

Soil quality - Guidance on the determination of background values (ISO 19258:2018)

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN ISO 19258**

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

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English Version

## Soil quality - Guidance on the determination of background values (ISO 19258:2018)

Qualité du sol - Lignes directrices pour la détermination des valeurs de bruit de fond (ISO 19258:2018)

Bodenbeschaffenheit - Leitfaden zur Bestimmung von Hintergrundwerten (ISO 19258:2018)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 3 August 2018.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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## European foreword

This document (EN ISO 19258:2018) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190 "Soil quality" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 345 "Characterization of soils" the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2019, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2019.

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

This document supersedes EN ISO 19258:2011.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

## Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 19258:2018 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 19258:2018 without any modification.

# Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 General</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Procedures</b> .....	<b>3</b>
5.1 General.....	3
5.2 Objectives and technical approaches.....	4
5.2.1 General.....	4
5.2.2 Substances and parameters.....	4
5.2.3 Study area.....	6
5.2.4 Time period.....	6
5.2.5 Scale of sampling.....	7
5.3 Evaluation of existing data.....	7
5.3.1 General.....	7
5.3.2 Completeness of data sets/minimum requirements.....	7
5.3.3 Comparability of data (sampling, nomenclatures, analyses).....	8
5.3.4 Examination of outliers.....	8
5.4 Collection of new data.....	9
5.4.1 Sampling.....	9
5.4.2 Soil analysis.....	13
5.5 Data processing and presentation.....	14
5.5.1 Statistical evaluation of data.....	14
5.5.2 Data presentation and reporting.....	15
<b>6 Data handling/quality control</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex A (informative) Outlier tests</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Examples of the main substances and parameters</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>24</b>

## 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)).

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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 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Impact assessment*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 19258:2005), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- [Clauses 2](#) and [3](#), and subclauses [5.3](#), [5.4](#), [5.4](#) and [Annex B](#) (formerly Annex C) have been completely technically revised;
- 5.2.2 has been revised and the structure of its subclauses has been changed to [5.2.2.1](#), *Basic parameters*, [5.2.2.2](#), *Persistent compounds* (split up into [5.2.2.2.1](#), *Inorganic substances*, and [5.2.2.2.2](#), *Organic substances*), and [5.2.2.3](#) *Non persistent compounds* (added);
- text has been added to [5.2.5](#);
- “typological” has been replaced by “judgemental” throughout the document;
- “scale of sampling” has been deleted from [Annex A](#);
- the Bibliography has been updated.

# Soil quality — Guidance on the determination of background values

## 1 Scope

This document gives guidelines for the principles and main methods for the determination of background values for inorganic and organic substances in soils at a local/regional scale. The site scale is excluded.

It gives guidelines for sampling and data processing strategies. It identifies methods for sampling and analysis.

This document does not apply to the determination of background values for groundwater and sediments.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 11074, *Soil quality — Vocabulary*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 11074 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### background concentration

concentration of an element or a substance characteristic of a soil type in an area or region arising from both natural sources and anthropogenic diffuse sources such as atmospheric deposition

[SOURCE: ISO 11074:2015, 3.5.1, modified — In the definition, “an element or” has been introduced before “a substance” and “anthropogenic” has replaced “non-natural”. Note 1 to entry has been removed.]

### 3.2

#### background value

*statistical characteristics* (3.8) of the total (natural pedo-geochemical and anthropogenic) content of a substances in soil

Note 1 to entry: Commonly expressed in terms of average, typical, median, mode, a range of values or a background value.

[SOURCE: ISO 11074:2015, 3.5.2, modified — Note 1 to entry has been added from ISO 11075:2014, 3.5.1.]