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**Straight cylindrical involute splines —  
Metric module, side fit —**

**Part 1:  
Generalities**

*Cannelures cylindriques droites à flancs en développante — Module  
métrique, à centrage sur flancs —  
Partie 1: Généralités*

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 14, *Shafts of machinery and accessories*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 4156-1:2005), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition includes:

- ISO 268-1 has been removed from [Clause 2](#);
- ISO 4156-2 and ISO 4156-3 have been moved from [Clause 2](#) to Bibliography;
- the definitions of base diameter, major diameter, minor diameter, depth of engagement, theoretical clearance, out-of-roundness, and auxiliary dimension have been removed;
- symbols of length and arc length between two points, according to ISO 80000-3, have been adopted and used in calculation examples in [Annex A](#);
- in [Figure 8](#), clearance between external spline and mating part has been corrected;
- in [Figure 10](#), measurement of space width, effective and tooth thickness, effective have been corrected;
- in [Figure 11](#), the figure title has been changed;
- in [Figure 15](#), the indication of form tooth height and minor tooth height has been corrected;
- in [Table 11](#), the tolerance on  $D_{ii}$  for diameter > 80 to 120 in column H 11 has been corrected;
- the previous Tables 14 to 17 have been corrected and moved to [Annex A](#);
- in [A.4](#), the calculation of  $M_{Re\ min}$  has been completed.

A list of all parts in the ISO 4156 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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## Introduction

ISO 4156 (all parts) provides the data and indications necessary for the design, manufacture and inspection of straight (non-helical) side-fitting cylindrical involute splines.

Straight cylindrical involute splines manufactured in accordance with ISO 4156 (all parts) are used for clearance, sliding and interference connections of shafts and hubs. They contain all the necessary characteristics for the assembly, transmission of torque, and economic production.

The nominal pressure angles are  $30^\circ$ ,  $37,5^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$ . For electronic data processing purposes, the form of expression  $37,5^\circ$  has been adopted instead of  $37^\circ30'$ . ISO 4156 (all parts) establishes a specification based on the following modules:

- for pressure angles of  $30^\circ$  and  $37,5^\circ$  the module increments are:  
0,5; 0,75; 1; 1,25; 1,5; 1,75; 2; 2,5; 3; 4; 5; 6; 8; 10;
- for pressure angle of  $45^\circ$  the module increments are:  
0,25; 0,5; 0,75; 1; 1,25; 1,5; 1,75; 2; 2,5.

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# Straight cylindrical involute splines — Metric module, side fit —

## Part 1: Generalities

### 1 Scope

This document provides the data and indications necessary for the design and manufacture of straight (non-helical) side-fitting cylindrical involute splines.

Limiting dimensions, tolerances, manufacturing deviations and their effects on the fit between connecting coaxial spline elements are defined in the formulae and given in the tables. Unless otherwise specified, linear dimensions are expressed in millimetres and angular dimensions in degrees.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1101, *Geometrical product specifications (GPS) — Geometrical tolerancing — Tolerances of form, orientation, location and run-out*

### 3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1 spline joint

connecting, coaxial elements that transmit torque through the simultaneous engagement of equally spaced teeth situated around the periphery of a cylindrical external member with similar spaced mating spaces situated around the inner surface of the related cylindrical internal member

#### 3.2 involute spline

member of *spline joint* (3.1) having teeth or spaces that have involute flank profiles

#### 3.3 internal spline

spline formed on the inner surface of a cylinder

#### 3.4 external spline

spline formed on the outer surface of a cylinder

### 3.5

#### **fillet**

concave surface of the tooth or space connecting the involute flank and the root circle

Note 1 to entry: For generated splines this curved surface, as generated, varies and cannot be properly specified by a radius of any given value. For splines formed directly by a tool (e.g. broached, net formed) the fillet may be specified as a true radius.

