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EUROPEAN STANDARD  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**EN 13906-1**

April 2002

ICS 21.160

English version

## Cylindrical helical springs made from round wire and bar - Calculation and design - Part 1: Compression springs

Ressorts hélicoïdaux cylindriques fabriqués à partir de fils  
ronds et de barres - Calcul et conception - Partie 1:  
Ressorts de compression

Zylindrische Schraubenfedern aus runden Drähten und  
Stäben - Berechnung und Konstruktion - Teil 1:  
Druckfedern

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 5 January 2001.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Management Centre or to any CEN member.

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 Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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## Foreword

This document (EN 13906-1:2002) has been prepared by CEN/CS SUBSECTOR M18, the secretariat of which is held by CMC.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2002, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2002.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

This European Standard has been prepared by the initiative of the Association of the European Spring Federation ESF and is based on the German Standard DIN 2089- 1 - «Helical compression springs out of round wire and rod; calculation and design» edition 1984-12, which is known and used in many European countries.

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## 1 Scope

This standard specifies the calculation and design of cylindrical helical compression springs with a linear characteristic, made from round wire and bar of constant diameter with values according to Table 1, and in respect of which the principal loading is applied in the direction of the spring axis.

**Table 1**

Characteristic	Cold coiled compression spring	Hot coiled compression spring <sup>1)</sup>	Hot coiled compression spring <sup>2)</sup>
Wire or bar diameter	$d \leq 17 \text{ mm}$	$8 \text{ mm} \leq d \leq 60 \text{ mm}$	$9 \text{ mm} \leq d \leq 18 \text{ mm}$
Coil diameter	$D \leq 200 \text{ mm}$	$D \leq 460 \text{ mm}$	$D \leq 180 \text{ mm}$
Length of unloaded spring	$L_0 \leq 630 \text{ mm}$	$L_0 \leq 800 \text{ mm}$	$L_0 \leq 600 \text{ mm}$
Number of active coils	$n \geq 2$	$n \geq 3$	$5 \leq n \leq 12$
Spring index	$4 \leq w \leq 20$	$3 \leq w \leq 12$	$6 \leq w \leq 12$
1) Batch size $\leq 5000$ parts 2) Batch size $> 5000$ parts			

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NOTE Quality Standards for compression springs will be developed later.

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## 2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

EN 10270-1:2001, *Steel wire for mechanical springs - Part 1: Patented cold drawn unalloyed steel spring wire.*

EN 10270-2:2001, *Steel wire for mechanical springs - Part 2: Oil hardened and tempered spring steel wire.*

EN 10270-3:2001, *Steel wire for mechanical springs - Part 3: Stainless spring steel wire.*

EN 12166, *Copper and copper alloys - Wire for general purposes.*

EN ISO 2162-1:1996, *Technical product documentation - Springs - Part 1: Simplified representation (ISO 2162-1:1993).*

EN ISO 2162-3:1996, *Technical product documentation - Springs - Part 3: Vocabulary (ISO 2162-3:1993).*

prEN 10089:2000, *Hot-rolled steels for quenched and tempered springs – Technical delivery conditions.*

### 3 Terms, definitions, symbols, units and abbreviated terms

#### 3.1 Terms and definitions

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

##### 3.1.1 spring

mechanical device designed to store energy when deflected and to return the equivalent amount of energy when released.[2.1 from EN ISO 2162-3:1996 ]

##### 3.1.2 compression spring

spring that offers resistance to a compressive force applied axially.[2.3 from EN ISO 2162-3: 1996]

##### 3.1.3 helical compression spring

compression spring made from wire of circular, square or rectangular cross-section wound around an axis with distances between its coils.

Helical compression springs are available in cylindrical or other forms, e.g. conical, double- conical (convex: barrel spring; concave: wasted spring) or tapered. [2.9 from EN ISO 2162-3:1996]

NOTE In the following text of this Standard the term spring is used with the meaning of helical compression spring

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### 3.2 Symbols, units and abbreviated terms

Table 2 contains the symbols, units and abbreviated terms used in this standard.

