Non-sewered sanitation systems — Prefabricated integrated treatment units — General safety and performance requirements for design and testing

Systèmes d’assainissement autonomes — Unités de traitement intégrées préfabriquées — Exigences générales de performance et de sécurité pour la conception et les essais
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Contents

Foreword........................................................................................................................................ vi
Introduction...................................................................................................................................... vii
1 Scope........................................................................................................................................... 1
2 Normative references...................................................................................................................... 1
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms..................................................................................... 2
  3.1 Terms and definitions................................................................................................................ 2
      3.1.1 System structure.................................................................................................................. 2
      3.1.2 System inputs and outputs............................................................................................... 3
      3.1.3 System safety and integrity.............................................................................................. 4
      3.1.4 System use and impact...................................................................................................... 5
  3.2 Abbreviated terms...................................................................................................................... 6
4 General requirements...................................................................................................................... 7
  4.1 User requirements..................................................................................................................... 7
  4.2 Metric system........................................................................................................................... 7
  4.3 Design capacity........................................................................................................................ 7
      4.3.1 Treatable input.................................................................................................................... 7
      4.3.2 Treatment capacity............................................................................................................ 7
      4.3.3 Menstrual hygiene products............................................................................................ 7
      4.3.4 Overload protection......................................................................................................... 7
      4.3.5 Operability following non-usage....................................................................................... 8
      4.3.6 Operability following short-term shut down..................................................................... 8
      4.3.7 Operability following long-term shut down...................................................................... 8
      4.3.8 Continuous use................................................................................................................ 8
      4.3.9 Safe state.......................................................................................................................... 8
  4.4 Performance requirements......................................................................................................... 8
      4.4.1 General............................................................................................................................. 8
      4.4.2 Solid output and effluent requirements......................................................................... 8
      4.4.3 Odour emissions requirements......................................................................................... 9
      4.4.4 Noise requirements....................................................................................................... 9
      4.4.5 Air emissions requirements............................................................................................ 9
  4.5 Expected design lifetime.......................................................................................................... 9
  4.6 Aspirational and ergonomic design.......................................................................................... 9
  4.7 Secure design.......................................................................................................................... 9
  4.8 Operating conditions................................................................................................................ 9
      4.8.1 Ambient temperature range............................................................................................. 9
      4.8.2 Ambient air humidity...................................................................................................... 10
      4.8.3 Atmospheric pressure..................................................................................................... 10
  4.9 Requirements for sanitation system components...................................................................... 10
      4.9.1 General........................................................................................................................... 10
      4.9.2 Hygienic design............................................................................................................... 10
      4.9.3 Tightness......................................................................................................................... 10
      4.9.4 Cleanability of surfaces.................................................................................................. 11
      4.9.5 Chemical and biological additives................................................................................. 11
  4.10 Material requirements.............................................................................................................. 11
      4.10.1 Durability of materials.................................................................................................... 11
      4.10.2 Fire resistance of materials............................................................................................ 11
  4.11 Connections and joining elements.......................................................................................... 11
  4.12 General safety design requirements....................................................................................... 12
      4.12.1 Safety of edges, angles, and surfaces......................................................................... 12
      4.12.2 Fire and explosion protection....................................................................................... 12
      4.12.3 Structural integrity....................................................................................................... 12
      4.12.4 Prevention of contact with unsafe effluent and reuse.................................................. 13
      4.12.5 Underground systems.................................................................................................. 13
4.13 Maintenance ........................................................................................................ 14
   4.13.1 Information and warnings ....................................................................... 13
   4.13.2 Marking and labelling ......................................................................... 14
4.14 Handling and transport of the sanitation system ............................................. 15
   4.14.1 Reasonable configuration, adjustment, and maintenance activities ....... 14
   4.14.2 Location and access of configuration, adjustment, and maintenance points ... 14
   4.14.3 Discharge and cleaning ....................................................................... 15
   4.14.4 Tools and devices .............................................................................. 15
   4.14.5 User manual ....................................................................................... 15
   4.14.6 Handling and transport of the sanitation system ................................... 15

5 Technical requirements ......................................................................................... 15
   5.1 Safety assessment ..................................................................................... 15
   5.2 Operational requirements ........................................................................ 16
      5.2.1 General ............................................................................................. 16
      5.2.2 Intentional starting of sanitation system operation ......................... 16
      5.2.3 Intentional stopping of sanitation system operation ..................... 16
      5.2.4 Emergency stop ............................................................................... 16
   5.3 Reliability and safety requirements for energy supply .................................. 16
      5.3.1 Security of energy supply ................................................................. 16
      5.3.2 Safety requirements for electrical energy supply ............................ 17
      5.3.3 Safety requirements for non-electrical primary energy supply ........ 17
   5.4 Mechanical requirements ........................................................................ 17
      5.4.1 Pressurized or vacuum equipment .................................................... 17
      5.4.2 Pipes, hoses and tanks .................................................................... 17
      5.4.3 Moving and rotating parts ............................................................... 18
      5.4.4 Backflow prevention ....................................................................... 18
   5.5 Requirements for radiation ....................................................................... 18
      5.5.1 High temperatures of parts and surfaces ......................................... 18
      5.5.2 Low temperatures of parts and surfaces .......................................... 18
      5.5.3 Other radiation emissions ................................................................ 18
   5.6 Electrical and electronic equipment ............................................................. 18
      5.6.1 Safety and reliability of electrical and electronic equipment ........... 18
      5.6.2 Control system ............................................................................... 19
      5.6.3 Safety-related function of the control system .................................... 19
   5.7 Reliability of conveyance devices ................................................................. 19
   5.8 Transitions from the backend ..................................................................... 20

