



Double Standards: Accreditation and Transition to New Standards



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Double Standards

- How UKAS are managing the transition of accredited test methods from BS 1377 to BS EN 17892.
- Revision and changes to BS EN 17025



Out with the old and in with the new

As part of harmonising building and construction standards in the EU we have had to go through many changes already. Other areas that have undergone the transition:

- Concrete: BS 1881 to BS EN 12350, 12390, 12504
- Aggregate: BS 812 to BS EN 932, 933, 1097, 1367...
- Asphalt: BS 598 to BS EN 12697, 13036



We've done this before

From BS 1377 to BS EN ISO 17892

Can we adopt the same transition as in the past and Issue a Technical Policy Statement (TPS) guidance?

- Concrete TPS 43 or Aggregates TPS 45
- No! BS EN ISO 17892 is being published in 12 parts and will be spread over too long a time.



UKAS approach to transition

- How different are the new methods?
- Will they need an Extension to Scope?
- Was a pilot project needed?
- How many laboratories are affected?
- How will we cope!
- As it happens not much changes... yet.

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Step by step

Each part of BS EN ISO 17892 is being reviewed as it is made available:

- UKAS involvement with the working group
- Review of draft for public comment
- Considering point of view of stakeholders
- Decision on need for extensions to scope
- Identified number of laboratories needing to change



It's not *that* different.

Fortunately the review of the first two parts showed them to be technically equivalent:

- Part 1: Determination of water content
- Part 2: Determination of bulk density



UKAS approach to transition

UKAS Accreditation of Laboratory Testing of Soil Water Content and Bulk Density

- Very little change from BS 1377 to BS EN ISO 17025
- Low risk to accreditation
- Lower level of resources needed to manage change

Testing Laboratory Declaration Form (UKAS/BS EN ISO 17892/01)



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Transition Progress (parts 1 & 2)

Testing Laboratory Declaration Form (UKAS/BS EN ISO 17892/01)

- 18 declarations received
- 16 laboratories are now accredited



Next steps (Parts 3 to 6)

The following are expected very soon:

- Part 3. Determination of particle density
- Part 4. Determination of particle size distribution
- Part 5. Incremental loading oedometer test
- Part 6. Fall cone test



UKAS approach to transition

Part 3: Determination of particle density the method towards accreditation split as follows:

1. Pyknometer method
 - Technically equivalent to the existing method (but does not cover gas jar)
 - Self declaration
2. Gas pyknometer method
 - Very different to existing methods
 - Extension to Scope



UKAS approach to transition

Part 4. Determination of particle size distribution

- Technically equivalent to the existing method
- Self declaration

Part 5. Incremental loading oedometer test

- Technically equivalent to the existing method
- Self declaration



UKAS approach to transition

Part 6 (Fall cone test):

- New test method (with respect to BS 1377)
- No laboratories accredited for the use of this method
- Extension to Scope



The Future Parts 7 to 12

The remaining parts will be out soon and although we have been advise that they will be technically equivalent we have not formally reviewed the standards; this will be done when final drafts are available.

Anticipating that the self declaration route will be used.



Still a need for BS 1377

There will inevitably be some parts of BS 1377 left behind.

Some such as part 3 or part 4 may already be covered by other European Standards.

Part 1 could present some problems as it details calibration and reporting requirements that may not tie in with the intentions of the new standards.

E.g. Calibration frequency of balances



Presentation on Schedules

This is the chosen format:

Materials/Products tested	Type of test/Properties measured/Range of measurement	Standard specifications/ Equipment/Techniques used
GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION and TESTING - Laboratory testing of soil	Water content	BS EN ISO 17892-1:2014
	Bulk density - linear measurement method	BS EN ISO 17892-2:2014
SOILS for civil engineering purposes	Moisture content - oven drying method	BS 1377-2:1990
	Density - linear measurement	BS 1377-2:1990



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Presentation on Schedules

The status of BS 1377 as 'withdrawn' will follow:

Materials/Products tested	Type of test/Properties measured/Range of measurement	Standard specifications/ Equipment/Techniques used
GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION and TESTING - Laboratory testing of soil	Water content	BS EN ISO 17892-1:2014
	Bulk density - linear measurement method	BS EN ISO 17892-2:2014
SOILS for civil engineering purposes	Moisture content - oven drying method	BS 1377-2:1990 (WITHDRAWN)
	Density - linear measurement	BS 1377-2:1990 (WITHDRAWN)



Changes to ISO/IEC 17025

Changes to ISO/IEC 17025 are being implemented by ISO's Committee on Conformity Assessment, CASCO.

Reasons for updating:

- Need to align with the format of other 17000 series conformity assessment standards.
- Results of international survey and voting.



ILAC Survey

- 40% of Members wanted no revision
- 40% of members wanted clarification
- CASCO decided to launch the revision
 - primarily provide clarification
 - acknowledging that there is no appetite for major revision.



Work on revision has started

ISO/CASCO WG 44 reconvened

- UK mirror group convened by UK delegate to WG44

- UKAS also to be active in ILAC/EA/NCSLI Representation



TLAs

- ILAC, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
- EA, European Accreditation
- NCSLI, NCSL International (*National Conference of Standards Laboratories*)
- International Accreditation Forum, IAF



So far, we have

- Mandatory alignment of structure with latest 17000 series (17020 and 17065)
- Mandatory provision for ISO 9001 style QMS by Options A and B (as in 17020 and 17065)
- Minor revisions to modernise the standard, noting use of electronic management systems, records and reporting.
- Clarification on Sampling, Traceability and Opinions and Interpretations

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So far, we have

Alignment of structure/clarification:

- Impartiality more emphasis and detail given
 - Identifying risks to impartiality
- Decisions
 - Pass/fail: In standard; agreed with customer at contract review; see ILAC G8
- Personnel
 - Define and document the competence requirements

More suggestions?

The UK mirror group is meeting is being hosted by UKAS at Feltham on 6th November.

Any suggestions may be submitted by email to UKAS:

- Please use the standard form
- Must include the suggested revised text



Transition of Accreditation

Usually two years transition period, although when ISO/IEC 17025 was last revised there was a three year transition.

E.g. Certification Bodies are going through a transition to ISO/IEC 17021:2015

- Published 8th June 2015
- Assessment to new standard from 1st March 2016
- All transitions to be completed by 8th June 2017

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Any questions?

If you have any further questions contact UKAS via:

- Your usual UKAS contact
- info@ukas.com
- <https://twitter.com/UKAS>
- <http://www.linkedin.com/company/united-kingdom-accreditation-service>

Thank You!



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