### 3.6

#### **fillet root**

spline having a tooth or space profile in which the opposing involute flanks are connected to the root circle ( $D_{ei}$  or  $D_{ie}$  diameter) by a single *fillet* (3.5)

### 3.7

#### **flat root**

spline having a tooth or space profile in which each of the opposing involute flanks are connected to the root circle ( $D_{ei}$  or  $D_{ie}$  diameter) by a *fillet* (3.5)

### 3.8

#### **module**

$m$

ratio of the *circular pitch* (3.12), expressed in millimetres, to the number  $\pi$

### 3.9

#### **pitch circle**

reference circle to which all spline dimensions are related, and the circle on which the specified *pressure angle* (3.13) has its nominal value

### 3.10

#### **pitch diameter**

$D$

diameter of the *pitch circle* (3.9), in millimetres, equal to the number of teeth multiplied by the *module* (3.8)

### 3.11

#### **pitch point**

intersection of the spline tooth profile with the *pitch circle* (3.9)

### 3.12

#### **circular pitch**

$p$

length of arc of the *pitch circle* (3.9) between two consecutive *pitch points* (3.11) of left- (or right-) hand flanks, which has a value of the number  $\pi$  multiplied by the *module* (3.8)

### 3.13

#### **pressure angle**

$\alpha$

acute angle between a radial line passing through any point on a tooth flank and the tangent plane to the flank at that point

### 3.14

#### **standard pressure angle**

$\alpha_D$

*pressure angle* (3.13) at the specified *pitch point* (3.11)

### 3.15

#### **base circle**

circle from which *involute spline* (3.2) tooth profiles are generated



**3.16****base pitch** $p_b$ arc length of the *base circle* (3.15) between two consecutive corresponding flanks**3.17****form diameter** $D_F$ 

diameter used to define the depth of involute profile control

Note 1 to entry: In the case of an *external spline* (3.4) it is located near and above the minor diameter, and on an *internal spline* (3.3) near and below the major diameter.

**3.18****basic circular space width** $E$ for 30°, 37,5° and 45° *pressure angle* (3.13) splines, half the *circular pitch* (3.12), measured at the *pitch diameter* (3.10)**3.19****basic circular tooth thickness** $S$ for 30°, 37,5° and 45° *pressure angle* (3.13) splines, half the *circular pitch* (3.12), measured at the *pitch diameter* (3.10)**3.20****actual space width**practically measured circular space width, on the *pitch circle* (3.9), of any single space width within the limit values  $E_{\max}$  and  $E_{\min}$ **3.21****effective space width, circular** $E_v$ 

space width where an imaginary perfect *external spline* (3.4) would fit without clearance or interference, given by the size of the tooth thickness of this external spline, considering engagement of the entire axial length of the splined assembly

Note 1 to entry: The minimum effective space width ( $E_{v \min}$ , always equal to  $E$ ) of the *internal spline* (3.3) is always basic, as shown in Table 3.

**3.22****actual tooth thickness**practically measured circular tooth thickness, on the *pitch circle* (3.9), of any single tooth within the limit values  $S_{\max}$  and  $S_{\min}$ **3.23****effective tooth thickness, circular** $S_v$ tooth thickness where an imaginary perfect *internal spline* (3.3) would fit without clearance or interference, given by the size of the space width of this internal spline, considering engagement of the entire axial length of the splined assembly**3.24****effective clearance** $c_v$ (looseness or interference) *effective space width, circular* (3.21) of the *internal spline* (3.3) minus the *effective tooth thickness, circular* (3.23) of the *external spline* (3.4)

Note 1 to entry: For looseness,  $c_v$  is positive; for interference,  $c_v$  is negative.

### 3.25 form clearance

$c_F$   
radial clearance between the form diameter of the *internal spline* (3.3) and the major diameter of the *external spline* (3.4), or between the minor diameter of the internal spline and the form diameter of the external spline

Note 1 to entry: It allows eccentricity of their respective *pitch circles* (3.9).

### 3.26 total pitch deviation

$F_p$   
absolute value of the difference between the greatest positive and negative deviations from the theoretical spacing, measured at the *pitch circle* (3.9)

Note 1 to entry: See ISO 1328-1.

