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# Soil quality — Determination of dehydrogenase activity in soils —

Part 1: Method using triphenyltetrazolium chloride (TTC)

Qualité du sol — Détermination de l'activité des déshydrogénases dans les sols —

Partie 1: Méthode au chlorure de triphényltétrazolium (CTT)



Reference number ISO 23753-1:2005(E)

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### Foreword

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ISO 23753-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, Soil quality, Subcommittee SC 4, Biological methods.

ISO 23753 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Soil quality* — *Determination of dehydrogenase activity in soils*:

- Part 1: Method using triphenyltetrazolium chloride (TTC)
- Part 2: Method using iodotetrazolium chloride (INT)

#### Introduction

The soil microflora is responsible for the decomposition and conversion of organic substances, aggregation stability and the carbon, nitrogen, sulfur and phosphorus cycles. Dehydrogenases, as respiratory chain enzymes, play a major role in the energy production by organisms. They oxidize organic compounds by transferring two hydrogen atoms. Dehydrogenases are essential components of the enzyme system of microorganisms. Dehydrogenase activity can therefore be used as an indicator of biological redox systems and as a measure of microbial activity in the soil.