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**Earth-moving machinery — Trenchers —  
Definitions and commercial specifications**

*Engins de terrassement — Trancheuses — Définitions et spécifications  
commerciales*

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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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 13539 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 127, *Earth-moving machinery*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Commercial nomenclature, classification and rating*.

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# Earth-moving machinery — Trenchers — Definitions and commercial specifications

## 1 Scope

This International Standard defines terms and specifies the content of commercial literature specifications for self-propelled trenching machines, and their equipment, as defined in clause 3.

## 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 3450:1996, *Earth-moving machinery — Braking systems of rubber-tyred machines — Systems and performance requirements and test procedures.* [ISO 13539:1998](#)

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ISO 5010:1992, *Earth-moving machinery — Rubber-tyred machines — Steering requirements.*

ISO 6014:1986, *Earth-moving machinery — Determination of ground speed.*

ISO 6016:1998, *Earth-moving machinery — Methods of measuring the masses of whole machines, their equipment and components.*

ISO 6165:1997, *Earth-moving machinery — Basic types — Vocabulary.*

ISO 6746-1:1987, *Earth-moving machinery — Definitions of dimensions and symbols — Part 1: Base machine.*

ISO 6746-2:1987, *Earth-moving machinery — Definitions of dimensions and symbols — Part 2: Equipment.*

ISO 7457:1997, *Earth-moving machinery — Determination of turning dimensions of wheeled machines.*

ISO 8812:—<sup>1)</sup>, *Earth-moving machinery — Backhoe loaders — Definitions and commercial specifications.*

ISO 9249:1997, *Earth-moving machinery — Engine test code — Net power.*

ISO 10265:1998, *Earth-moving machinery — Crawler machines — Performance requirements and test procedures for braking systems.*

<sup>1)</sup> To be published.

### 3 General definitions

#### 3.1

##### **trencher**

self-propelled crawler or wheeled machine, having rear- and/or front-mounted **equipment** (3.6) [**attachment** (3.7)], primarily designed to produce a **trench** (3.2) in a continuous operation, through motion of the machine; the attachment can be a digging chain, wheel disc, plough blade, or a similar item [ISO 6165:1997]

#### 3.1.1

##### **pedestrian-operated trencher**

**trencher** (3.1) controlled by an operator while walking either along side or in line with the machine

#### 3.1.2

##### **rider-operated trencher**

**trencher** (3.1) controlled by an operator while riding on the machine

#### 3.2

##### **trench**

narrow excavation for which, in general, the depth is greater than the width

#### 3.3

##### **spoil**

earth, rock, and the like removed when making a **trench** (3.2)

#### 3.4

##### **base machine**

**trencher** (3.1) with mountings necessary to secure **equipment** (3.6) as described by the manufacturer's specifications

#### 3.5

##### **component**

part, or an assembly of parts, of a **base machine** (3.4), **equipment** (3.6) or an **attachment** (3.7)

NOTE — Adapted from ISO 6016:1998.

#### 3.6

##### **equipment**

set of **components** (3.5) mounted onto the **base machine** (3.4) to fulfil the primary design function when an **attachment** (3.7) is fitted

NOTE — Adapted from ISO 6016:1998.

#### 3.7

##### **attachment**

assembly of **components** (3.5) for a specific use and which can be mounted onto either the **base machine** (3.4) or its **equipment** (3.6)

NOTE — Adapted from ISO 6016:1998.

### 3.8 Base machine dimensions

See also ISO 6746-1 for definitions of dimensions.

#### 3.8.1

##### **maximum total height**

*H* 1

vertical distance from the ground reference plane (GRP) to the highest point of the **base machine** (3.4)

See figures 1 to 3.

**3.8.2**  
**maximum equipment/attachment height***H* 2

vertical distance from the ground reference plane (GRP) to the highest point of the **equipment** (3.6) [**attachment** (3.7)] in their maximum raised position

See figures 1 to 3.

**3.8.3**  
**maximum width***W* 1

distance between the farthest points situated on each side of the machine, perpendicular to the direction of travel

See figures 1 to 3.

**3.8.4**  
**track gauge***W* 2

perpendicular distance between the longitudinal centrelines of the track sprockets

See figure 3.

