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

Part 8: Marine soil investigations

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

Partie 8: Investigations des sols en mer



Reference number ISO 19901-8:2014(E)

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Contents

Forew	v ord		v	
Introd	luction		vi	
1	Scope			
2	Norm	ative references		
3	Terms and definitions			
4	Symbols units and abbreviated terms			
т	4.1	Symbols		
	4.2	Units	7	
	4.3	Abbreviated terms	7	
5	Objectives, planning and requirements			
	5.1 5.2	UDJectives	9 Q	
	5.3	Scope of work		
	5.4	Health, safety and environmental (HSE) requirements for marine operations		
	5.5	Other requirements		
6	Deployment of investigation equipment			
	6.1	Deployment modes	15	
	6.2	Accuracy of vertical depth measurements		
	6.3	Positioning requirements		
_	0.4	interaction of investigation equipment with the seanoor		
7	Drillii 7 1	ig and logging		
	7.1 7.2	General Project-specific drilling requirements	19 19	
	7.3	Drilling objectives and selection of drilling equipment and procedures.		
	7.4	Drilling operations plan		
	7.5	Recording of drilling parameters	20	
	7.6	Borehole geophysical logging		
8	In situ	testing	21	
	8.1	General		
	8.2	General requirements for the documentation of <i>in situ</i> tests		
	0.5 84	Pore pressure dissipation test (PPDT)		
	8.5	Ball and T-bar penetration tests		
	8.6	Seismic cone penetration test (SCPT/SCPTU)		
	8.7	Field vane test (FVT)		
	8.8	Other <i>in situ</i> tests		
9	Sampling			
	9.1	General		
	9.Z 0.3	Purpose of sampling		
	9.4	Selection of samplers	40 40	
	9.5	Sample recovery considerations.		
	9.6	Handling, transport and storage of samples	43	
10	Laboratory testing			
	10.1	General		
	10.2	Presentation of laboratory test results		
	10.3 10 /	Instrumentation, calibration and data acquisition	47 17	
	10.4	Evaluation of intact sample quality		
	2010			

11	Repor 11.1 11.2 11.3	ting Definition of reporting requirements Presentation of field operations and measured and derived geotechnical parameters Data interpretation and evaluation of representative geotechnical parameters	50 50 50 51	
Annex	A (info	rmative) Objectives, planning and requirements	53	
Annex B (informative) Deployment of investigation equipment				
Annex	C (info	rmative) Drilling and logging	67	
Annex	D (info	rmative) <i>In situ</i> testing	75	
Annex	E (info	rmative) Sampling	81	
Annex	Annex F (informative) Laboratory testing			
Annex	G (info	rmative) Reporting	127	
Biblio	graphy		132	

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).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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 meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 67, *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries*, SC 7, *Offshore structures*.

ISO 19901 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Petroleum and natural gas industries* — *Specific requirements for offshore structures*:

- Part 1: Metocean design and operating considerations
- Part 2: Seismic design procedures and criteria
- Part 3: Topsides structure
- Part 4: Geotechnical and foundation design considerations
- Part 5: Weight control during engineering and construction
- Part 6: Marine operations
- Part 7: Stationkeeping systems for floating offshore structures and mobile offshore units
- Part 8: Marine soil investigations

Introduction

The series of International Standards applicable to offshore structures, ISO 19900 to ISO 19906, constitutes a common basis covering those aspects that address design requirements and assessments of all offshore structures used by the petroleum and natural gas industries worldwide. Through their application, the intention is to achieve reliability levels appropriate for manned and unmanned offshore structures, whatever the nature or combination of the materials used.

It is important to recognize that structural integrity is a concept comprising models for describing actions, structural analyses, design rules, safety elements, workmanship, quality control procedures and national requirements, all of which are mutually dependent. The modification of one aspect of design in isolation can disturb the balance of reliability inherent in the overall concept of structural integrity. The implications involved in modifications, therefore, need to be considered in relation to the overall reliability of all offshore structural systems.

This part of ISO 19901 is applicable for marine soil investigation, which is only one of many possible marine site investigations as illustrated in <u>Figure 1</u>. The terminology used in <u>Figure 1</u> and other important terminology are defined and given in <u>Clause 3</u>.

The scope of a marine soil investigation, such as field programme, equipment to be used, laboratory testing programme, soil parameters to be established and reporting should be defined in project specifications based on important factors such as type of structures involved, type of soil conditions expected, regional or site-specific investigation, preliminary or final soil investigations.

