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National Standards Authority of Ireland

IRISH STANDARD

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CHARACTERISATION OF SLUDGES - GOOD PRACTICE FOR UTILISATION IN AGRICULTURE

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CEN REPORT

RAPPORT CEN

CEN BERICHT

CR 13097

August 2001

ICS

English version

Characterization of sludges - Good practice for utilisation in agriculture

Caractérisation des boues - Bonne pratique de la valorisation des boues en agriculture

Charakterisierung von Schlämmen - Gute Praxis bei der Verwendung von Schlämmen in der Landwirtschaft

This CEN Report was approved by CEN on 9 June 2001. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 308.

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Foreword

This document has been prepared by CEN /TC 308, "Characterisation of sludges".

This document is currently submitted to the BT for publication as a CEN Report.

The status of this document as CEN Report has been choosed because the most of its content is not completely in line with practice and regulations in each member state. This document gives recommendations for a good practice but existing national regulations concerning the sludge utilisation in agriculture remain in force.

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1 Scope

This CEN Report describes good practice for the use of sludges in agriculture (where national regulations permit). It is applicable to all of the sludges described in the scope of CEN/TC 308 (and any of the forms in which they may be presented - liquid, dewatered, dried, composted, etc.) i.e. sludges from :

— storm water handling ;

— night soil ;

— urban wastewater collecting systems ;

— urban wastewater treatment plants ;

— treating industrial wastewater similar to urban wastewater (as defined in Directive 91/271/EC) ;

— water supply treatment plants ;

— but excluding hazardous sludges from industry.

Such sludges can be used on land as a source of plant nutrients, and/or soil improver, and/or liming material for crop production. Despite differences in the statutory controls between sewage sludge and other sludges, the use of all types of sludge should follow good practice to maximise benefits for the crops or soils, to minimise potential risks of environmental contamination and adverse impacts on plant, animal and human health, and to ensure sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Sludge producers should be aware that if a sludge is used as a fertilising or liming material, national or EC fertiliser or liming regulations may apply.

The document assumes that an evaluation has already been made and a decision taken that use of sludge within a land spreading policy is the best option for the sludge in question.

NOTE For evaluation and decisions for use of sludges, other documents are currently in development (see CR 13174).

Many countries and/or local administrations have regulations and/or standards and/or codes of practice applicable to the use of some of the types of sludge that are within the scope of this report, however it cannot, and does not, attempt to summarise or take account of these regulations, etc. because of their very wide range. It is thus essential that this report is read in the context of the conditions that prevail locally.

2 References

EN 1085, *Wastewater treatment – Vocabulary.*

EN 12832, *Characterisation of sludges – Utilisation and disposal of sludges – Vocabulary.*

CR 13174, *Characterisation of sludges - Sludge management in relation to use or disposal.*

CR 13846, *Characterisation of sludges – Recommendations to preserve and extend sludge utilisation and disposal routes.*

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