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Building and civil engineering — Vocabulary —

Part 1: General terms

Bâtiment et génie civil — Vocabulaire —

Partie 1: Termes généraux

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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 6707-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 59, *Building construction*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Terminology and harmonization of languages*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 6707-1:1989), which has been technically revised.

ISO 6707 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Building and civil engineering — Vocabulary*:

— *Part 1: General terms*

— *Part 2: Contract terms*

Introduction

With the growth in the number of international construction projects and the development of the international market in construction products, there is an increasing need for agreement on a common language in the domain.

This part of ISO 6707 is a first step towards a complete set of general terms for use by the construction industry. It will be updated as further terms and definitions are agreed upon.

ISO 6707 includes terms and concepts that are commonly used in documentation governing construction work as well as terms used to specify products and works. It is important to note that when used in legislation some general construction terms have a narrower interpretation and hence the definition given in this International Standard will not apply.

The adoption of this International Standard by the various national construction industries will improve communication in the design, execution and maintenance of construction works within those industries. Its use in other standards will aid harmonization and provide a basis for specialist terminology.

Building and civil engineering — Vocabulary —

Part 1:
General terms

1 Scope

This part of ISO 6707 defines general terms to establish a vocabulary applicable to building and civil engineering.

It comprises

a) fundamental concepts, which may be the starting point for other, more specific, definitions, and

b) more specific concepts, used in several areas of construction and frequently used in standards, regulations and contracts.

2 Vocabulary structure

The terms are arranged within categories to allow ready comparison of related concepts and are alphabetically indexed.

Where a given preferred term designates more than one concept, each concept has been treated in a separate entry and, when used in different subject areas, cross-referenced with the other(s). Where a given term designates more than one concept within the same subject area, the concepts are listed in separate consecutive entries and the terms individually numbered.

Where a preferred US or other equivalent exists, this has been given in bold face following the preferred term and annotated by the respective country code. Where no US or other equivalent is given in bold, this signifies that the preferred term is the accepted term in the English-speaking countries. A term following the preferred term not given in boldface type is a non-preferred synonym.

In most countries, synonyms and alternative spellings exist for the preferred terms used in this part of ISO 6707, and a list of synonyms and alternative spellings is given in Annex A. To facilitate a ready comparison with US synonyms and alternative spellings, these are given in Annex B. To facilitate the locating of any term given in the Vocabulary, irrespective of preference or country of origin, the alphabetical index lists all preferred and non-preferred synonyms, without the respective country code being indicated.

Where there is no corresponding term in English to represent a concept for which a term exists in the French language, a translation of the definition is given, and the lack of a corresponding term is indicated by five dots (. . . . .).

3 Types of building and civil engineering works

3.1 Base terms

3.1.1
construction works
construction US
everything that is constructed or results from construction operations

3.1.2
civil engineering works
civil engineering project US
construction works (3.1.1) comprising a **structure** (3.1.4), such as a **dam** (3.2.24), **bridge** (3.3.19), **road** (3.3.1), **railway** (3.3.3), runway, utilities, **pipeline** (3.2.32), or **sewerage system** (5.4.40), or the result of operations such as dredging, **earthwork** (7.1.6), geotechnical processes, but excluding a **building** (3.1.3) and its associated **site** (3.1.6) works

NOTE Associated siteworks are included in US civil engineering projects.

3.1.3
building
construction works (3.1.1) that has the provision of shelter for its occupants or contents as one of its main purposes; usually partially or totally enclosed and designed to stand permanently in one place

cf. **building** (7.1.4)

3.1.4
structure
construction works (3.1.1) having a **structure** (5.1.2)

cf. **structure** (5.1.2)

3.1.5
external works
sitework US
construction works (3.1.1) or landscape work on **land** (10.1) associated with, and adjacent to, **civil engineering works** (3.1.2) or a **building** (3.1.3)

3.1.6
site
area of **land** (10.1) or water where **construction work** (7.1.1) or other development is undertaken

3.2 Civil engineering works

3.2.1
earthworks
result of change of existing terrain

3.2.2
excavation
result of digging, lifting and removing earth, **fill** (6.4.9) or other **material(s)** (6.1.1) from the **ground** (6.2.1)

3.2.3
embankment
section of **earthworks** (3.2.1), often formed by **cut** (3.2.5) or **fill** (6.4.9), where the formation is above or below original **ground level** (9.2.33) and whose **length** (9.2.18) usually greatly exceeds its **width** (9.2.16)

3.2.4
bund
berm US
low **embankment** (3.2.3)

3.2.5
cut
material (6.1.1) excavated in bulk

NOTE 1 Resulting in a **cut** (3.2.6).

