



Common Forum – Questionnaire

Accreditation of experts in investigation and remediation of soils

Common Forum/DD 2015.005

Accreditation of experts in investigation and remediation of soils

Synthesis of the answers received after Ana ALZOLA's request (29/06/2015)

Updated the 14 August 2015

The request:

As I told you in my presentation in the last Common Forum meeting in Copenhagen, we have been asked by the Basque Authority on Competence to justify the need of an accreditation of experts in investigation and remediation of soils.

We are now preparing the report and it would be very helpful if Common Forum members answered this questions:

- Is there in your country/region an accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of soils?
- Is the accreditation used in a voluntary or in a compulsory basis?
- Reference of the law/decreet/etc. where this topic is regulated



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Austria -/ Dietmar Müller – Grabehrr (08/07/2015)

At the time being there is no accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of soils in Austria, neither an obligatory nor a voluntary one.

However here at Environment Agency Austria (EAA) we have been discussing this issue some years ago. By the background of the Austrian situation and referring to the general observation that results of lab analyses (any matrix like soil, soil vapour, waste, groundwater) often still show significant limitations in reliability due to inaccurate sampling procedures (sampling, storage, transport and so on), we suggested to establish sampling courses focusing to investigation projects for contaminated sites.

Under the patronage of the Austrian Environment Ministry (BMLFUW) we organise and offer regular courses at least once a year (since 2012). With regard to concept, principles and results so far this activity might be summarised like follows:

- The course is organised by 3 modules (solid matrices - soil & waste; soil vapour; groundwater).
- Each module lasts 1 day and offers half a day of theory and half a day of practical exercises at field sites.
- To optimise knowledge transfer and interaction the format is to work with small groups. Therefore the number of participants in each module is limited (max. 20 experts).
- Expertise and lectures are provided by EAA experts and as well private consultants.
- Up to now 5 course weeks have been organised and 180 experts participated.
- Each module finishes by a small exam (30 min) and participants receive a written reference for participation (including successful exam).

Participation to the sampling courses is voluntary. However on the mid- to long-term we will need to evaluate whether this first step towards quality and accuracy resulted in improving the general performance in investigation projects and/or the courses could be obligatory in public contracts.



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Belgium / Flanders – Eddy Van Dyck (08/07/2015)

Flanders has a mandatory accreditation system for soil remediation experts. Every soil investigation or remediation needs to be executed and accompanied by these accredited experts. A type 1 expert can only conduct exploratory soil investigations and draft some other minor technical reports. Type 2 specialists can supervise all stages of the investigation and remediation process and draft every possible report in the context of the Soil Decree. The accreditation procedure, qualification or training requirements, and the code of conduct is regulated by the "Order of the Flemish Government of 19 November 2010 establishing the Flemish regulation on recognitions relating to the environment" also known as VLAREL. This legislation can be found here: <https://navigator.emis.vito.be/mijn-navigator?wold=36452>

Unfortunately the text is not fully available in English.

When having further questions, you can always contact Bavo Peeters (with me in cc -).

Belgium / Wallonia – Esther Goidts (30/06/2015)

- Is there in your country/region an accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of soils?

In Wallonia, there is an accreditation system for soil experts. Two categories are proposed: the 1st covers only the investigation studies (preliminary study, characterisation study, and associated security and monitoring measures definition), the 2d covers both investigation studies and remediation works (remediation plan, final evaluation, follow up of remediation works). In reality, all experts are accredited for the 2d category. Note that "accreditation" is not to be understood as "accreditation in the sense of ISO norms. It is more a "certification" system based on proven competencies of experts and on the quality of their work (mainly in terms of the quality of the studies introduced at the administration for now). Also note that the accredited soil expert (person or moral entity) must specifically demonstrate competencies in civil work (soil stability issues) and in risk assessment besides usual skills in biology, chemistry, pedology, hydrogeology, geology. In addition, there must be one person (called "habilitated person") in charge of supervision of all studies that are being done (he/she must appose his/her signature on each report send to us) and who has to follow annually at least 20hrs of training in the domain (covering both soil legislation updates and technical updates).

-Is the accreditation used in a voluntary or in a compulsory basis?

It is compulsory to be accredited to do soil investigations/remediation.

-Reference of the law/decreet/etc. where this topic is regulated

Soil decree (5/12/2008) and its implementing act (27/5/2009)

<http://dps.environnement.wallonie.be/home/legislation.html>



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Denmark – Christian Andersen (29/06/2015)

In DK we do not use accreditation on neither voluntary nor mandatory basis.

France – Emilie Favrie (22/07/2015)

In France, we have an accreditation of experts in contaminated land management, with standards on « Services related to contaminated sites and soils ».

- Is the accreditation used in a voluntary or in a compulsory basis?

For the moment, the accreditation is used in a voluntary basis.

- Reference of the law/decreet/etc. where this topic is regulated:

The standard is NFX 31-620.

