



National Standards Authority of Ireland

IRISH STANDARD

I.S. EN 14996:2006

ICS 13.060.70

**WATER QUALITY - GUIDANCE ON ASSURING
THE QUALITY OF BIOLOGICAL AND
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS IN THE
AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT**

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English Version

**Water quality - Guidance on assuring the quality of biological
and ecological assessments in the aquatic environment**

Qualité de l'eau - Guide d'assurance qualité pour des
évaluations biologiques et écologiques dans
l'environnement aquatique

Wasserbeschaffenheit - Anleitung zur Qualitätssicherung
biologischer und ökologischer Untersuchungsverfahren in
der aquatischen Umwelt

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 3 May 2006.

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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 Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

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Foreword

This document (EN 14996:2006) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 230 "Water analysis", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2006, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2006.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS — Safety issues are paramount when surveying surface waters. Surveyors should conform to EU and national Health and Safety legislation and any additional guidelines appropriate for working in or near water.

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

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Introduction

The importance of ecology in new legislation such as the EC Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC) means that ecological data from aquatic environments shall be of a known and verifiable quality. General guidelines on quality assurance are given in the EN ISO 9000 series and, especially, EN ISO/IEC 17025. This guidance standard is designed to complement these standards by providing advice specific to the quality assurance of ecological data collected from aquatic environments. The principles outlined in this standard are applicable to all field and laboratory work and to all organisations producing ecological data.

According to the precise use to which this standard is to be put, it is essential for specifiers and users to agree on any necessary variations or optional procedural details prior to use.

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