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**Geotechnical investigation and  
testing — Field testing —**

**Part 5:  
Prebored pressuremeter test**

*Reconnaissance et essais géotechniques — Essais en place —  
Partie 5: Essai au pressiomètre en préforage*





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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 182, *Geotechnics*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 341, *Geotechnical Investigation and Testing*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 22476-5:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the title of the part has been modified;
- a reference loading programme with cyclic loading has been added;
- calibration procedures have been developed.

A list of all parts in the ISO 22476 series can be found on the ISO website.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).



# Geotechnical investigation and testing — Field testing —

## Part 5: Prebored pressuremeter test

### 1 Scope

This document is applicable to pressuremeter tests using cylindrical flexible probes placed in pre-existent boreholes using testing procedures other than the Menard procedure.

Pressuremeter tests following the Menard procedure are provided in ISO 22476-4.

**NOTE** A high-pressure flexible pressuremeter probe which contains transducers for the measurement of radial displacements is also known as flexible dilatometer probe or high-pressure dilatometer probe.

This document applies to tests performed in any kind of grounds, starting from soils, treated or untreated fills, hard soils and soft rocks, up to hard and very hard rocks, either on land or offshore.

The parameters derived from this test can include stiffness, strength, initial in-situ stress state and consolidation properties.

### 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.

EN 16228-1, *Drilling and foundation equipment – safety – Part 1: Common requirements*

EN 16228-2, *Drilling and foundation equipment – safety – Part 2: Mobile drill rigs for civil and geotechnical engineering, quarrying and mining*

ISO 10012, *Measurement management systems — Requirements for measurement processes and measuring equipment*

ISO 14689, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Identification, description and classification of rock*

ISO 22475-1, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Sampling methods and groundwater measurements — Part 1: Technical principles for the sampling of soil, rock and groundwater*

ISO 22476-4, *Geotechnical investigation and testing — Field testing — Part 4: Prebored pressuremeter test by Ménard procedure*

### 3 Terms, definitions and symbols

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

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

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

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>



### 3.1.1

#### **pressuremeter probe**

cylindrical flexible probe which can be expanded by the application of hydraulic pressure and/or pressurised gas

Note 1 to entry: Pressuremeter probes contains means of measurement of its radial displacements or volume.

### 3.1.2

#### **flexible dilatometer probe**

#### **high-pressure dilatometer probe**

high-pressure flexible pressuremeter probe which contains transducers for the measurement of radial displacements

### 3.1.3

#### **pressuremeter control unit**

set of suitable devices capable of supplying fluid and/or gas pressure to the probe, to control and take readings of the probe's pressure, radial displacements or volume of the measuring cell

### 3.1.4

#### **connecting line**

cable that connects the control unit to the probe, delivers fluid and/or gas pressure in the measuring and guard cells

### 3.1.5

#### **pressuremeter test pocket**

circular cylindrical cavity formed in the ground to receive a *pressuremeter probe* ([3.1.1](#))

### 3.1.6

#### **pressuremeter test**

process of expanding the pressuremeter probe so as to pressurize the flexible membrane against the pocket wall and so measure pressure, radial displacements or volume as a function of time during the expansion test

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 1](#).

### 3.1.7

#### **pressuremeter sounding**

series of pressuremeter tests in a borehole

### 3.1.8

#### **seating pressure**

pressure during the expansion of the pressuremeter at which the pressuremeter membrane contacts the pocket wall

### 3.1.9

#### **controlling parameter**

variable used to define the loading programme of the test according to a pre-determined programme and recorded in the control unit

Note 1 to entry: This variable can be the pressure, the radius displacement or the injected volume.

### 3.1.10

#### **radial displacement**

change in pressuremeter probe radius/diameter or in cavity wall displacement

### 3.1.11

#### **pressuremeter curve**

graphical plot of pressure versus the associated cavity wall displacement or measuring cell volume



**3.1.12****pressuremeter shear modulus** **$G_{\text{PBP}}$** 

shear modulus obtained from the pressuremeter curve

Note 1 to entry: See [6.3](#)