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NSAI Standards

Standard Recommendation
S.R. CEN/TR 15809:2008

Characterization of sludges - Hygienic aspects - Treatments

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CEN/TR 15809

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English Version

Characterization of sludges - Hygienic aspects - Treatments

Caractérisation des boues - Aspects hygiéniques - Traitements

Charakterisierung von Schlämmen - Hygienische Aspekte - Schlammbehandlung

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TR 15809:2008) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 308 “Characterization of sludges”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

The status of this document as CEN/TR has been chosen because much of its content is not completely in line with the practice and regulations in each member state.

This document gives general principles about hygienic aspects. Other guides on good practice for the use of sludge (Guides 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) contain the specific recommendations based on the hygienic aspects described in this guide.

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Introduction

This Technical Report has been prepared within the framework of CEN/TC 308 on characterization of sludges. This document concentrates on hygienic aspects for good practice concerning treatment of sludge, but acknowledges that existing national regulations remain in force.

The use of sewage sludge on land is controlled within the EU by the sludge directive (86/278/EEC [1]) “on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture”. Regarding the purpose of the directive, it states:

— whereas the aim of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, while encouraging its correct use;

Regarding hygiene, it requires:

— whereas sludge must be treated before being used in agriculture; whereas Member States may nevertheless authorize, on certain conditions, the use of untreated sludge, without risk to human or animal health, if it is injected or worked into the soil;

— whereas a certain period must elapse between using the sludge and putting stock out to pasture or harvesting fodder crops or certain crops which are normally in direct contact with the soil and normally consumed raw;

— whereas the use of sludge on fruit and vegetable crops during the growing season, except for fruit-tree crops, must be prohibited.

86/278/EEC defines 'treated sludge' as:

— sludge which has undergone biological, chemical or heat treatment, long-term storage or any other appropriate process so as significantly to reduce its fermentability and the health hazards resulting from its use;

EU Member States have enacted the directive into their national legislations with conditions that are no less stringent than the directive. In many cases they have more detailed treatment requirements than those written in the directive.

The European Commission has said repeatedly that 86/278/EEC, which was the first soil protection directive, has been a success because there have been no cases of adverse effect where it has been followed.

Sludge treatments and practices that control health risks can also affect odour; in the public’s mind they are linked.

When making choices in sludge management the hygienic aspects should be considered alongside the environmental impacts of the treatment such as energy use or emissions and the benefits of the final product.

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