



**NSAI**  
Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN ISO 19901-8:2015

Petroleum and natural gas industries -  
Specific requirements for offshore structures  
- Part 8: Marine soil investigations (ISO  
19901-8:2014)

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## I.S. EN ISO 19901-8:2015

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## National Foreword

I.S. EN ISO 19901-8:2015 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document EN ISO 19901-8:2015, Petroleum and natural gas industries - Specific requirements for offshore structures - Part 8: Marine soil investigations (ISO 19901-8:2014)

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**EUROPEAN STANDARD**

**EN ISO 19901-8**

**NORME EUROPÉENNE**

**EUROPÄISCHE NORM**

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English Version

**Petroleum and natural gas industries - Specific requirements for  
offshore structures - Part 8: Marine soil investigations (ISO  
19901-8:2014)**

Industries du pétrole et du gaz naturel - Exigences  
spécifiques relatives aux structures en mer - Partie 8:  
Investigations des sols en mer (ISO 19901-8:2014)

Erdöl- und Erdgasindustrie - Spezielle Anforderungen für  
Offshore-Anlagen - Teil 8: Meeresbodenuntersuchungen  
(ISO 19901-8:2014)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 26 August 2015.

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**EN ISO 19901-8:2015 (E)**

**Contents**

Page

<b>Foreword.....</b>	<b>3</b>
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## **Foreword**

The text of ISO 19901-8:2014 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 67 “Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries” of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 19901-8:2015 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 12 “Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries” the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2016, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2016.

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.

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

### **Endorsement notice**

The text of ISO 19901-8:2014 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 19901-8:2015 without any modification.

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO  
19901-8**

First edition  
2014-12-01

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## **Petroleum and natural gas industries — Specific requirements for offshore structures —**

### **Part 8: Marine soil investigations**

*Industries du pétrole et du gaz naturel — Exigences spécifiques  
relatives aux structures en mer —*

*Partie 8: Investigations des sols en mer*



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ISO 19901-8:2014(E)

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**ISO 19901-8:2014(E)**



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# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Symbols, units and abbreviated terms</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Symbols	6
4.2 Units	7
4.3 Abbreviated terms	7
<b>5 Objectives, planning and requirements</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1 Objectives	9
5.2 Planning	9
5.3 Scope of work	12
5.4 Health, safety and environmental (HSE) requirements for marine operations	13
5.5 Other requirements	14
<b>6 Deployment of investigation equipment</b>	<b>15</b>
6.1 Deployment modes	15
6.2 Accuracy of vertical depth measurements	17
6.3 Positioning requirements	18
6.4 Interaction of investigation equipment with the seafloor	18
<b>7 Drilling and logging</b>	<b>19</b>
7.1 General	19
7.2 Project-specific drilling requirements	19
7.3 Drilling objectives and selection of drilling equipment and procedures	20
7.4 Drilling operations plan	20
7.5 Recording of drilling parameters	20
7.6 Borehole geophysical logging	21
<b>8 In situ testing</b>	<b>21</b>
8.1 General	21
8.2 General requirements for the documentation of <i>in situ</i> tests	22
8.3 Cone penetration test (CPT/CPTU)	22
8.4 Pore pressure dissipation test (PPDT)	26
8.5 Ball and T-bar penetration tests	28
8.6 Seismic cone penetration test (SCPT/SCPTU)	33
8.7 Field vane test (FVT)	34
8.8 Other <i>in situ</i> tests	38
<b>9 Sampling</b>	<b>39</b>
9.1 General	39
9.2 Purpose of sampling	39
9.3 Sampling systems	40
9.4 Selection of samplers	40
9.5 Sample recovery considerations	42
9.6 Handling, transport and storage of samples	43
<b>10 Laboratory testing</b>	<b>44</b>
10.1 General	44
10.2 Presentation of laboratory test results	46
10.3 Instrumentation, calibration and data acquisition	47
10.4 Preparation of soil specimens for testing	47
10.5 Evaluation of intact sample quality	49

**ISO 19901-8:2014(E)**

<b>11</b>	<b>Reporting</b> .....	<b>50</b>
11.1	Definition of reporting requirements.....	50
11.2	Presentation of field operations and measured and derived geotechnical parameters.....	50
11.3	Data interpretation and evaluation of representative geotechnical parameters.....	51
<b>Annex A</b>	<b>(informative) Objectives, planning and requirements</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>Annex B</b>	<b>(informative) Deployment of investigation equipment</b> .....	<b>59</b>
<b>Annex C</b>	<b>(informative) Drilling and logging</b> .....	<b>67</b>
<b>Annex D</b>	<b>(informative) <i>In situ</i> testing</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>Annex E</b>	<b>(informative) Sampling</b> .....	<b>81</b>
<b>Annex F</b>	<b>(informative) Laboratory testing</b> .....	<b>91</b>
<b>Annex G</b>	<b>(informative) Reporting</b> .....	<b>127</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	.....	<b>132</b>

## 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

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

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 67, *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries*, SC 7, *Offshore structures*.