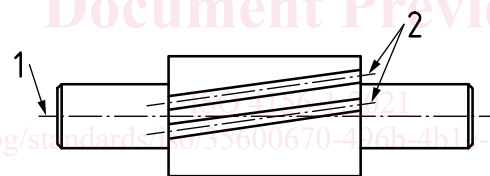
### 3.27 total profile deviation

$F_\alpha$   
absolute value of the difference between the greatest positive and negative deviations from the theoretical tooth profile, measured normal to the flanks

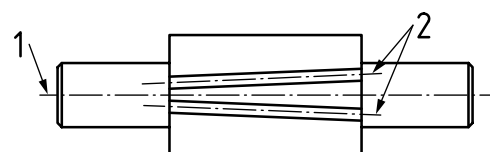
### 3.28 total helix deviation

$F_\beta$   
absolute value of the difference between the two extreme deviations from the theoretical direction parallel to the reference axis

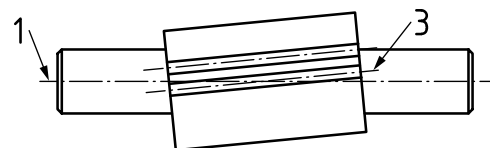
Note 1 to entry: This includes *parallelism deviation* (3.29) and *alignment deviation* (3.30), see Figure 1.



a) Helix deviation



b) Parallelism deviation



c) Alignment deviation

#### Key

- 1 reference axis
- 2 centreline of teeth
- 3 effective spline axis

Figure 1 — Helix deviations

**3.29****parallelism deviation**

deviation of parallelism of a single spline tooth to any other single spline tooth

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 1](#) b).

**3.30****alignment deviation**

deviation of the effective spline axis with respect to the reference axis

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 1](#) c).

**3.31****effective deviation**

accumulated effect of the spline deviations on the fit with the mating part

**3.32****deviation allowance**

$\lambda$

permissible deviation between minimum actual and minimum *effective space width, circular* ([3.21](#)) or maximum effective and maximum *actual tooth thickness* ([3.22](#))

**3.33****machining tolerance**

$T$

permissible deviation between maximum actual and minimum *actual space width* ([3.20](#)) or tooth thickness

**3.34****effective clearance tolerance**

$T_v$

permissible deviation between maximum effective and minimum *effective space width, circular* ([3.21](#)) or tooth thickness

**3.35****total tolerance**

$T + \lambda$

(general) *machining tolerance* ([3.33](#)) plus the *deviation allowance* ([3.32](#))

**3.36****total tolerance**

(internal spline) difference between the minimum *effective space width, circular* ([3.21](#)) and the maximum *actual space width* ([3.20](#))

**3.37****total tolerance**

(external spline) difference between the maximum *effective tooth thickness, circular* ([3.23](#)) and the minimum *actual tooth thickness* ([3.22](#))

**3.38****basic dimension**

numerical value to describe the theoretically exact size, shape or location of a feature

Note 1 to entry: It is the basis from which permissible deviations are established by tolerances.

## 4 Symbols, subscripts and abbreviated terms

### 4.1 General symbols

The general symbols used to designate the various spline terms and dimensions are given below.

$b$	Spline length	mm
$c_F$	Form clearance	mm
$c_v$	Effective clearance (looseness or interference)	$\mu\text{m}$
$c_{v \max}$	Maximum effective clearance	$\mu\text{m}$
$c_{v \min}$	Minimum effective clearance	$\mu\text{m}$
$d_{ce}$	Ball or pin contact diameter, external spline	mm
$d_{ci}$	Ball or pin contact diameter, internal spline	mm
$D$	Pitch diameter	mm
$D_{Fe}$	Form diameter, external spline	mm
$D_{Fe \max}$	Maximum form diameter, external spline	mm
$D_{Fi}$	Form diameter, internal spline	mm
$D_{Fi \min}$	Minimum form diameter, internal spline	mm
$D_{Re}$	Diameter of measuring ball or pin for external spline	mm
$D_{Ri}$	Diameter of measuring ball or pin for internal spline	mm
$D_b$	Base diameter	mm
$D_{ee}$	Major diameter, external spline	mm
$D_{ee \max}$	Maximum major diameter, external spline	mm
$D_{ee \min}$	Minimum major diameter, external spline	mm
$D_{ei}$	Major diameter, internal spline	mm
$D_{ei \max}$	Maximum major diameter, internal spline	mm
$D_{ei \min}$	Minimum major diameter, internal spline	mm
$D_{ie}$	Minor diameter, external spline	mm
$D_{ie \max}$	Maximum minor diameter, external spline	mm
$D_{ie \min}$	Minimum minor diameter, external spline	mm
$D_{ii}$	Minor diameter, internal spline	mm
$D_{ii \max}$	Maximum minor diameter, internal spline	mm
$D_{ii \min}$	Minimum minor diameter, internal spline	mm
$E$	Basic circular space width	mm
$E_{\max}$	Maximum actual space width	mm
$E_{\min}$	Minimum actual space width	mm
$E_v$	Effective space width, circular	mm

