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S.R. CEN/TR 13714:2010

# Characterization of sludges - Sludge management in relation to use or disposal

## S.R. CEN/TR 13714:2010

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<div> <div> <b>NSAI</b>  1 Swift Square,  Northwood, Santry  Dublin 9 </div> <div> T +353 1 807 3800  F +353 1 807 3838  E standards@nsai.ie  W NSAI.ie </div> <div> <b>Sales:</b>  T +353 1 857 6730  F +353 1 857 6729  W standards.ie </div> </div>		
Údarás um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann		

English Version

**Characterization of sludges - Sludge management in relation to  
use or disposal**

Caractérisation des boues - Gestion des boues en vue de  
leur valorisation ou de leur élimination

Charakterisierung von Schlämmen - Management von  
Schlamm zur Verwertung oder Beseitigung

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 9 February 2010. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 308.

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EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

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## **Foreword**

This document (CEN/TR 13714:2010) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 308 "Characterization of sludges", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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

This document supersedes CR 13714:2001.

This document gives recommendations for good practice but existing national regulations remain in force.

## Introduction

The purpose of this Technical Report is to outline the management of sludges both upstream and downstream of the treatment process to ensure that it is suitable for the outlets available. Sludge is the inevitable residue of treating raw potable water and municipal and industrial wastewaters. The Technical Report refers to all types of sludge covered by CEN/TC 308 including sludges from treating industrial wastewater similar to urban wastewater and from water supply treatment work plants. In considering the likely quality of sludges it should be remembered that municipal wastewater sludges are composed of materials that have already been disposed of and are consequently likely to be more variable than many industrial sludges that arise from sourced materials or water treatment sludges arising from surface water or groundwater.

The quality of the sludge should match the requirements of the outlets whether that be to land, thermal processing or as a last resort landfill. As a general rule a sludge of high quality is likely to be acceptable to a large range of outlets giving greater operational flexibility. High quality sludges are likely to be suitable for those outlets associated with maximum sustainability and minimum environmental pollution. The management of sludges will become increasingly more complex as environmental standards become more stringent and if outlets become more constrained by legislation and public attitudes.

Sludge quality is central to the development of good practice for sludge production in relation to its destination (use or disposal). Sludge quality depends on the composition of the upstream materials and the type of treatment including post treatment storage.

Sludge quality can be characterised by its different properties; biological, chemical and physical:

- biological properties include the microbiological stability of the organic matter in the sludge, odour and hygienic characteristics;
- chemical properties include:
  - content of potentially toxic substances (PTSS) which include inorganic (metals, metalloids, and other minerals), and organic pollutants;
  - concentrations and form (availability) of plant nutrients and the main components of the sludge;
- physical properties include whether liquid, semi-solid (pasty-like) or solid, and aesthetic factors associated for instance with removal of unsightly debris by effective screening. Calorific value is a quality criterion if the sludge is to be incinerated or used as a fuel. Other physical properties include, thickenability and dewaterability.

The consistency of these different properties is a critical aspect of the sludge quality and of the ability to determine its end destination (use or disposal).

Standard methods should be used where these are available to measure the quality parameters of sludge. There is a continuing need to develop a full set of standardised and harmonised methods which the manager and operator can use to evaluate the quality of sludge for treatment process design and operational purposes.

This Technical Report considers the management of sludges against the waste hierarchy, the management of sludge quality and an option evaluation process to determine the options available.

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