ISO 19901 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Specific requirements for offshore structures*:

- *Part 1: Metocean design and operating considerations*
- *Part 2: Seismic design procedures and criteria*
- *Part 3: Topsides structure*
- *Part 4: Geotechnical and foundation design considerations*
- *Part 5: Weight control during engineering and construction*
- *Part 6: Marine operations*
- *Part 7: Stationkeeping systems for floating offshore structures and mobile offshore units*
- *Part 8: Marine soil investigations*

## ISO 19901-8:2014(E)

## Introduction

The series of International Standards applicable to offshore structures, ISO 19900 to ISO 19906, constitutes a common basis covering those aspects that address design requirements and assessments of all offshore structures used by the petroleum and natural gas industries worldwide. Through their application, the intention is to achieve reliability levels appropriate for manned and unmanned offshore structures, whatever the nature or combination of the materials used.

It is important to recognize that structural integrity is a concept comprising models for describing actions, structural analyses, design rules, safety elements, workmanship, quality control procedures and national requirements, all of which are mutually dependent. The modification of one aspect of design in isolation can disturb the balance of reliability inherent in the overall concept of structural integrity. The implications involved in modifications, therefore, need to be considered in relation to the overall reliability of all offshore structural systems.

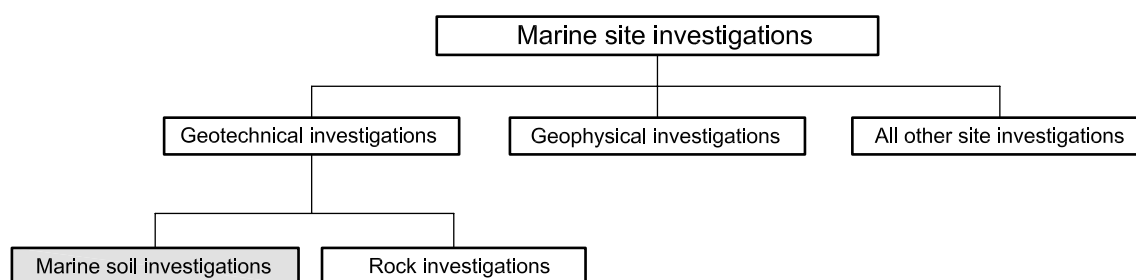
This part of ISO 19901 is applicable for marine soil investigation, which is only one of many possible marine site investigations as illustrated in [Figure 1](#). The terminology used in [Figure 1](#) and other important terminology are defined and given in [Clause 3](#).

The scope of a marine soil investigation, such as field programme, equipment to be used, laboratory testing programme, soil parameters to be established and reporting should be defined in project specifications based on important factors such as type of structures involved, type of soil conditions expected, regional or site-specific investigation, preliminary or final soil investigations.

The reporting can comprise anything from field data only to reporting of soil parameters. An example report format is given in [Annex G, Table G.1](#), but for each project the final reporting structure can be adjusted by deleting inapplicable sections, or by adding new sections.

This part of ISO 19901 gives requirements, recommendations and guidelines for the planning and execution of marine soil investigations and is applicable from the planning phase to reporting of soil parameters. It is important to use documented methods when soil parameters are established, and to refer to these methods in the report.

*In situ* and laboratory testing methods included in this part of ISO 19901 are selected based on their importance in marine soil investigation practice, availability in commercial geotechnical laboratories and the existence of an accepted testing procedure.



**Figure 1 — Marine soil investigations shown as one of many types of marine site investigations**

Seabed characterization can require several types of site investigations, for example marine soil investigations and geophysical investigations including geological and geohazard evaluations. For each project, the types of site investigations required are usually defined in project specifications. Also of importance for proper seabed characterization is consideration of required investigation equipment and its deployment mode(s) and methods, in order to acquire adequate quality soil data to the target depth.