**Table 2**

Symbols	Units	Terms
$a_0$	mm	gap between active coils of the unloaded spring
$D = \frac{D_e + D_i}{2}$	mm	mean diameter of coil
$D_e$	mm	outside diameter of the spring
$\Delta D_e$	mm	increase of outside diameter of the spring, when loaded
$D_i$	mm	inside diameter of the spring
$d$	mm	nominal diameter of wire (or bar)
$d_{\max}$	mm	upper deviation of $d$
$E$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	modulus of elasticity (or Young's modulus)
$F$	N	spring force
$F_1, F_2 \dots$	N	spring forces, for the spring lengths $L_1, L_2 \dots$ (at ambient temperature of 20°C)
$F_{c\ th}$	N	theoretical spring force at solid length $L_c$
		NOTE The actual spring force at the solid length is as a rule greater than the theoretical force <a href="https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/c79b0766-c190-46c8-8a77-bc77f13805d4/sist-en-13906-1-2009">https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/c79b0766-c190-46c8-8a77-bc77f13805d4/sist-en-13906-1-2009</a>
$F_K$	N	buckling force
$F_n$	N	spring force for the minimum permissible spring length $L_n$
$F_Q$	N	spring force perpendicular to the spring axis (transverse spring force)
$f_e$	s <sup>-1</sup> (Hz)	natural frequency of the first order of the spring (fundamental frequency)
$G$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	modulus of rigidity
$k$	-	stress correction factor (depending on $D/d$ )
$L$	mm	spring length
$L_0$	mm	nominal free length of spring
$L_1, L_2 \dots$	mm	spring lengths for the spring forces $F_1, F_2 \dots$
$L_c$	mm	solid length
$L_K$	mm	buckling length
$L_n$	mm	minimum permissible spring length (depending upon $S_a$ )
$m$	mm	mean distance between centres of adjacent coils in the unloaded condition (pitch)
$N$	-	number of cycles up to rupture
$n$	-	number of active coils
$n_t$	-	total number of coils
$R$	N/mm	spring rate
$R_m$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	minimum value of tensile strength



Table 2 (concluded)

Symbols	Units	Terms
$R_Q$	N/mm	transverse spring rate
$S_a$	mm	sum of the minimum gaps between adjacent active coils at spring length $L_n$
$s$	mm	spring deflection
$s_1, s_2 \dots$	mm	spring deflections, for the spring forces $F_1, F_2 \dots$
$s_c$	mm	spring deflection, for the solid length, $L_c$
$s_h$	mm	deflection of spring (stroke) between two positions
$s_K$	mm	spring deflection, for the buckling force $F_K$ (buckling spring deflection)
$s_n$	mm	spring deflection, for the spring force $F_n$
$s_Q$	mm	transverse spring deflection, for the transverse force $F_Q$
$v_{St}$	m/s	impact speed
$W$	N mm	spring work,
$w = \frac{D}{d}$	-	spring index
$\eta$	-	spring rate ratio
$\lambda$	-	slenderness ratio
$\xi$	-	relative spring deflection
$\nu$	-	seating coefficient
$\rho$	kg/dm <sup>3</sup>	density
$\tau$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	uncorrected torsional stress (without the influence of the wire curvature being taken into account)
$\tau_1, \tau_2 \dots$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	uncorrected torsional stress, for the spring forces $F_1, F_2 \dots$
$\tau_c$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	uncorrected torsional stress, for the solid length $L_c$
$\tau_k$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	corrected torsional stress (according to the stress correction factor $k$ )
$\tau_{k1}, \tau_{k2} \dots$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	corrected torsional stress, for the spring forces $F_1, F_2 \dots$
$\tau_{kh}$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	corrected torsional stress range, for the stroke $s_h$
$\tau_{kH} (\dots)$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	corrected torsional stress range in fatigue, with the subscript specifying the number of cycles to rupture or the number of ultimate cycles
$\tau_{kn}$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	corrected torsional stress, for the spring force $F_n$
$\tau_{kO} (\dots)$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	corrected maximum torsional stress in fatigue, with the subscript specifying the number of cycles to rupture or the number of ultimate cycles.
$\tau_{kU} (\dots)$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	corrected minimum torsional stress in fatigue, with the subscript specifying the number of cycles to rupture or the number of ultimate cycles
$\tau_n$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	uncorrected torsional stress, for the spring force $F_n$
$\tau_{St}$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	impact stress
$\tau_{zul}$	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	permissible torsional stress