**3.8.5**  
**tread width***W* 3

perpendicular distance between the tyre longitudinal centrelines

See figures 1 and 2.

**3.8.6**  
**maximum length***L* 1

longitudinal distance between the farthest points on the front and on the rear of the machine

See figures 1 to 3.

**3.8.7**  
**crawler base***L* 2

perpendicular distance between the centrelines of the driver sprocket axis and the idler sprocket axis

See figure 3.

**3.8.8**  
**wheel base***L* 3

perpendicular distance between the lateral centrelines of the front and rear wheels, with the wheels in the straight ahead position

See figures 1 and 2.

**3.8.9**  
**angle of approach***A* 1

angle between the ground reference plane (GRP) and a plane, tangent to the forward tyres or tracks and passing through the lowest point of any protruding structure or **component** (3.5) in front of the tyres or tracks, which limits the magnitude of the angle

See figures 2 and 3.

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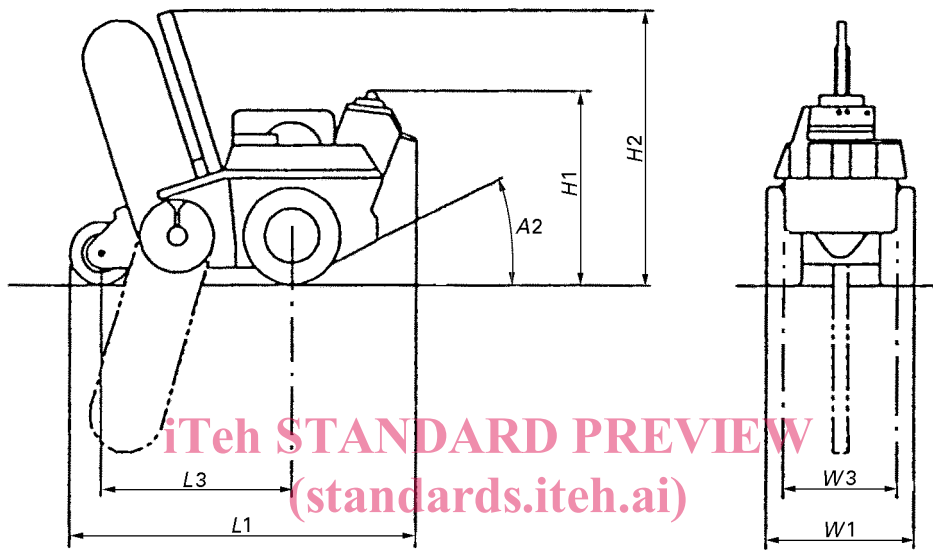
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points on the front and on the rear

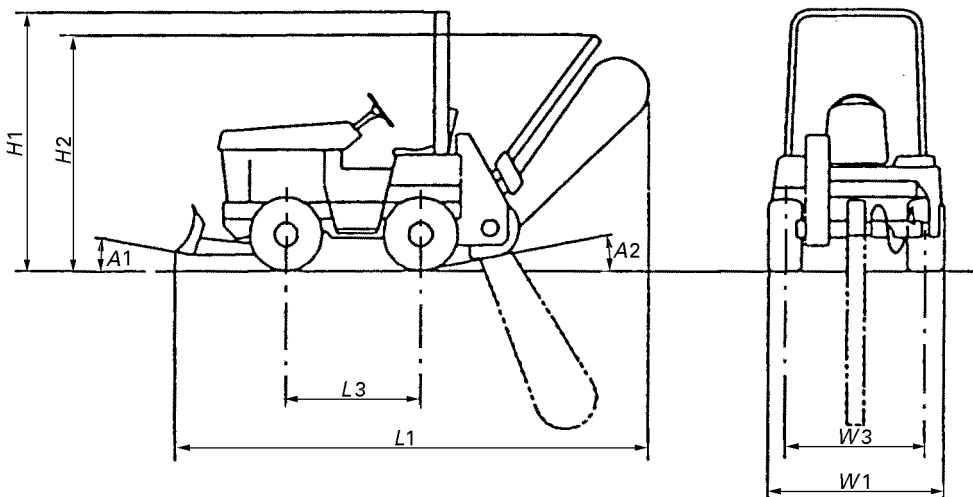
**3.8.10**  
**angle of departure**

A 2  
angle between the ground reference plane (GRP) and a plane, tangent to the rear tyres or tracks of a machine and passing through the lowest point of any protruding structure or **component** (3.5) behind the rear tyres or tracks, which limits the magnitude of the angle

See figures 1 to 3.