6 Additional requirements for the frontend .......................................................... 20
   6.1 General ..................................................................................................... 20
   6.2 Use and operation .................................................................................... 20
      6.2.1 General usability requirements ....................................................... 20
      6.2.2 Requirements for ease of cleaning ................................................ 20
      6.2.3 Requirements for ease of operation ............................................ 21
      6.2.4 Cultural requirements ..................................................................... 21
   6.3 Visibility of faeces ................................................................................... 21
   6.4 Evacuation performance .......................................................................... 21
   6.5 Integrity against external impacts ............................................................. 22
   6.6 Slipping, tripping or falling ....................................................................... 22
   6.7 Water seal ............................................................................................... 22

7 Performance testing .......................................................................................... 22
   7.1 General testing requirements ................................................................... 22
   7.2 Controlled laboratory testing ..................................................................... 22
      7.2.1 General ........................................................................................... 23
      7.2.2 Assembly, installation, operation, and maintenance .................... 23
      7.2.3 Documentation of input ................................................................... 23
      7.2.4 Generated output ............................................................................ 23
      7.2.5 Test observations ............................................................................ 24
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 of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Project Committee ISO/PC 305, Sustainable non-sewered sanitation systems.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.
Introduction

It is estimated that 2.3 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation systems. The devastating consequences of the lack of sanitation facilities include an estimated 1.8 billion people globally using a source of drinking water that is faecally contaminated and 361,000 children under 5 years of age dying per year, primarily from dysentery-like diarrhoeal diseases.

In March 2013, the United Nations (UN) issued a global call to action to eliminate the practice of open defecation by 2025. The UN and regional sanitation leaders have concluded that areas where open defecation is common have the highest levels of child death and disease, as a result of ingesting human faecal matter that has entered the food or water supply. A lack of safe, private sanitation is also associated with the highest overall levels of malnutrition, poverty, and disparity between rich and poor, and makes women and girls more vulnerable to violence.

On 1st January 2016, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were launched, including SDG 6: ensure access to water and sanitation for all. The SDGs are a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of the new UN sustainable development agenda.

Targets 6.2 and 6.3 of SDG 6 state:

— by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations;
— by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

In this context, the purpose of this document is to support the development of stand-alone sanitation systems designed to address basic sanitation needs and promote economic, social, and environmental sustainability through strategies that include minimizing resource consumption (e.g. water, energy) and converting human excreta to safe output.

This document is intended to promote the implementation of sanitation systems where increased sustainability is desired, or where traditional sanitary sewer systems are unavailable or impractical and thus, to ensure human health and safety as well as protecting of the environment.

However, this document does not attempt to exhaustively address sustainability concerns with respect to non-sewered sanitation systems (NSSS). There are many aspects to sustainability that are not covered in this document.

The concept of a NSSS is indicated in Figure 1, showing the integration of the frontend(s) and backend(s) along with the input and output. Inputs entering the NSSS primarily comprise of human faeces and urine, menstrual blood, bile, flushing water, anal cleansing water, toilet paper, other bodily fluids/solids. Outputs substances exiting the NSSS include the products of the backend treatment process such as solid output and effluent, as well as noise, air, and odour emissions.

By design, such sanitation systems operate without connection to any sewer or drainage network. The NSSS can be either manufactured as one package or manufactured as a set of prefabricated elements designed to be assembled without further fabrication or modification that influences the system function. The prefabricated components of NSSS are intended to require minimal work to be integrated and quickly provide fully functioning sanitation systems.
In NSSS, the frontend includes user interfaces such as a urinal, squatting pan, or sitting pan, which may apply evacuation mechanisms ranging from conventional flush, pour flush, and dry toilets to novel evacuation mechanisms such as those employing mechanical forces requiring little to no water. Conventional and novel evacuation mechanisms may be combined with urine diversion applications (e.g. urine diversion flush toilet, urine diversion dry toilet). Backend treatment technologies and processes of NSSS range from biological or chemical to physical unit processes (e.g. anaerobic and aerobic digestion, combustion, electrochemical disinfection, membranes). Some systems use only one of these technologies or processes while others apply various unit processes in combination through several treatment units.
Non-sewered sanitation systems — Prefabricated integrated treatment units — General safety and performance requirements for design and testing

1 Scope

This document specifies general safety and performance requirements for design and testing as well as sustainability considerations for non-sewered sanitation systems (NSSS). A NSSS, for the purposes of this document, is a prefabricated integrated treatment unit, comprising frontend (toilet facility) and backend (treatment facility) components that

a) collects, conveys, and fully treats the specific input within the system, to allow for safe reuse or disposal of the generated solid, liquid, and gaseous output, and

b) is not connected to a networked sewer or networked drainage systems.