## 4 Theoretical compression spring diagram

The illustration of the compression spring corresponds to Figure 4.1 from EN ISO 2162-1: 1996.

The theoretical compression spring diagram is given in Figure 1.

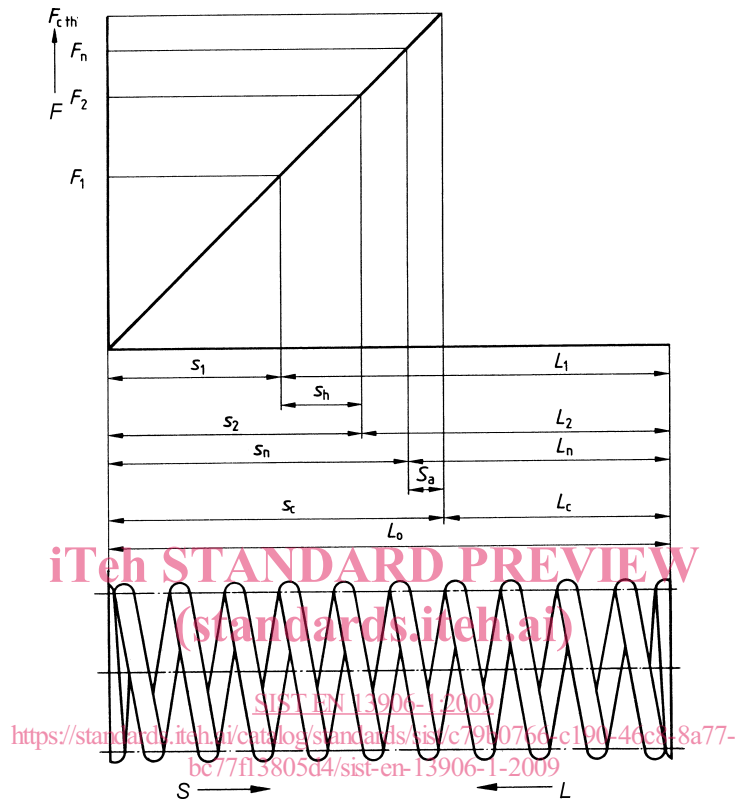


Figure 1 — Theoretical compression spring diagram

## 5 Design principles

Before carrying out design calculations for a spring, the requirements to be met shall be considered, particularly taking into account and defining:

- a spring force and corresponding spring deflection or two spring forces and corresponding stroke or a spring force, the stroke and the spring rate,
- loading as a function of time: is static or dynamic,
- in the case of dynamic loading the total number of cycles,  $N$ , to rupture,
- operating temperature and permissible relaxation,
- transverse loading, buckling, impact loading,
- other factors (e.g. resonance vibration, corrosion)

NOTE In order to optimise the dimensions of the spring by taking the requirements into account sufficient working space should be provided when designing the product in which the spring will work.

## 6 Types of Loading

NOTE Before carrying out design calculations it should be specified whether they will be subjected to static loading, quasi-static loading, or dynamic loading.

### 6.1 Static and/or quasi-static loading

A static loading is:

- a loading constant in time

A quasi-static loading is:

- a loading variable with time with a negligibly small torsional stress range (stroke stress) (e.g. torsional stress range up to  $0,1 \times$  fatigue strength)
- a variable loading with greater torsional stress range but only a number of cycles of up to  $10^4$

### 6.2 Dynamic loading

In the case of compression springs dynamic loading is:

Loading variable with time with a number of loading cycles over  $10^4$  and torsional stress range greater than  $0,1 \times$  fatigue strength at

- a) constant torsional stress range
- b) variable torsional stress range

Depending on the required number of cycles  $N$  up to rupture it is necessary to differentiate the two cases as follows:

- a) infinite life fatigue in which the number of cycles

- $N \geq 10^7$  for cold coiled springs
- $N \geq 2 \times 10^6$  for hot coiled springs

In this case the torsional stress range is lower than the infinite life fatigue limit.

