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Guidelines for water quality grade classification for water reuse

Lignes directrices pour la classification de la qualité de l'eau en vue de sa réutilisation

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 282, *Water reuse*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Risk and performance evaluation of water reuse systems*.

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.

Introduction

The reaffirmation of the importance of water along with food security and energy was a significant outcome in the actions and the follow-up framework passed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). With respect to the management of water resources, essential actions include the prevention of water contamination, more efficient water usage, and the treatment and best practices for reuse of wastewater as a water resource by households, industries, and agriculture, particularly in growing urban areas.

Today, many regions in the world face water shortages, and the feasibility of using reclaimed water to meet water demands for various purposes is of great interest. On the other hand, the potential health implications of using reclaimed water is of global concern. This has led to an increasing need to specify appropriate water quality parameters for specific reclaimed water applications, as well as develop methods of assessing and managing health risks from both regulatory and application perspectives. Unless these needs are addressed, opportunities for the development of sustainable and appropriate reclaimed water applications will be lost.

Health risks associated with the use of reclaimed water occur when users use the reclaimed water inappropriately without knowing its intended purpose. Therefore, it is important that the reuse application be clearly identified.