3.2.6
cut
void that results from bulk **excavation** (3.2.2) of **material** (6.1.1)

NOTE 2 The result of a **cut** (3.2.5).

3.2.7
cut and fill
earthwork (7.1.6) technique for lessening or increasing a variation in **ground level** (9.2.33) by using **material** (6.1.1) excavated from higher **ground** (6.2.1) to raise the **level** (9.2.32) of lower ground or the reverse

3.2.8
. . . . .
excavation (3.2.2) in which the **substructure** (5.1.4) is built

3.2.9
made ground
fill US
ground (6.2.1) that has been formed by using **material** (6.1.1) to fill in a depression or to raise the **level** (9.2.32) of a **site** (3.1.6)

3.2.10
bund wall
retaining earthworks US
wall (5.1.7) that forms an enclosure around a storage tank and used to retain the contents in the event of tank failure

3.2.11
dumpling
mound US
large mass of **ground** (6.2.1) intended to be excavated but temporarily left as a support during **construction work** (7.1.1)

3.2.12
trench
long, narrow open **excavation** (3.2.2), usually with vertical sides

3.2.13
shaft
vertical or steeply inclined **excavation** (3.2.2), usually of limited cross-section in relation to its **depth** (9.2.15)

3.2.14
borrow pit
area within which **earthwork** (7.1.6) takes place in order to produce **material(s)** (6.1.1) for **earthworks** (3.2.1)

3.2.15
borehole
hole, usually vertical, bored to determine **ground** (6.2.1) conditions, for extraction of water, other liquids or gases, or **measurement** (7.1.25) of groundwater **level** (9.2.32)

3.2.16
retaining wall
wall (5.1.7) that provides lateral support to **ground** (6.2.1) or that resists pressure from a mass of other **material** (6.1.1)

3.2.17
diaphragm wall
wall (5.1.7) made of **concrete** (6.4.15) constructed in a **trench** (3.2.12) temporarily supported by **bentonite** (3.2.18) suspension

cf. **diaphragm wall** (5.1.67)

3.2.18
bentonite
clay that swells as it absorbs water; formed by the decomposition of volcanic ash

3.2.19
. . . . .
watertight **construction** (5.5.6) consisting of a raft and **walls** (5.1.7) providing a **basement** (4.2.12)

3.2.20
. . . . .
construction (5.5.6) for **road(s)** (3.3.1) or water in **precast concrete** (6.4.21) or steel, of cylindrical, circular or oval shape

3.2.21
water tower
civil engineering works (3.1.2) that comprises a large water tank raised above **ground level** (9.2.33)

3.2.22
silo
structure (3.1.4) for the storage of a large volume of loose **material** (6.1.1)

3.2.23
breakwater
long **structure** (3.1.4) in a body of water designed to protect a harbour or shore from waves

3.2.24
dam
barrier (5.2.9) constructed to retain water in order to raise its **level** (9.2.32), form a **reservoir** (3.2.38), or reduce or prevent flooding

3.2.25
flood bank
embankment (3.2.3) built up to retain or control the **level** (9.2.32) of flood water

3.2.26
cofferdam
structure (3.1.4), usually temporary, built to support the surrounding **ground** (6.2.1) or to exclude water or **soil** (6.2.2) sufficiently to permit work within it to proceed safely without excessive pumping

3.2.27
swale
slightly inclined, often heavily vegetated or paved with gravel, **stone** (6.2.4) or **concrete** (6.4.15) and at times swampy, depression, constructed to contain water and other liquids

3.2.28
irrigation
artificial distribution of water to **land** (10.1), usually for growing crops

3.2.29
weir
structure (3.1.4), over which water may flow, used to control the upstream water **level** (9.2.32) in a **watercourse** (10.8) or other **channel** (5.4.16), and/or to measure the **flow** (9.3.41)

3.2.30
penstock
lock gate US
gate, usually rectangular, that moves vertically between guides

3.2.31
spillway
passage for the discharge of excess water from a **reservoir** (3.2.38) or **channel** (5.4.16)

3.2.32
pipeline
long continuous line of **pipe(s)** (5.4.17), including ancillary equipment, used for transporting liquids or gases

