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

Part 10: Marine geophysical investigations

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

Partie 10: Enquêtes géophysiques marines



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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).

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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 of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 67, *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Offshore structures*.

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Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

The general objective of a marine site investigation is to provide information about the seafloor, the sub-seafloor and geological processes affecting both, geohazards, and human-made objects at or below the seafloor. Marine site investigations can encompass both marine soil investigations and marine geophysical investigations, as shown in [Figure 1](#). This document provides requirements for marine geophysical investigations to support oil and gas developments offshore, is complementary to ISO 19901-8 on marine soil investigations, and provides guidance on the integration of both types of investigations.

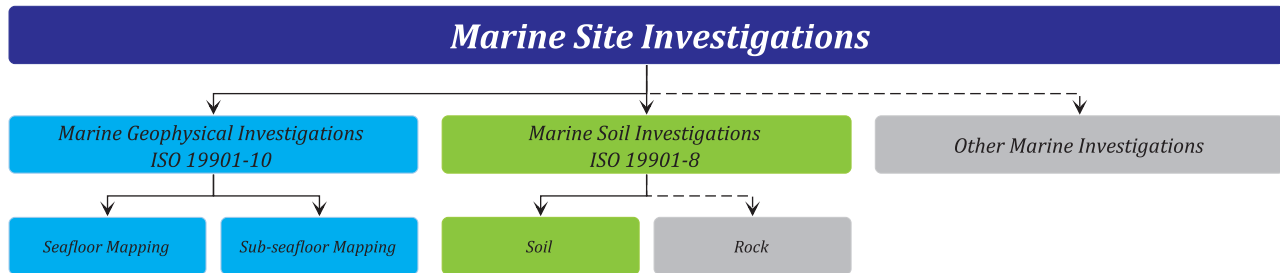


Figure 1 — Marine geophysical investigations as part of marine site investigations.

NOTE Subjects denoted in grey boxes in [Figure 1](#) are neither covered in ISO 19901-8 nor in this document. However, marine geophysical investigations can provide information about soils and rocks, whereas rocks are only covered by ISO 19910-8 to the extent that ordinary marine soil investigation tools can be used, e.g. for chalk.

Marine site investigations for a specific project can comprise both geophysical and geotechnical investigations, depending on project scale and complexity. It is common practice to conduct first a marine geophysical investigation, sometimes in combination with a limited marine soil investigation consisting of shallow soil sampling and/or in situ testing. A more extensive marine soil investigation is often conducted at a later stage. In some cases, a marine site investigation can consist solely of a stand-alone geophysical survey that has a specific and limited purpose. A marine site investigation can also consist solely of a stand-alone marine soil investigation, for which details on soil investigation equipment and procedures are provided in ISO 19901-8.

Particular objectives of a marine geophysical investigation should be addressed in project specifications, which should specify desired investigation depths, desired resolutions (horizontal and vertical), and whether the objective is to illuminate the seafloor and/or the sub-seafloor. Caution is necessary in the selection of the type of equipment to be used, and operational parameters for that equipment, in order to meet those desired depths, resolutions, and illumination targets, particularly because local site conditions can affect the abilities of certain equipment to meet those objectives. This document includes discussion of the selection and operation of appropriate geophysical equipment.

Marine geophysical investigations and marine soil investigations can be (and often are) carried out as separate exercises, the results of which can be integrated into a ground model. This document applies to critical stages in the development of a ground model, from the initial conception stage through successive stages of increased detail.

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability;
- “may” indicates a permission.

[Annex A](#) provides additional information intended to assist the understanding or use of this document.