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**Figure 1 — Pedestrian-operated trencher**



**Figure 2 — Rider-operated wheeled trencher**

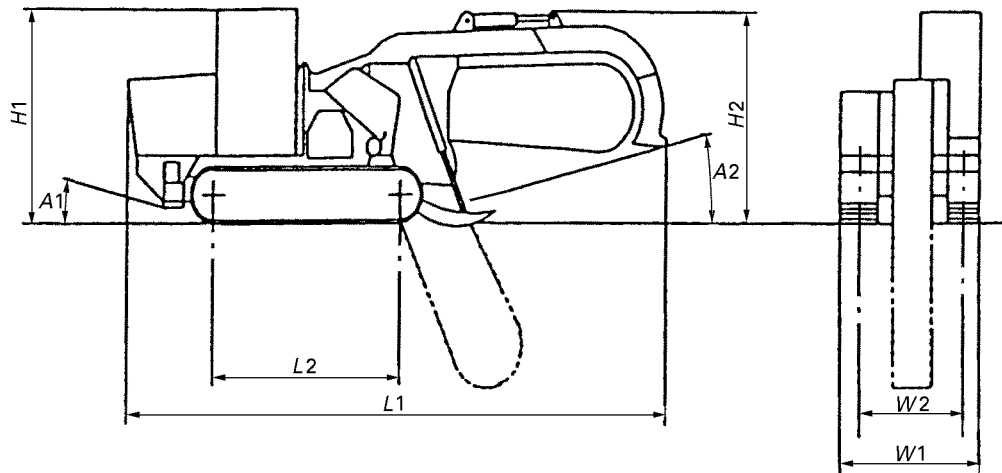


Figure 3 — Rider-operated crawler trencher

## 4 Types of trenchers

See also ISO 6746-1 for definitions of dimensions.

### 4.1 chain-line trencher

**trencher** (3.1) using one or more flexible digging chains having tools (teeth, bits, buckets, etc.) attached for cutting a **trench** (3.2) and conveying **spoil** (3.3) from it

See figures 4 and 5 for dimensions and nomenclature, respectively.

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#### 4.1.1 trench depth

$H_{10}$

vertical distance from the ground reference plane (GRP) to the bottom of the **trench** (3.2) free of **spoil** (3.3)

#### 4.1.2 trench width

$W_{10}$

measured width of the **trench** (3.2) for specified digging **components** (3.5)

#### 4.1.3 trench offset

$W_{11}$

perpendicular distance from the centreline of the **trench** (3.2) to a vertical plane passing through the farthest point at each side of the machine

#### 4.1.4 spoil discharge reach

$W_{12}$

distance from the centreline of the **trench** (3.2) to a vertical plane passing through the farthest conveying element of the spoil-conveying system

