameters and describes the following five types of pretreatment of samples: drying, crushing, sieving, dividing and milling.

The pretreatment procedures described in this International Standard are not applicable if they affect the results of the determinations to be made. This International Standard is also not applicable to samples when volatile compounds are measured. In general, International Standards for analytical methods will state when it is necessary to adopt other procedures.

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 565, *Test sieves — Metal wire cloth, perforated metal plate and electroformed sheet — Nominal sizes of openings*

ISO 10381-8, *Soil quality — Sampling — Part 8: Guidance on sampling of stockpiles*

ISO 16720, *Soil quality — Pretreatment of samples by freeze-drying for subsequent analysis*

3 Principle

Soil samples are dried in air, or in an oven at temperature not exceeding 40 °C, or freeze-dried (see 5.3). If necessary, the soil sample is crushed while still damp and friable, and again after drying (see 5.4). The soil is sieved and the fraction smaller than 2 mm is divided into portions mechanically, or by hand, to enable representative subsampling for analysis (see 5.5). If small subsamples (< 2 g) are required for analysis, the size of the particles of the fraction smaller than 2 mm is further decreased (see 5.6). The necessary procedures are given in the flow diagram in Figure 1.

A drying temperature of 40 °C in an oven is preferable to air drying at room temperature because the increased speed of the drying limits changes due to microbial activity.

It should be noted that every type of pretreatment will have an influence on several soil properties.

The sieve aperture size of 2 mm is generally used. However, before the pretreatment is started, it should be checked if any of the analytical methods to be applied later require other sieve sizes.

NOTE Storing soil samples, including samples that are as received, air dried, refrigerated or stored in the absence of light, for a long time may have an influence on a number of soil parameters, especially solubilities of both inorganic and organic fractions. See Reference [1].

Special measures should usually be taken for samples from contaminated soils. It is important to avoid contact with the skin and special provisions should be taken when drying such samples (air discharge, ventilation, etc.).