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Second edition
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Soil quality — Effects of pollutants on earthworms —

Part 1:

Determination of acute toxicity to *Eisenia fetida*/*Eisenia andrei*

*Qualité du sol — Effets des polluants vis-à-vis des vers de terre —
Partie 1: Détermination de la toxicité aiguë vis-à-vis de Eisenia fetida/
Eisenia andrei*



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Principle	3
5 Reagents and material	3
6 Apparatus	5
7 Procedure	5
7.1 Experimental design	5
7.2 Preparation of test mixture	6
7.3 Addition of the earthworms	8
7.4 Test conditions and measurements	8
7.5 Reference substance	8
8 Calculation and expression of results	8
8.1 Calculation	8
8.2 Expression of results	8
9 Validity of the test	9
10 Statistical analysis	9
10.1 General	9
10.2 Single-concentration tests	9
10.3 Multi-concentration tests	10
11 Test report	11
Annex A (informative) Determination of the acute toxicity of chemicals (in particular pesticides) on earthworms under tropical test conditions	12
Annex B (informative) Culturing of <i>Eisenia fetida</i> and <i>Eisenia andrei</i>	14
Annex C (informative) Determination of water holding capacity of artificial soil	15
Annex D (informative) Background information on the acute effect of boric acid on earthworms	16
Bibliography	17

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 11268-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Biological methods*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 11268-1:1993), which has been technically revised.

ISO 11268 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Soil quality — Effects of pollutants on earthworms*:

- *Part 1: Determination of acute toxicity to Eisenia fetida/Eisenia andrei*
- *Part 2: Determination of effects on reproduction of Eisenia fetida/Eisenia andrei*
- *Part 3: Guidance on the determination of effects in field situations*

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Introduction

Ecotoxicological test systems are applied to obtain information about the effects of contaminants in soil and are proposed to complement conventional chemical analysis (see ISO 15799 ^[33] and ISO 17616 ^[34]). ISO 15799 includes a list and short characterization of recommended and standardized test systems, and ISO 17616 gives guidance on the choice and evaluation of the bioassays. Aquatic test systems with soil eluate are applied to obtain information about the fraction of contaminants potentially reaching the groundwater by the water path (retention function of soils), whereas terrestrial test systems are used to assess the habitat function of soils. As standardized test systems using earthworms as indicator organisms for the habitat function of soil, an acute test for survival and a chronic test for reproduction are available.

This part of ISO 11268 describes a method that is based on the determination of the acute toxicity of contaminated soils to adult earthworms of the species *Eisenia fetida* (Savigny 1826) and *Eisenia andrei* (André 1963). Optionally, the method can be used for testing chemicals added to a standard soil (e.g. artificial soil) for their acute toxic potential to earthworms. Finally, information is provided on how to use this method for testing chemicals under tropical conditions (see Annex A).

Eisenia fetida and *Eisenia andrei* are considered to be representatives of soil fauna and earthworms in particular. Background information on the ecology of earthworms and their use in ecotoxicological testing is available. Other species, e.g. *Aporrectodea caliginosa*, *Lumbricus rubellus* and *Lumbricus terrestris*, have also been used as test organisms. These or other species have not been proven to be more sensitive in general, and the database and experience in testing soils is small ^{[15][16][23]}.

This part of ISO 11268 has been drawn up taking into consideration test procedures adopted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ^{[26][27]} and by the European Union ^[9].