AS ISO 11074:2025
ISO 11074:2025

Soil quality — Vocabulary



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Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
Environment Protection Authority Victoria
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National Measurement Institute
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Australian Standard®

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How to read this Standard

This page explains the meaning of the language and structure of this Standard.

Refer to Standards Australia's Standardisation Guide 006 for more details about drafting rules.

Australian and Australian/New Zealand Standards are voluntary unless they are referenced in legislation or called up in contracts.

Requirements

To conform to a Standard, all requirements in the Standard need to be met.

A requirement is any statement in the Standard which uses the word "shall".

Recommendations, permissions and possibilities

The following words are commonly used in Standards, but statements using them do not have to be followed to conform to the Standard:

(a) "should" means that something is recommended.

(b) "may" means that something is permitted.

(c) "can" means that something is possible.

Structure of Standards

A Standard always has the following parts:

(i) The Preface states who developed the Standard, what the Standard is aiming to do, and how it relates to other documents.

(ii) The Scope states what the Standard is about, what it covers and what it does not cover.

(iii) The Normative references clause lists other documents that are referenced in the Standard as part of requirements.

(iv) The Terms and definitions clause defines important terms to help with understanding the Standard.

A Standard may also include other parts, such as the following:

(1) A normative appendix sets additional requirements that need to be conformed to.

(2) An informative appendix provides additional information or guidance. They usually do not contain requirements. If an informative appendix does contain requirements, the Standard will explain when those requirements apply.

(3) A Bibliography lists documents referenced in the Standard but not as part of requirements.

Many Standards include notes. Notes provide recommendations and/or guidance only. They never contain requirements.

Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee EV-009, Sampling and Analysis of Soil.

The objective of this document is to define terms used in the field of soil quality.

This document is identical to, and has been reproduced from, ISO 11074:2025, *Soil quality — Vocabulary.*

As this document has been reproduced from an international document, a comma is to be read as a full point when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A “normative” appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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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 document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see http://www.iso.org/directives-and-policies.html.

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at http://www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of 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 https://www.iso.org/foreword-supplementary-information.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality,* in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 444, *Environmental characterization of solid matrices,* in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 11074:2015), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 11074:2015/Amd 1:2020.

The main changes are as follows:

— terminological entries have been reorganised with all the terms and definitions placed in Clause 3 in alphabetical order;

— terms that have different definitions depending on the context have been grouped, and the domain has been added in angle brackets to differentiate them.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at https://www.iso.org/members.html">www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document defines soil quality terms. The previous editions (ISO 11074:2015 and ISO 11074/Amd 1:2020) presented terms and definitions in separate clauses to differentiate the terms about e.g. sampling, remediation. This became more and more artificial, since soil quality experts with different expertise need to work closely together and there is a greater need for one term list instead of multiple ones, where experts first need to find out in which clause a specific term is located. In this edition, all the terms are included in Clause 3.

For some terms, there are different definitions, depending on the context. These terms are presented after each other, with the differentiating domains between brackets: <context>. Often these are a general domain and a specific domain, resulting in different definitions.

Though the terms apply to all other ISO/TC 190 soil quality standards, this document does not cover all the terms used in ISO/TC 190 soil quality standards.

New and revised standards are published continuously though time. The revision periods of soil quality standards differ. That means that definitions of the same terms can be different in specific soil quality standard and in this document.

NOTE For general terms relating to quality, see ISO 9000.

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