This part of ISO 19901 is applicable for marine soil investigations at any water depth and to any depth below seafloor which can be reached with the tools used.

Use of this part of ISO 19901 is based on the assumptions that:

- adequate communication takes place between geotechnical personnel involved in marine soil investigations and the personnel responsible for foundation design, for construction and for installation of the offshore structures;
- soil parameters are collected, recorded and interpreted by qualified personnel;
- the project-specific scope of work for marine soil investigations is defined by one or more project specifications.

Seabed soils can vary widely, and experience gained at one location is not necessarily applicable at another. The scope of a soil investigation for one type of structure is not necessarily adequate for another. Extra caution is therefore necessary when dealing with unconventional soils or unconventional foundation concepts. Marine soil investigations include both offshore and nearshore soil investigations, which can provide very different challenges.

The detailed requirements for equipment and methods given in this part of ISO 19901 are only applicable if relevant for the scope of work defined in the project specifications.

This part of ISO 19901 is intended to provide flexibility in the choice of soil investigation techniques without hindering innovation.

The primary objectives of this part of ISO 19901 are to provide requirements and guidance for how the most important aspects of a marine soil investigation should be performed to obtain reliable soil parameters based on documented methods.

In this part of ISO 19901, in accordance with the latest edition of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, the following verbal forms are used:

- ‘shall’ and ‘shall not’ are used to indicate requirements strictly to be followed in order to comply with the document and from which no deviation is permitted;
- ‘should’ and ‘should not’ are used to indicate that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required, or that (in the negative form) a certain possibility or course of action is deprecated but not prohibited;
- ‘may’ and ‘need not’ are used to indicate a course of action permissible within the limits of the document;
- ‘can’ and ‘cannot’ are used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

This part of ISO 19901 includes informative annexes. Informative annexes give additional information intended to assist the understanding or use of the document. They do not contain requirements, except that informative annexes may contain optional requirements (for example a test method that is optional can contain requirements), but there is no need to comply with these requirements to claim compliance with this part of ISO 19901.

The following International Standards are also relevant to offshore structures for the petroleum and natural gas industries:

- ISO 19900, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — General requirements for offshore structures*
- ISO 19902, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Fixed steel offshore structures*
- ISO 19903, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Fixed concrete offshore structures*
- ISO 19904-1, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Floating offshore structures — Part 1: Monohulls, semi-submersibles and spars*
- ISO 19905-1, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Site-specific assessment of mobile offshore units — Part 1: Jack-ups*

**ISO 19901-8:2014(E)**

- ISO/TR 19905-2, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Site-specific assessment of mobile offshore units — Part 2: Jack-ups commentary*
- ISO 19906, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Arctic offshore structures*
- ISO 13623, *Pipeline transportation systems*
- ISO 13628-1, *Design and operation of subsea production systems — Part 1: General requirements and recommendations*



# Petroleum and natural gas industries — Specific requirements for offshore structures —

## Part 8: Marine soil investigations

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 19901 specifies requirements, and provides recommendations and guidelines for marine soil investigations regarding:

- a) objectives, planning and execution of marine soil investigations;
- b) deployment of investigation equipment;
- c) drilling and logging;
- d) *in situ* testing;
- e) sampling;
- f) laboratory testing; and
- g) reporting.

Rock materials are only covered by this part of ISO 19901 to the extent that ordinary marine soil investigation tools can be used, e.g. for chalk, calcareous soils, cemented soils or similar soft rock.

Hard rock investigations are not covered by this part of ISO 19901; see [F.13](#) for further guidance.

Foundation design is not covered by this part of ISO 19901, but by ISO 19901-4 and the respective design standards for the specific types of offshore structures as listed in the Foreword and Introduction.

Planning, execution and interpretation of geophysical investigations are not covered by this part of ISO 19901. However, the results from geophysical investigations should, where appropriate, be used for planning, optimization and interpretation of marine soil investigations.

This part of ISO 19901 does not cover the planning and scope of geohazard assessment studies, only the corresponding marine soil investigations aspects thereof.

Soil investigations from ice in Arctic regions are not covered by this part of ISO 19901.

This part of ISO 19901 is intended for clients, soil investigation contractors, designers, installation contractors, geotechnical laboratories and public and regulatory authorities concerned with marine soil investigations for any type of offshore and nearshore structures, or geohazard assessment studies, for petroleum and natural gas industries.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 22476-1:2012, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Field testing — Part 1: Electrical cone and piezocone penetration test*

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