

## ISO 18400-SERIES STANDARDS AND BS 10175

Seven members of the ISO 18400 series of International Standards have been approved for publication. It was expected that they would be published in February but due to ISO procedural rules publication has been delayed and it is now expected that they will be published in July or August. It is expected that all seven standards will be adopted as British Standards with the addition of national forewords indicating how the individual standards mesh with BS10175.

Two of the standards (18400-102 and 18400-103) will replace existing BSs (BS ISO 10381-2 and BS ISO 10381-3) that are normative in BS 10175. BS ISO 18400-103 (safety) is a direct replacement and can be easily accommodated by amendment of BS 10175. BS ISO 18400-102 (selection and application of techniques) will present more of a challenge because there is considerable overlap with BS10175 and some rationalisation of BS 10175 will be required to ensure compatibility and that the most up to date and appropriate guidance is required by BS10175.

ISO 18400-204 (investigations for soil/ground gas) will proceed directly for publication, probably in August. Two further members of the series (-202, -203) will reach the FDIS (Final Draft international Standard) stage in July.

18400-203 (potentially contaminated sites) and 18400-204 (soil gas) overlap BS10175 and BS 8576 respectively and will not be adopted as British Standards. ISO 18400-202 (preliminary investigations) overlaps BS10175 but would be a useful adjunct as a British Standard as it covers a wider range of sites.

18400-205 (agricultural sites etc.) will reach the DIS (Draft International Standard) stage in July and will be subject to comment from about September. It is likely to be suitable for adoption as a British Standard.

The Committee Draft (CD) 18400-206 (sampling for biological purposes) is currently out for comment. It will replace BS ISO 10381-6 and should thus be adopted as British Standard in due course.

DIS 18400-104 (Sampling strategies) is currently being processed by ISO and should be circulated for comment in about September. It is the absence of the DIS until now that has delayed publication of the seven completed standards. There has been considerable argument in the ISO Technical Committee about the form that this standard should take (it is fairly long and complex and includes some highly technical Annexes) and this delayed work on the standard.

A Drafting Panel is to be set up to consider how BS10175 should be amended or revised to accommodate the new BS ISO 18400 standards. BS 10175 is due for review in 2016 so it will be necessary to decide whether to simply amend the present version of to carry out more extensive revision.

My participation in the preparation of these standards has only been possible because of substantial financial support from the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) for travel costs etc.

### BREXIT

Many of the ISO soil quality standards have been adopted as European Standards (ENs) and therefore automatically become British Standards. The European standards organisation (CEN) is a European Union body. It is possible that BREXIT will result in the UK leaving (or being ejected from) CEN. In which case, construction products etc exported to the EU will have to comply with standards over which we will have no influence.

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