#### 4.1.5 boom angle

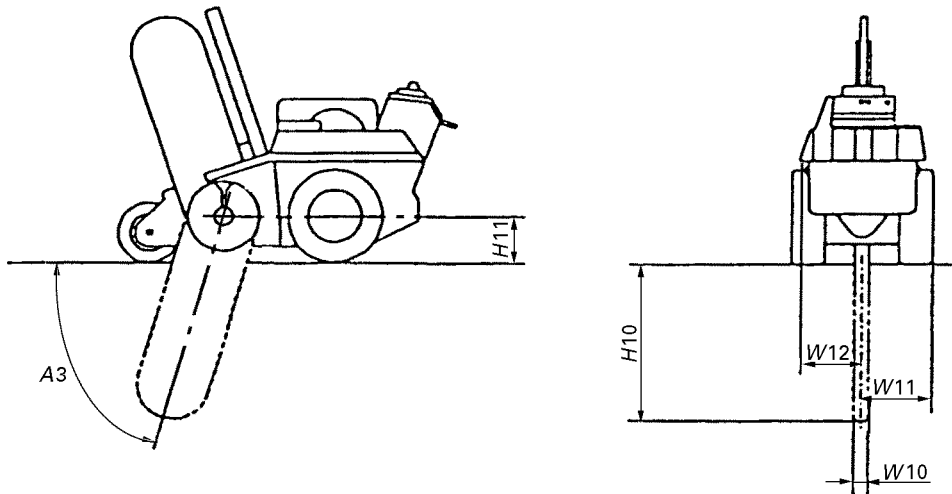
$A_3$

maximum full depth angle of the digging boom measured from the ground reference plane (GRP) to a line passing through the head shaft and the bottom-end idler centrelines

4.1.6  
head-shaft height

$H_{11}$

vertical distance from the ground reference plane (GRP) to the centreline of the head shaft



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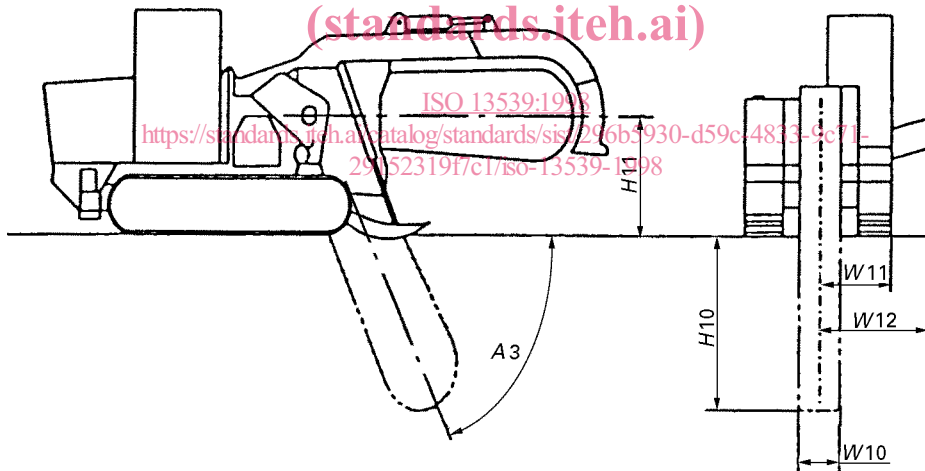
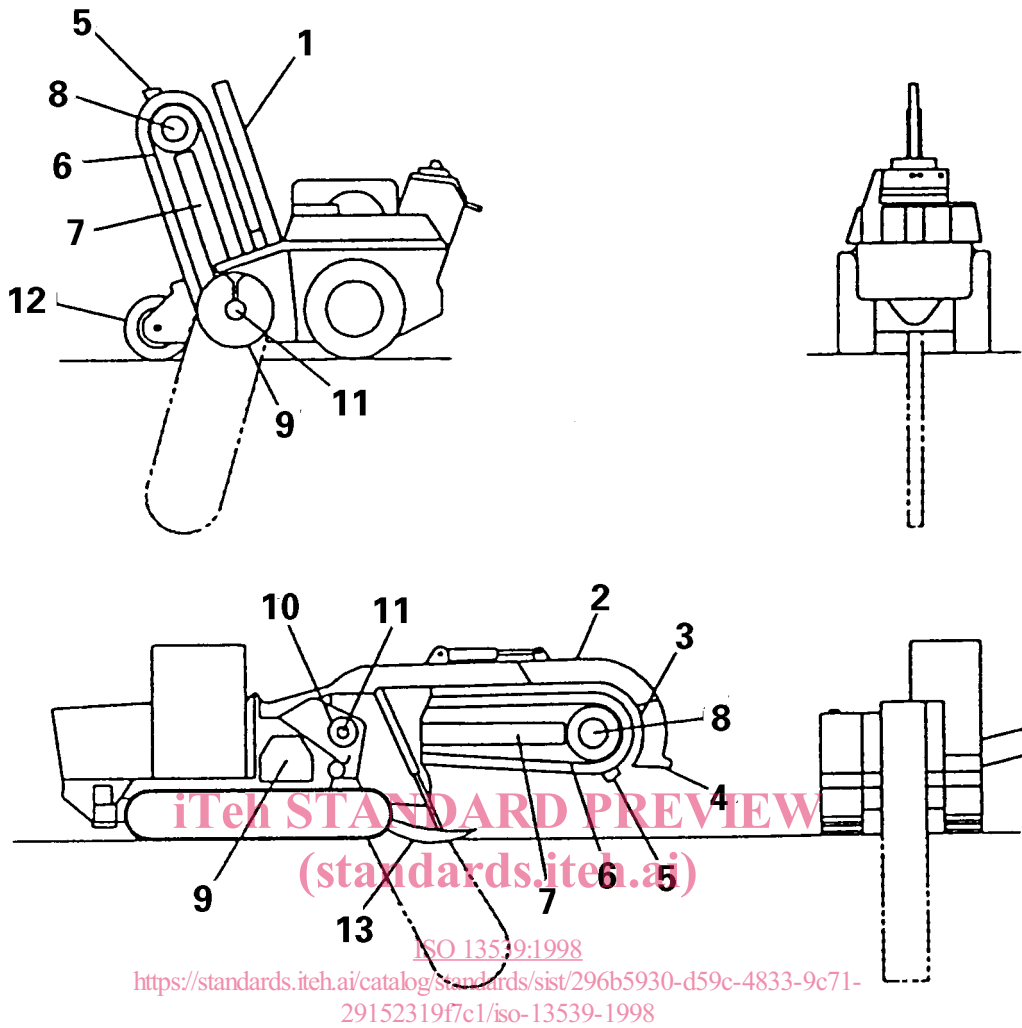