3.2.33
aqueduct
conduit (5.4.14) for conveying water over long distances, and including the supporting **structure** (5.1.2)

3.2.34
water supply adit
tunnel (3.3.18) driven from a **shaft** (3.2.13) to an aquifer to increase available water supply

3.2.35
culvert
transverse **drain** (5.4.38) or waterway **structure** (3.1.4) under a **road** (3.3.1), **railway** (3.3.3) or **canal** (3.3.64), or through an **embankment** (3.2.3), in the form of a large **pipe** (5.4.17) or enclosed **channel** (5.4.16)

3.2.36
headworks
intake and associated works at the upstream end of a **water engineering** (7.1.11) scheme

3.2.37
rising main
water main or pressurized section of **drain** (5.4.38) or **sewer** (5.4.41) through which liquid is pumped to a higher **level** (9.2.32)

3.2.38
reservoir
pond, lake or **basin** (3.3.67), either naturally occurring or man-made, for storage, regulation and control of water, other liquids or gases

3.3 Civil engineering works — Transport

3.3.1
road
way mainly for vehicles

3.3.2
exit
designated point of departure from a **road** (3.3.1)

cf. **exit** (4.4.17)

3.3.3
railway
railroad US
national or regional transport system for guided passage of wheeled vehicles on rails

3.3.4
tramway
streetcar US
local transport system for guided passage of wheeled vehicles on rails

3.3.5
aerial ropeway
cableway US
lift US
local transport system for guided passage of cabins or containers carried on **cables** (6.4.53) on intermediate supports

3.3.6
underground railway
subway US
railway (3.3.3) that operates mainly below **ground level** (9.2.33)

3.3.7
mass transit railway
railway (3.3.3) for the rapid movement of high passenger load densities in urban areas

3.3.8
monorail
railway (3.3.3) that has a single running rail with **beam** (5.1.12) support

3.3.9
track
assembly (5.5.5) of rails, **sleepers** (3.3.10), **fastenings** (5.5.72) and ballast or other forms of support, for passage of vehicles

3.3.10
sleeper
tie US
member providing vertical and lateral support to rails of a **railway** (3.3.3) or **tramway** (3.3.4)

3.3.11
airfield
defined area including any **building(s)** (3.1.3), **installation(s)** (5.4.3) and equipment, for the arrival, departure and movement of aircraft

3.3.12
airport
area containing an **airfield** (3.3.11) and facilities for handling passengers and cargo

3.3.13
noise barrier
structure (3.1.4) provided to deflect and absorb noise

3.3.14
noise bund
noise barrier US
sound barrier US
noise barrier (3.3.13) in the form of an **embankment** (3.2.3)

3.3.15
subgrade
upper part of the **soil** (6.2.2), natural or constructed, that supports the **load(s)** (9.3.19) transmitted by the overlying **structure** (5.1.2) of a **road** (3.3.1)

3.3.16
road formation
grade US
surface of **subgrade** (3.3.15) in its final shape after completion of **earthwork** (7.1.6)

3.3.17
pavement
road (3.3.1), runway or similar **construction** (5.5.6) above the **subgrade** (3.3.15)

3.3.18
tunnel
horizontal or sloping underground enclosed way of some **length** (9.2.18)

3.3.19
bridge
civil engineering works (3.1.2) that affords passage to pedestrians, animals, vehicles and **service(s)** (5.4.1) above obstacles or between two points at a **height** (9.2.20) above **ground** (6.2.1)

3.3.20
arch bridge
bridge (3.3.19) that has one or more **arch(es)** (5.1.8) as its main **structure** (5.1.2)

3.3.21
bow string bridge
bridge (3.3.19) that has an **arch** (5.1.8) and its **tie** (5.1.23) as the main **structure** (5.1.2)

3.3.22
cantilever bridge
bridge (3.3.19), the main **structural member(s)** (5.1.3) of which are **cantilever(s)** (5.1.18)

3.3.23
cable stayed bridge
bridge (3.3.19), the main **structural member(s)** (5.1.3) of which are cantilevered **beam(s)** (5.1.12) in a **deck** (5.1.38), supported by a tower and one or more inclined **cable(s)** (6.4.53) connected to the top of the tower

3.3.24
suspension bridge
bridge (3.3.19), the main **structural members** (5.1.3) of which are catenary **cables** (6.4.53) from which the **deck** (5.1.38) is suspended

3.3.25
floating bridge
bridge (3.3.19) supported by water