$E_{v \max}$	Maximum effective space width	mm
$E_{v \min}$	Minimum effective space width	mm
$es_v$	Fundamental deviation, external	$\mu\text{m}$
$F_p$	Total pitch deviation	$\mu\text{m}$
$F_\alpha$	Total profile deviation	$\mu\text{m}$
$F_\beta$	Total helix deviation	$\mu\text{m}$
$h_s$	Form tooth height	mm
$i$	Tolerance unit	$\mu\text{m}$
$\text{inv } \alpha$	Involute $\alpha$ ( $= \tan \alpha - \pi \cdot \alpha / 180^\circ$ )	—
$K_e$	Approximation factor for external spline	—
$K_i$	Approximation factor for internal spline	—
$k$	Number of measured teeth	—
$L$	Length of the arc	mm
$l_{BA}$	Length between two points (e.g. point B and point A)	mm
$M_{Re}$	Measurement over two balls or pins, external splines	mm
$M_{Ri}$	Measurement between two balls or pins, internal	mm
$m$	Module	mm
$p$	Circular pitch	mm
$p_b$	Base pitch	mm
$S$	Basic circular tooth thickness	mm
$S_{\max}$	Maximum actual tooth thickness	mm
$S_{\min}$	Minimum actual tooth thickness	mm
$S_v$	Effective tooth thickness, circular	mm
$S_{v \max}$	Maximum effective tooth thickness	mm
$S_{v \min}$	Minimum effective tooth thickness	mm
$s_{DE}$	Arc length between two points (e.g. point D and point E)	mm
$T$	Machining tolerance	$\mu\text{m}$
$T_v$	Effective clearance tolerance	$\mu\text{m}$
$W$	Measurement over $k$ teeth, external spline	mm
$z$	Number of teeth (for external and internal splines, $z$ has a positive sign)	—
$\alpha$	Pressure angle	$^\circ$

$\alpha_{ce}$	Pressure angle at ball or pin diameter, external spline	°
$\alpha_{ci}$	Pressure angle at ball or pin diameter, internal spline	°
$\alpha_D$	Standard pressure angle at pitch diameter	°
$\alpha_e$	Pressure angle at ball or pin centre, external spline	°
$\alpha_{Fe}$	Pressure angle at form diameter, external spline	°
$\alpha_{Fi}$	Pressure angle at form diameter, internal spline	°
$\alpha_i$	Pressure angle at ball or pin centre, internal spline	°
$\lambda$	Deviation allowance	µm
$\rho_{Fe}$	Fillet radius of the basic rack, external spline	mm
$\rho_{Fi}$	Fillet radius of the basic rack, internal spline	mm
$\varphi_f$	Tolerance factor	—
k; js; h; f; e; d	Fundamental deviation of the external spline	µm

## 4.2 Subscripts

The following subscripts are used as part of the above general symbols to designate relative conditions or locations:

b	at the base
c	at contact point
D	standard
d	tolerance based on pitch diameter ( $D$ )
E	tolerance based on basic circular space width ( $E$ ) or basic circular tooth thickness ( $S$ )
e	major or external (in the last case in the last position)
F	pertaining to form diameter
f	factor
i	minor or internal (in the last case in the last position)
R	pertaining to gauge
v	effective

NOTE In electronic data processing (EDP), it is not always possible to present symbols in their theoretically correct form because of limitations of connected printing equipment. For this reason, some alternative symbols for EDP usage are given in [Table 1](#) (for example, the symbol for  $D_b$  for base diameter can be printed as DB).

## 4.3 Formulae for dimensions and tolerances for all fit classes

The formulae for dimensions and tolerances for all fit classes are given in [Table 1](#).