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Guidelines for water quality grade classification for water reuse

Lignes directrices pour la classification de la qualité de l'eau en vue de sa réutilisation

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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).

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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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 282, *Water reuse*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Risk and performance evaluation of water reuse systems*.

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 www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

The reaffirmation of the importance of water along with food security and energy was a significant outcome in the actions and the follow-up framework passed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). With respect to the management of water resources, essential actions include the prevention of water contamination, more efficient water usage, and the treatment and best practices for reuse of wastewater as a water resource by households, industries, and agriculture, particularly in growing urban areas.

Today, many regions in the world face water shortages, and the feasibility of using reclaimed water to meet water demands for various purposes is of great interest. On the other hand, the potential health implications of using reclaimed water is of global concern. This has led to an increasing need to specify appropriate water quality parameters for specific reclaimed water applications, as well as develop methods of assessing and managing health risks from both regulatory and application perspectives. Unless these needs are addressed, opportunities for the development of sustainable and appropriate reclaimed water applications will be lost.

Health risks associated with the use of reclaimed water occur when users use the reclaimed water inappropriately without knowing its intended purpose. Therefore, it is important that the reuse application be clearly identified.

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Guidelines for water quality grade classification for water reuse

1 Scope

This document provides guidelines for water quality grade classification to help users determine the suitability and quality of the reclaimed water for safe non-potable reuse applications, based on the level of exposure. The intention is to enable the water quality grade to be identified at the point of use.

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 20670, *Water reuse — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 20670 and the following, apply.

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

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
water quality grade
grade of reclaimed water quality, indicating suitable reuse application based on the level of exposure

4 Water quality grade classification for reuse application

4.1 Water quality grade for reuse application

Water quality of reclaimed water is classified into three grades, reflecting the suitability for direct public access and/or body contact:

— High grade: water quality suitable for non-potable water reuse applications with a high potential for direct public access and/or body contact.

— Medium grade: water quality suitable for non-potable water reuse applications with a limited potential for direct public access and/or body contact.

— Fair grade: water quality suitable for non-potable water reuse applications without potential for direct public access and/or body contact.

A suitable water quality grade should be identified and determined at the discretion of the local jurisdiction, authorities, regulators, etc.

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