

# SVENSK STANDARD

## SS-EN 16096:2012



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### **Bevarande av kulturarv – Tillståndsbedömning av fast kulturarv**

### **Conservation of cultural property – Condition survey and report of built cultural heritage**



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EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN 16096**

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

August 2012

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English Version

## Conservation of cultural property - Condition survey and report of built cultural heritage

Conservation des biens culturels - Évaluation et rapport sur  
l'état du patrimoine culturel bâti

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Zustandserhebung und  
Bericht für das gebaute Kulturerbe

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 23 June 2012.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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## Foreword

This document (EN 16096:2012) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 “Conservation of cultural property”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2013, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2013.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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## Introduction

Knowledge and understanding of the material evidence of built cultural heritage and the information on its current state is important as it helps to specify measures necessary to preserve structures in an appropriate condition and ensure that the maintenance required to keep them at this level is well defined. Built cultural heritage in this document refers to standing structures which have an architectural, cultural or historical value.

A condition survey is a management tool. This condition survey of structures and materials is the first step in a process to develop plans and measures needed to keep built cultural heritage in a stable well-maintained condition. It acts as the basis for recommending preventive conservation, maintenance and immediate repairs and for a more detailed planning and consideration for further measures or studies. When damage is detected and the causes are not evident, it will be necessary to carry out a more detailed investigation or diagnosis outside the remit of this standard in order to execute further remedial measures of an appropriate quality.

Preventive conservation, regular condition surveys and maintenance is the best way to conserve and maintain the significance of built cultural heritage, while ensuring that its authenticity and integrity are retained.

A combination of scientific, architectural, historic, structural and cultural knowledge and conservation experience of built cultural heritage is advisable in order to execute this survey.

This European Standard is for use by the surveyor as requested by the end-user. The results are for use by the owner and/or the manager of the built cultural heritage. This does not preclude that the owner/manager may use this standard as a guide for assessing the condition.

This European Standard has been prepared taking into account European and International conventions, charters, declarations and guidelines. References are given in the Bibliography.

For the purposes of data management it is advisable to have a digital system.

For decorative elements integrated into the building (e.g. stained glass, mural paintings etc.) the condition survey may be extended by a condition report in accordance with EN 16095. Other standards for assessing the condition of built structures should be considered.



## 1 Scope

This European Standard provides guidelines for a condition survey of built cultural heritage. It states how the condition of the built cultural heritage should be assessed, documented, recorded and reported on.

It encompasses evaluation of the condition of a building or other structure mainly by visual observation, together – when necessary – with simple measurements. The relevant data and documentation on the built cultural heritage should be collected and included in the report.

This European Standard can be applied to all built cultural heritage such as buildings, ruins, bridges and other standing structures. Built cultural heritage comprises both protected and non-protected significant buildings and structures. Archaeological sites and cultural landscapes are not dealt with in this standard.

This European Standard does not specify how to carry out a diagnosis (3.7) of the built cultural heritage. For listed/protected immovable heritage, specific national rules for expert documentation and works may apply.

This European Standard may be applied in order to:

- a) identify maintenance measures and the need for further investigation and diagnostics of damage;
- b) define procurement needs and the requirement for detailed specification;
- c) provide a unified method to obtain comparative data, when carrying out a condition survey for a group of buildings or a region.

## 2 Normative references

Not applicable.

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### **condition**

physical state of an object at a particular time

Note 1 to entry: Assessment of the state of an object depends on the context and thus on the reason why the assessment is being made.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

### 3.2

#### **condition class**

categorisation of the condition

### 3.3

#### **condition report**

record of condition for a specific purpose, dated and authored

Note 1 to entry: A condition report normally results from a condition survey.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

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### 3.4

#### **condition survey**

inspection to assess condition

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

### 3.5

#### **cultural heritage**

tangible and intangible entities of significance to present and future generations

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

### 3.6

#### **damage**

alteration that reduces significance or stability

Note 1 to entry: Stability can be physical, chemical, biological etc.

Note 2 to entry: Although damage has negative connotations, it may sometimes be viewed as broadening significance.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

### 3.7

#### **diagnosis**

process of identifying the present condition of an object and determining the nature and causes of any change, as well as the conclusions drawn

Note 1 to entry: Diagnosis is based on observation, investigation and historical analysis etc.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

### 3.8

#### **investigation**

gathering of all information necessary for a conservation decision making process

Note 1 to entry: This should include both qualitative and quantitative information.

Note 2 to entry: Investigation is frequently invasive, entailing opening up floors or roofs, the making of holes for fibre-optics, taking samples, etc., and may be locally destructive, as is archaeological excavation. Non-invasive methods include inspection, photogrammetry, remote sensing, the study of documentary and/or oral sources etc.

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

### 3.9

#### **maintenance**

periodic preventive conservation actions aimed at sustaining an object in an appropriate condition to retain its significance

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

### 3.10

#### **object**

single manifestation of tangible cultural heritage

Note 1 to entry: The term "object" is used for cultural heritage, both immovable and movable. In specific professional contexts, other terms are used: e.g. "artefact", "cultural property", "item", "ensemble", "site", "building", "fabric".

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

**3.11****preventive conservation**

measures and actions aimed at avoiding or minimizing future damage, deterioration and loss and, consequently, any invasive intervention

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

**3.12****repair**

actions applied to an object or part of it to recover its functionality and/or its appearance

[SOURCE: EN 15898:2011]

**3.13****symptom**

indicator of change in condition

**4 Condition survey****4.1 Objectives**

The purpose of the survey is to assess, document and record the condition of built cultural heritage. The condition survey encompasses planning (4.2), property and cultural heritage information (4.3), recording the condition (4.4), making risk assessment and recommendations (4.5), documenting the summary (4.6) and condition report (4.7).

**4.2 Planning****4.2.1 Preparation**

Before the survey of the built cultural heritage, the scope, the need for resources, the equipment and the format for recording (see Annex A) to be used, shall be clearly defined. The person(s) or institution who has commissioned the condition survey shall be identified in the report.

Information on the property and the built cultural heritage shall be obtained during the planning stage. This shall form the basis for the condition survey.

For large or complex sites consisting of multiple structures, the surveyor shall clearly define the structure(s) which are included in the survey. A system for identifying and locating the individual objects shall be included.

When surveying a ruin, the purpose is to maintain it in its ruined state. This should be confirmed by the involved parties.

The involved parties, natural persons or legal entities, shall be informed of the condition survey and the necessary permits for access to the entire built cultural heritage shall be obtained.

Measures to guarantee the safety of the surveyor during inspection shall be specified.

**4.2.2 Qualifications of survey personnel**

Condition surveys on built cultural heritage should be performed by professionals. The surveyor(s) should have knowledge of traditional materials, construction techniques and decay processes.

For larger and more complex surveys extended across various fields, interdisciplinary cooperation is necessary for a condition survey.