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**Soil quality — Determination of soil
microbial biomass —**

**Part 1:
Substrate-induced respiration method**

*Qualité du sol — Détermination de la biomasse microbienne du sol —
Partie 1: Méthode par respiration induite par substrat*

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Foreword

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International Standard ISO 14240-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Biological methods*.

ISO 14240 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Soil quality — Determination of soil microbial biomass*:

Part 1: Substrate-induced respiration method

Part 2: Fumigation-extraction method

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Introduction

Soil consists of both living and nonliving components which exist in a complex and heterogeneous environment. Soil microflora is responsible for the degradation of organic matter, stability of aggregates and most nutrient cycling which occurs in soils. The purpose of determining the microbial biomass of soils is to allow assessment of the continued maintenance of soil fertility, the potential ability to degrade organic materials, and the effects of added materials on the natural microbial population.