



BSI Standards Publication

# Geotechnical investigation and testing — Laboratory testing of soil

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Part 12: Determination of liquid and plastic limits

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## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 17892-12:2018+A1:2021. It is identical to ISO 17892-12:2018, incorporating amendment 1:2021. It supersedes BS EN ISO 17892-12:2018, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee B/526/3, Ground investigation and ground testing.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2021

ISBN 978 0 539 13614 2

ICS 13.080.20; 93.020

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 July 2018.

### Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
30 September 2021	Implementation of ISO amendment 1:2021 with CEN endorsement A1:2021: Figure A.2 replaced

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

September 2021

ICS 13.080.20; 93.020

Supersedes CEN ISO/TS 17892-12:2004

English Version

## Geotechnical investigation and testing - Laboratory testing of soil - Part 12: Determination of liquid and plastic limits (ISO 17892-12:2018)

Reconnaissance et essais géotechniques -  
Essais de laboratoire sur les sols - Partie  
12: Détermination des limites de liquidité  
et de plasticité (ISO 17892-12:2018)

Geotechnische Erkundung und  
Untersuchung - Laborversuche an  
Bodenproben - Teil 12: Bestimmung der  
Zustandsgrenzen (ISO 17892-12:2018)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 15 June 2018.

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**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

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## European foreword

This document (EN ISO 17892-12:2018) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 182 "Geotechnics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 341 "Geotechnical Investigation and Testing" the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

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 January 2019, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2019.

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### Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 17892-12:2018 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 17892-12:2018 without any modification.

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## European foreword to amendment A1

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

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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 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 341 *Geotechnical investigation and testing*, in collaboration with ISO Technical Committee TC 182, *Geotechnics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This first edition of ISO 17892-12 cancels and replaces ISO/TS 17892-12:2004, which has been technically revised. It also incorporates ISO/TS 17892-12:2004/Cor.1:2006.

A list of all the parts in the ISO 17892 series can be found on the ISO website.

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## **Introduction**

This document covers areas in the international field of geotechnical engineering never previously standardised internationally. It is intended that this document presents broad good practice and significant differences with national documents is not anticipated. It is based on international practice (see Reference [1]).

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# Geotechnical investigation and testing — Laboratory testing of soil —

## Part 12: Determination of liquid and plastic limits

### 1 Scope

This document specifies methods for the determination of the liquid and plastic limits of a soil. These comprise two of the Atterberg limits for soils.

The liquid limit is the water content at which a soil changes from the liquid to the plastic state.

This document describes the determination of the liquid limit of a specimen of natural soil, or of a specimen of soil from which material larger than about 0,4 mm has been removed. This document describes two methods: the fall cone method and the Casagrande method.

NOTE The fall cone method in this document should not be confused with that of ISO 17892-6.

The plastic limit of a soil is the water content at which a soil ceases to be plastic when dried further.

The determination of the plastic limit is normally made in conjunction with the determination of the liquid limit. It is recognized that the results of the test are subject to the judgement of the operator, and that some variability in results will occur.

### 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 3310-1, *Test sieves — Technical requirements and testing — Part 1: Test sieves of metal wire cloth*

ISO 14688-1, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Identification and classification of soil — Part 1: Identification and description*

ISO 17892-1, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Laboratory testing of soil — Part 1: Determination of water content*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

#### 3.1 liquid limit

$w_L$

water content at which a soil passes from the liquid to the plastic state, as determined by the liquid limit test