The reporting can comprise anything from field data only to reporting of soil parameters. An example report format is given in <u>Annex G</u>, <u>Table G.1</u>, but for each project the final reporting structure can be adjusted by deleting inapplicable sections, or by adding new sections.

This part of ISO 19901 gives requirements, recommendations and guidelines for the planning and execution of marine soil investigations and is applicable from the planning phase to reporting of soil parameters. It is important to use documented methods when soil parameters are established, and to refer to these methods in the report.

In situ and laboratory testing methods included in this part of ISO 19901 are selected based on their importance in marine soil investigation practice, availability in commercial geotechnical laboratories and the existence of an accepted testing procedure.



Figure 1 — Marine soil investigations shown as one of many types of marine site investigations

Seabed characterization can require several types of site investigations, for example marine soil investigations and geophysical investigations including geological and geohazard evaluations. For each project, the types of site investigations required are usually defined in project specifications. Also of importance for proper seabed characterization is consideration of required investigation equipment and its deployment mode(s) and methods, in order to acquire adequate quality soil data to the target depth.

This part of ISO 19901 is applicable for marine soil investigations at any water depth and to any depth below seafloor which can be reached with the tools used.

Use of this part of ISO 19901 is based on the assumptions that:

- adequate communication takes place between geotechnical personnel involved in marine soil investigations and the personnel responsible for foundation design, for construction and for installation of the offshore structures;
- soil parameters are collected, recorded and interpreted by qualified personnel;
- the project-specific scope of work for marine soil investigations is defined by one or more project specifications.

Seabed soils can vary widely, and experience gained at one location is not necessarily applicable at another. The scope of a soil investigation for one type of structure is not necessarily adequate for another. Extra caution is therefore necessary when dealing with unconventional soils or unconventional foundation concepts. Marine soil investigations include both offshore and nearshore soil investigations, which can provide very different challenges.

The detailed requirements for equipment and methods given in this part of ISO 19901 are only applicable if relevant for the scope of work defined in the project specifications.

This part of ISO 19901 is intended to provide flexibility in the choice of soil investigation techniques without hindering innovation.

The primary objectives of this part of ISO 19901 are to provide requirements and guidance for how the most important aspects of a marine soil investigation should be performed to obtain reliable soil parameters based on documented methods.

In this part of ISO 19901, in accordance with the latest edition of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, the following verbal forms are used:

- 'shall' and 'shall not' are used to indicate requirements strictly to be followed in order to comply with the document and from which no deviation is permitted;
- 'should' and 'should not' are used to indicate that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required, or that (in the negative form) a certain possibility or course of action is deprecated but not prohibited;
- 'may' and 'need not' are used to indicate a course of action permissible within the limits of the document;
- 'can' and 'cannot' are used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

This part of ISO 19901 includes informative annexes. Informative annexes give additional information intended to assist the understanding or use of the document. They do not contain requirements, except that informative annexes may contain optional requirements (for example a test method that is optional can contain requirements), but there is no need to comply with these requirements to claim compliance with this part of ISO 19901.

The following International Standards are also relevant to offshore structures for the petroleum and natural gas industries:

- ISO 19900, Petroleum and natural gas industries General requirements for offshore structures
- ISO 19902, Petroleum and natural gas industries Fixed steel offshore structures
- ISO 19903, Petroleum and natural gas industries Fixed concrete offshore structures
- ISO 19904-1, Petroleum and natural gas industries Floating offshore structures Part 1: Monohulls, semi-submersibles and spars
- ISO 19905-1, Petroleum and natural gas industries Site-specific assessment of mobile offshore units — Part 1: Jack-ups

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- ISO/TR 19905-2, Petroleum and natural gas industries Site-specific assessment of mobile offshore units Part 2: Jack-ups commentary
- ISO 19906, Petroleum and natural gas industries Arctic offshore structures
- ISO 13623, Pipeline transportation systems
- ISO 13628-1, Design and operation of subsea production systems Part 1: General requirements and recommendations

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

Part 8: Marine soil investigations

1 Scope

This part of ISO 19901 specifies requirements, and provides recommendations and guidelines for marine soil investigations regarding:

- a) objectives, planning and execution of marine soil investigations;
- b) deployment of investigation equipment;
- c) drilling and logging;
- d) *in situ* testing;
- e) sampling;
- f) laboratory testing; and
- g) reporting.

Rock materials are only covered by this part of ISO 19901 to the extent that ordinary marine soil investigation tools can be used, e.g. for chalk, calcareous soils, cemented soils or similar soft rock.