- b) limited life fatigue in which

- $N < 10^7$  for cold coiled springs
- $N < 2 \times 10^6$  for hot coiled springs

In this case the torsional stress range is greater than the infinite life fatigue limit but smaller than the low cycle fatigue limit.

In the case of springs with a time- variable torsional stress range and mean torsional stress, (set of torsional stress combinations) the maximum values of which are situated above the infinite fatigue life limit, the service life can be calculated as a rough approximation with the aid of cumulative damage hypotheses. In such circumstances the service life shall be verified by means of a fatigue test.

### 6.3 Operating temperature

The data relating to the permissible loading of the materials used as given in clause 10 apply at ambient temperature.

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The influence of temperature shall be taken into consideration especially in the case of springs with closely toleranced spring forces. At operating temperatures below  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  the reduction of the notch impact strength shall also be taken into account.

**6.4 Transverse loading**

If an axially loaded spring with parallel guided ends is additionally loaded perpendicular to its axis, transverse deflection with localised increase in torsional stress will occur, and this shall be taken into account in the calculation.

**6.5 Buckling**

Axially loaded springs have a tendency to buckle when they are compressed to a certain critical length. Consequently, their buckling behaviour shall be checked. An adequate safety against buckling shall be allowed for in the design of these springs, because the buckling limit is reached in practice sooner than calculated theoretically. Springs which cannot be designed with an adequate safety against buckling shall be guided inside a tube or over a mandrel. Friction will be the inevitable consequence, and damage to the spring will occur in the long run. It is therefore preferable to split up the spring into individual springs, which are safe against buckling, as far as possible, and to guide these springs via intermediate discs over a mandrel or in a tube.

It shall be always borne in mind that the direction of the spring force does not coincide precisely with the geometric axis of the spring. Consequently, the spring will tend to buckle before the theoretical buckling limit has been attained. It is very difficult to allow for this effect by calculation. Buckling occurs in smooth progression.

**6.6 Impact loading**

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Additional torsional stresses will be generated in a spring, if one end of the spring is suddenly accelerated to a high speed, e.g. through shock or impact. This impact wave will travel through the successive coils of the spring and will be reflected at the other end of the spring.

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The level of this additional torsional stress depends on the speed with which the impact is delivered, but not on the dimensions of the spring.

**6.7 Other factors****6.7.1 Resonance vibrations**

A spring is prone to resonance vibrations by virtue of the inert mass of its active coils and of the elasticity of the material. A distinction is made between vibrations of the first order (fundamental vibrations) and vibrations of higher order (harmonic vibrations). The frequency of the fundamental vibration is called the fundamental frequency, and the frequency of the harmonic vibrations are integral multiples thereof.

When calculating springs, subject to high frequency forced vibration, care shall be taken to ensure that the frequency of the forced vibration oscillation (excitation frequency) does not come into resonance with one of the natural frequencies of the spring. In the case of mechanical excitations (e.g. via cams), resonance may also occur if a harmonic component of the excitation frequency coincides with one of the natural frequencies of the spring. In cases of resonance, an appreciable increase in torsional stress will arise at certain individual points of the spring, known as nodes. In order to avoid such increases in torsional stress due to resonance phenomena, the following measures are advised.

- Avoid integral ratios between excitation frequencies and natural frequencies;
- Select the natural frequency of the first order of the spring as high as possible; avoid resonance with the low harmonics of the excitation.
- Use springs with a progressive characteristic (variable pitch );
- Design the cam with a favourable profile (low peak value of the excitation harmonics);
- Provide for damping by means of spacers.