Figure 4 — Chain-line trencher dimensions



**Key**

1	Restraint bar	6	Digging chain (single or multiple)	10	Digging chain drive sprocket
2	Trench cleaner bar	7	Digging boom	11	Head shaft
3	Trench cleaner facing	8	Boom-end idler	12	Trail wheel
4	Trench cleaner shoe	9	Spoil-conveying system	13	Stabilizer
5	Digging tool		— head-shaft driven auger		
	— cup tooth		— idler driven auger(s)		
	— chisel tooth		— conveyor		
	— bit		— chute		
	— other		— other		

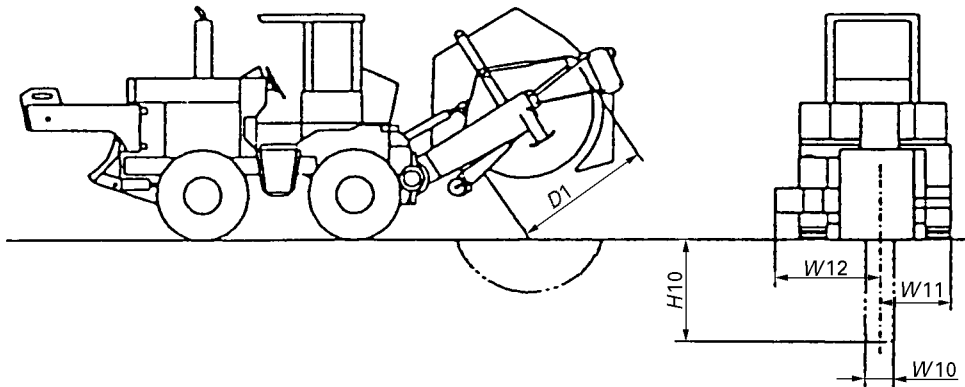
**Figure 5 — Chain-line trencher nomenclature****4.2****disc-trencher**

**trencher** (3.1) using a rotating disc edged with cutting tools generally used for cutting rock, hard plane, or road surfaces such as asphalt and concrete

See figures 6 and 7 for dimensions and nomenclature, respectively.