If you want further information, please see Tina's presentation in Napoli:
www.commonforum.eu/Documents/Meetings/2014/Napoli/2A_Leger_Common_forum_Certification.pdf.

You have probably already seen it but we had made a little movie to explain the accreditation:

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Animation-The-guide-for-private.html.

Germany – Andreas Bieber (29/06/2015)

You asked:

- Is there in your country/region an accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of soils?

Yes, there is.

www.dakks.de/sites/default/files/71_sd_4_004_fachmodul_boden-altlasten_20130327_v1.1.pdf

- Is the accreditation used in a voluntary or in a compulsory basis?
Voluntary

- Reference of the law/decreet/etc. where this topic is regulated:

www.dakks.de/sites/default/files/akkstelleg.pdf



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Lithuania – Rasa Radiene (01/07/2015)

- Is there in your country/region an accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of soils?

Yes, we have accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of the underground – soils and groundwater in Lithuania.

Lithuanian Geological Survey under Ministry of Environment (LGS) is responsible for issuance of license (accreditation) for investigations (working group of 5 experts).

The license for investigation may be issued only to legal entities. (Order for licensing for individuals (natural persons) is still in the process).

To get a license, geological companies should have at least one hydrogeologist with not less than 3 years working as hydrogeologist experience in the latest 7years (proving documents are necessary).

For remediation in-situ, legal entities have to have the same LGS license like for investigation and plus license for hazardous waste management from Ministry of Environment.

For remediation ex-situ, there are no clear criteria for experts' qualification, but they should have license for waste management.

- Is the accreditation used in a voluntary or in a compulsory basis?

This accreditation is compulsory.

- Reference of the law/decreed/etc. where this topic is regulated.

Government regulation of 29 November 2001, No. 1433 „Rules for authorization procedures for the underground investigations“

Oder of the Minister of Environment of 3 May 2011, No. D1-368 „Rules of waste management“. If you would like any more details, just let me now.



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The Netherlands – Co Molenaar (29/06/2015)

Regarding to your questions about accreditation we have a balanced system and a special organization in the Netherlands which is responsible: www.sikb.nl/365

- Is there in your country/region an accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of soils?

Answer: it is an good example of public-private cooperation. The private companies know the best available techniques; the government is responsible for the legislation and a good quality assurance and control.

- Is the accreditation used in a voluntary or in a compulsory basis?

Answer: we have defined those activities that are at risk (fraud) and those activities have to be certified or accredited. For example sampling and analyzing can only be done by certified and accredited organizations.

- Reference of the law/decreet/etc. where this topic is regulated

Answer: It is part of our Soil Protection Act and moor in detail described in de Soil Quality Decree (and lower regulations)

Does this help you? If you need any further detailed information, please contact Mr Arthur de Groof (email: Arthur.deGroof@SIKB.nl)



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Sweden – Jeanette Haggrott (07/07/2015)

-Is there in your country/region an accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of soils?

Yes we have accreditations systems for soil, ground- and surface water and sediments respectively (Nordtest).

- Is the accreditation used in a voluntary or in a compulsory basis?

Voluntary when it comes to investigation of sites due to supervision and enforcement. When it comes to state funded investigations there are new requirements for certified samplers. With a soft start this year but from next year it will be mandatory for investigations financed by state funding.

- Reference of the law/decreed/etc. where this topic is regulated

We have a document (The Quality Manual) that gives the requirements for using the government grants (such as demands for a certified person that is doing the sampling). [Available in Swedish only.](#)

We also have guidance documents for sampling that authorities refer to in supervision and enforcement that correlate with the Nordtest standards. (Swedish Geotechnical Society report 2:2013).

See report (Unfortunately only in Swedish) :

[**“Fälthandbok Publicerad 2014 - Fälthandbok för undersökningar av förorenade områden”.**](#)

Most “samplers” have gone to courses held by Swedish Geotechnical Society about sampling but everyone have not yet got the certificate because the demand for certification is quite new...



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Switzerland – Christiane Wermeille (29/07/2015)

Here is the situation in Switzerland.

- Is there in your country/region an accreditation system for experts in investigation/remediation of soils?

There is a kind of accreditation for experts in investigation and remediation. You find all the information (French and German) on:

www.arv.ch/fr/navigation_oben/sites_contamines/conseil_concernant_les_sites_contamines/liste_des_experts/

A trade association manages this accreditation. There are two levels: 1° Expert 2° Specialist

The criteria are: formation, experience (number of years), continuing training. That's all! As you see, it is very simple! Perhaps too simple.

- Is the accreditation used in a voluntary or in a compulsory basis?

Voluntary

- Reference of the law/decreet/etc. where this topic is regulated:

Nothing

The United Kingdom – Paul Bardos / Nicola Harries (29/06/2015)

See attached consultation ([National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Affected by Contamination](#)), which I think covers your questions.

This consultation was aiming to cover the whole of the UK. The consultation has just finished and the preliminary results of the proposed voluntary scheme will be shared at a meeting tomorrow.