



## CASE STUDY TITLE

Development of the National Standard  
ÖNORM B 2506-3 on Soakaways for  
Rainwater in a Joint Project of Public  
Administration, University and Industry

### SUMMARY

This standard describes requirements and tests for filter materials used for cleaning precipitation discharged from zinc roofs, copper roofs and paved areas (e.g., roads). These filter materials are used as technical soil filters according to ÖNORM B 2506-2 as well as technical filter materials according to the specifications ÖWAV RB 45 issued by the Austrian Water and Waste Management Association (ÖWAV). Methods are defined for different surface conditions and classes of origin.

### BACKGROUND

The management of surface runoff is becoming more challenging as extreme weather events, such as torrential rains, are increasingly frequent because of climate change. The best solution to this problem is to let water drain into the subsoil as far as possible on site. However, contaminated rainwater – for example from large parking areas – may impair the quality of groundwater. Therefore, it has to be adequately cleaned by means of appropriate materials in water protection facilities that ensure sufficient percolation while removing organic and inorganic pollutants.

### STRATEGY

To ensure that only materials meeting those requirements are used in soakaways, criteria and parameters for minimum performance as well as its evaluation had to be identified and laid down. The necessary scientific study was funded by the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and designed by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU). The implementation of the study received practical support by an expert group – made up of representatives of the Ministry

### AT A GLANCE

#### COUNTRY

- Austria

#### LEVEL

- National

#### SDG ADDRESSED

- SDG 6 - Clean Water & Sanitation

regional governments and manufacturers as well as ÖWAV RB 45 – in several meetings. Subsequently, the study's results were input into ÖNORM B 2506 Part 3 that serves as a basis for testing filter materials. A testing body was set up at BOKU (WAU/SIG) and audited by the certification body of Austrian Standards (AS+) as well as the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria



## RESULTS & IMPACT

ÖNORM B 2506-3 is used in many calls for tenders as the normative basis for the material of rainwater soakaways in construction projects. Furthermore, several manufacturers have already completed initial type testing and inspections for their products according to ÖNORM B 2506-3 and have received conformity certificates from the certification body of Austrian Standards. These certified products are already used in construction projects.

### CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

The ÖNORM B 2506-3 project shows how important it is to implement the results of research projects in practice and how standardization can function as a facilitator. The neutral platform of standardization was able to bring together the know-how of experienced companies with the expertise of the University and public administration. The result – the standard – was published to the benefit of all.

### POTENTIAL FOR REPLICATION

On account of the stringent test requirements and criteria, it was possible to demonstrate scientifically that even the requirements for cleaning runoff from heavily trafficked roads can be met. By ensuring the cleaning of surface runoffs while they drain into the subsoil, ÖNORM B 2506-3 makes a valuable contribution to SDG 6 and SDG 15.

**CASE STUDY DEVELOPED BY:**  
**Dr. Jochen Fornather, Committee Manager**  
**Department of Austrian Standards Development**  
**Austrian Standards International**