Hard rock investigations are not covered by this part of ISO 19901; see <u>F.13</u> for further guidance.

Foundation design is not covered by this part of ISO 19901, but by ISO 19901-4 and the respective design standards for the specific types of offshore structures as listed in the Foreword and Introduction.

Planning, execution and interpretation of geophysical investigations are not covered by this part of ISO 19901. However, the results from geophysical investigations should, where appropriate, be used for planning, optimization and interpretation of marine soil investigations.

This part of ISO 19901 does not cover the planning and scope of geohazard assessment studies, only the corresponding marine soil investigations aspects thereof.

Soil investigations from ice in Arctic regions are not covered by this part of ISO 19901.

This part of ISO 19901 is intended for clients, soil investigation contractors, designers, installation contractors, geotechnical laboratories and public and regulatory authorities concerned with marine soil investigations for any type of offshore and nearshore structures, or geohazard assessment studies, for petroleum and natural gas industries.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 22476-1:2012, Geotechnical investigation and testing — Field testing — Part 1: Electrical cone and piezocone penetration test

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3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

accuracy

exactness of a measurement compared to the true value of the quantity being measured

3.2

application class

classification of equipment based on achievable level of accuracy or classification of soil samples which can be used to determine various soil properties

Note 1 to entry: Application classes have been developed to provide guidance on equipment selection centred on the accuracy required when using the results.

Note 2 to entry: The term 'application class' in this part of ISO 19901 is called 'quality class' in 3.4.1 of EN 1997–2:2007 where the term 'application class' is not used. For the definition of 'quality class', see <u>3.24</u>.

3.3

borehole geophysical logging

measurement of physical properties of a borehole and/or the surrounding soil, obtained by one or more logging probes deployed in the borehole

3.4

characteristic value

value assigned to a basic variable associated with a prescribed probability of not being violated by unfavourable values during some reference period

Note 1 to entry: The characteristic value is the main representative value. In some design situations a variable can have two characteristic values, an upper and a lower value.

[SOURCE: ISO 19900:2013, definition 3.10]

3.5

characterization

description, evaluation and/or determination of the most typical characteristics based on all types of site investigations and other available data

3.6

client

party or person with overall responsibility for the marine soil investigation, including preparation of project specifications

3.7

contractor

party or person responsible for an assigned scope of work described in project specifications

3.8

derived value

value of a geotechnical parameter obtained from test results by theory, correlation or empiricism

3.9

design value

value derived from the representative value for use in the design verification procedure

[SOURCE: ISO 19900:2013, definition <u>3.18</u>]

3.10

disturbed sample

sample whose soil structure, water content and/or constituents have changed as a result of sampling and handling

3.11

drained condition

condition whereby the applied stresses and stress changes are supported by the soil skeleton and do not cause a change in pore pressure

3.12 drilling mud drilling fluid

fluid pumped down a rotary drilled borehole to facilitate the drilling process

Note 1 to entry: The hardware associated with handling drilling fluids is commonly prefixed 'mud' (e.g. mud tank, mud pump, mud valve). Drilling parameters associated with drilling fluids are similarly prefixed (mud pressure, mud flow, etc.).

3.13

geohazard

geological state and process that can cause material and environmental damage as well as loss of life

3.14

geophysical investigation

marine site investigation of seafloor or seabed by the use of non-destructive methods requiring marine deployment of geophysical tools

Note 1 to entry: See <u>Figure 1</u> in Introduction.

3.15

ground truthing

process of using soil investigation data to characterize the various geological formations defined from geophysical investigations

3.16

in-pipe logging

logging in a section of the borehole or drill pipe between the tool and the borehole wall

Note 1 to entry: The number of parameters that can be usefully measured in these circumstances is restricted.

3.17

intact sample

sample that was collected with intention to preserve its in situ characteristics

3.18

marine site investigation

any type of investigation at an offshore or nearshore site

EXAMPLE Marine soil investigation, geophysical investigation, marine environmental investigation, metocean investigation. See <u>Figure 1</u>.

3.19

marine soil investigation

type of marine site investigation whose primary objective is to obtain reliable and representative soil data for characterization of the seabed soil conditions to facilitate the design of offshore structures and/or for geohazard evaluation

Note 1 to entry: See <u>Figure 1</u> in Introduction.

Note 2 to entry: The scope of work and extent of a marine soil investigation varies from one project to another, but usually includes one or more of the items listed in <u>Clause 1</u>.

3.20 measured value value that is measured in a test

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