This document is applicable to sanitation systems that are either manufactured as one package, or manufactured as a set of prefabricated elements designed to be assembled in one location without further fabrication or modification that influences the system function. The plane or surface (e.g. flooring, concrete pad) upon which a fully assembled NSSS is situated is beyond the scope of this document. This document is not applicable to sanitation systems constructed in situ.

This document also covers NSSS backend components that are designed to be integrated with one or more specified frontends.

Although this document is primarily applicable to the development of sanitation systems that are not connected to water and electricity networks, it can also be applied to systems that can utilize water mains and/or electricity.

This document defines the basic treatable input as primarily human excreta and gives options for extending the range of input substances. Requirements for the quality of the outputs from the sanitation system are given for solid and liquid discharges as well as odour, air, and noise emissions.

It contains criteria for the safety, functionality, usability, reliability, and maintainability of the system, as well as its compatibility with environmental protection goals.

This document does not encompass the following aspects:

— guidelines for selection, installation, operation and maintenance, and management of sanitation systems;
— transportation of treated output outside of the sanitation system (e.g. manual transport, transportation by truck or trunk pipes) for further processing, reuse, or disposal;
— treatment processes taking place at another location separate from that of the frontend and backend components;
— reuse and disposal of sanitation system output.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

3.1.1 System structure

3.1.1.1 non-sewered sanitation system

NSSS system that is not connected to a networked sewer, and collects, conveys, and fully treats the specific input (3.1.2.1) to allow for safe reuse or disposal of the generated solid output (3.1.2.2) and/or effluent (3.1.2.7)

Note 1 to entry: For the purposes of this document, a NSSS that fully treats the specific input is a NSSS that meets the performance testing requirements specified in Clause 7.

3.1.1.2 evacuation mechanism

mechanism that delivers energy/movement to convey the input (3.1.2.1) from the frontend (3.1.1.3) to the backend (3.1.1.4) of the non-sewered sanitation system (3.1.1.1), such as conventional flushing mechanisms, pour flush, dry, and novel mechanisms

3.1.1.3 frontend

any user interface such as urinal, squatting or seat pan of a non-sewered sanitation system (3.1.1.1) employed for human defecation and urination, including the evacuation mechanism (3.1.1.2) and all system components that are clearly visible to the user
### 3.1.1.4 Backend
Combined set of system components encompassing the physical assets used to treat the input (3.1.2.1) entering the system via the frontend (3.1.1.3) in order to allow for the safe reuse or disposal of the generated output (3.1.2.2).

### 3.1.1.5 Superstructure
Additional structure added to or integrated with the non-sewered sanitation system (3.1.1.1) in order to provide shelter or privacy to users.

### 3.1.2 System Inputs and Outputs

#### 3.1.2.1 Input
Substances entering the non-sewered sanitation system (3.1.1.1) primarily comprising human faeces (3.1.2.4) and urine (3.1.2.3), menstrual blood, bile, flushing water, anal cleansing water, toilet paper, other bodily fluids/solids and, in some systems, additional input as defined by the manufacturer.

**EXAMPLE** Examples of additional input may include water from hand washing, menstrual hygiene products, organic household waste.

#### 3.1.2.2 Output
Substances exiting the non-sewered sanitation system (3.1.1.1), which include the products of the backend treatment process [solid output and effluent (3.1.2.7)] as well as noise, air, and odour emissions.

**Note 1 to entry:** The output can be a reusable product, a direct output to the environment, or a residual waste.

#### 3.1.2.3 Urine
Liquid product of the human excretory system produced by the kidneys and expelled through the urethra via urination (i.e. micturition).

#### 3.1.2.4 Faeces
Excreta products of the human digestive system, including microorganisms.

#### 3.1.2.5 Excreta
Waste products of human metabolism, in solid or liquid form, generally urine (3.1.2.3) and/or faeces (3.1.2.4).

**[SOURCE: ISO 24521:2016, 3.3]**

#### 3.1.2.6 Diarrhoea
Loose, watery faeces (3.1.2.4), often resulting from viral, parasitic protozoan, bacterial, or helminth infection.

#### 3.1.2.7 Effluent
Treated liquid discharged from the backend (3.1.1.4).

#### 3.1.2.8 Chemical and Biological Additives
Substances added to the non-sewered sanitation system (3.1.1.1) either to support the treatment process or to clean the system, including, but not limited to, chemical substances and/or biological agents.

**EXAMPLE** Deodorants, bactericides, bacteriostats, microbiocides, chemical reactants, surfactants, or enzymatic agents.