4.2.1  
disc diameter

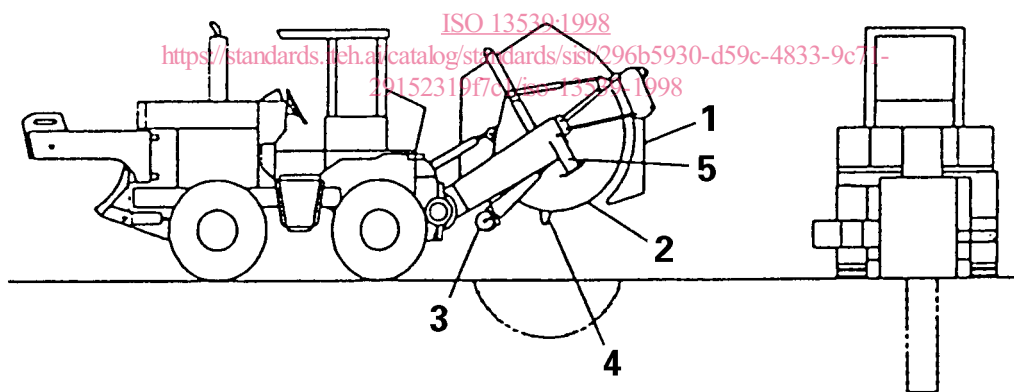
$D_1$   
diametrical distance between the outer tips of the cutting tools on the disc



W NOTE — For definitions of dimensions  $H_{10}$ ,  $W_{10}$ ,  $W_{11}$ , and  $W_{12}$ , see 4.1.1 to 4.1.4.

Figure 6 — Disc-trencher dimensions

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Key

- |   |                        |   |            |
|---|------------------------|---|------------|
| 1 | Trench cleaner         | 4 | Cutter bit |
| 2 | Cutter disc            | 5 | Stabilizer |
| 3 | Spoil-conveying system |   |            |
|   | — auger                |   |            |
|   | — conveyor             |   |            |
|   | — other                |   |            |

Figure 7 — Disc-trencher nomenclature

4.3  
wheel trencher

trencher (3.1) using a rotating wheel typically employing a series of buckets with toothed cutting edges for cutting and conveying spoil (3.3) from the trench (3.2)

See figures 8 and 9 for dimensions and nomenclature, respectively.

**4.3.1  
trench depth**

$H_{10}$

vertical distance from the ground reference plane (GRP) to the bottom of the **trench** (3.2) ignoring the effect on measurement of any **spoil** (3.3) which may be present

**4.3.2  
wheel diameter**

$D_2$

diametrical distance between the outer tips of the cutting tools on the wheel

**4.3.3  
wheel clearance**

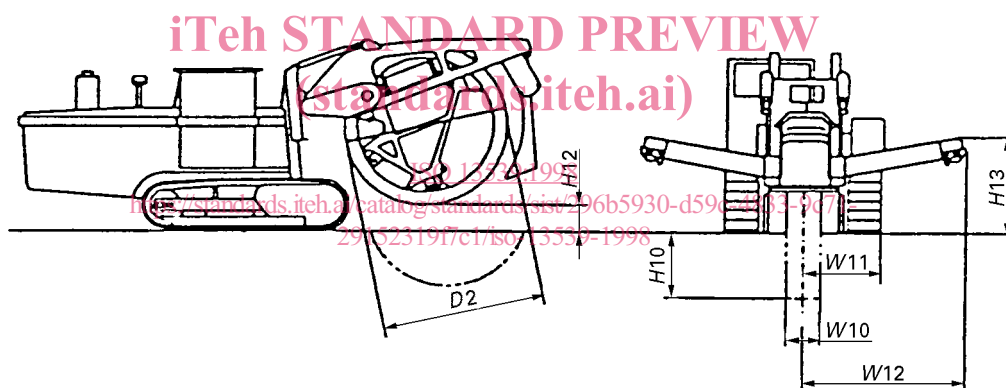
$H_{12}$

maximum vertical distance from the ground reference plane (GRP) to the tip of the tool at the bottom of the wheel in its raised position

**4.3.4  
spoil discharge height**

$H_{13}$

vertical distance from the ground reference plane (GRP) to the conveyor discharge when at full trenching depth



NOTE — For definitions of dimensions  $W_{10}$ ,  $W_{11}$ , and  $W_{12}$ , see 4.1.2 to 4.1.4.

**Figure 8 — Wheel-trencher dimensions**