



**International
Standard**

ISO 4378-2

**Plain bearings — Terms, definitions,
classification and symbols —**

**Part 2:
Friction and wear**

Paliers lisses — Termes, définitions, classification et symboles —

Partie 2: Frottement et usure

**Fourth edition
2024-11**

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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 document 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).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 123, *Plain bearings*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Terms and common items*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 4378-2:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- editorial revision of the document: instead of referencing the parts in the figure by subclause number, the part numbers have been used and the names in the key have been shown;
- addition of Bibliography and an alphabetical index.

A list of all parts in the ISO 4378 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.

Introduction

As there is a large number of multiple designations in the domain of plain bearings, there is a considerable risk of error in the interpretation of standards and technical literature.

This document is an attempt to establish a uniform basic system of designations of friction and wear.

In addition, this document is specifically intended for the field of plain bearings the content can be adopted in general to the field of tribology and being adopted to other machinery elements.

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Plain bearings — Terms, definitions, classification and symbols —

Part 2: Friction and wear

1 Scope

This document specifies the most commonly used terms relating to friction and wear of plain bearings with their definitions and classification.

For some terms and word combinations, their short forms are given, which can be used where they are unambiguous.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

3.1 General terms

3.1.1 external friction

force and its phenomenon of resistance to the relative motion between two bodies, originating at the contact area of their surfaces and directed tangentially to them

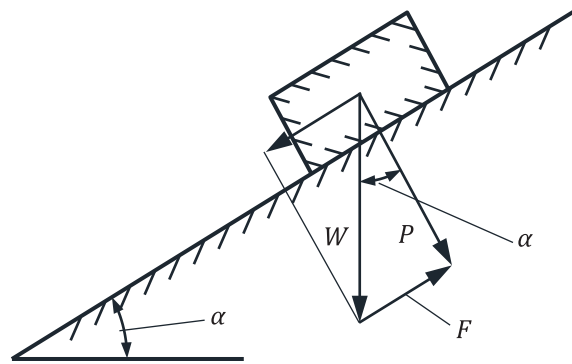
3.1.2 internal friction

force and its phenomenon of resistance to the relative motion of particles or mass of a body with respect to other particles or mass in the same body

3.1.3 friction

force and its phenomenon of resistance to the relative motion working tangentially with respect to the common boundary between two bodies when, under the action of an external force, one body moves or is at rest relative to the surface of the other

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



Key

- F friction force (3.1.4)
- P normal force
- W weight of material
- α friction angle (3.1.6)

Figure 1 — Friction

3.1.4

friction force

force that resists relative motion between two bodies

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

3.1.5

coefficient of friction

ratio of the *friction force* (3.1.4) between two bodies to the normal force pressing these bodies together

3.1.6

friction angle

angle, the tangent of which is equal to the ratio of the *friction force* (3.1.4) to the normal force, or *coefficient of friction* (3.1.5)

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

3.1.7

wear

phenomenon of a loss of substance from a solid body surface in frictional conditions

3.1.8

wear process

process of a loss of substance from a solid body surface in frictional conditions, which appears as a gradual decrease of body dimensions and/or change of shape

Note 1 to entry: Rarely, in a broader sense, is there a process of permanent increase of body dimensions on the surface without loss of substance.

3.1.9

wear rate

amount of *wear* (3.1.7) per unit sliding distance or per interval of time

Note 1 to entry: A distinction is made between “momentary” (at a definite moment) and “mean” wear rate (during a definite interval of time).

3.1.10

specific wear rate

wear intensity

value of amount of wear (3.1.7) divided by the product of sliding distance (or time) and load; that is, the ratio of wear rate (3.1.9) to the load

Note 1 to entry: Wear can be expressed in the units of length, volume, mass, etc.

Note 2 to entry: Wear intensity is distinguished as “momentary” or as “mean” wear intensity.

3.1.11

mild wear

normal wear

type of adhesive wear (3.3.1.3) characterizing in generation of smooth surface with a little surface damage and minute wear (3.1.7) particles of several microns of less

3.1.12

severe wear

excessive wear

type of adhesive wear (3.3.1.3) characterizing that produces significant transfer and large-sized wear (3.1.7) debris accompanied by intense adhesion (3.4.2) between friction (3.1.3) surfaces

3.2 Terms related to types and characteristics of external friction and classification

3.2.1 Classification according to the presence of relative motion

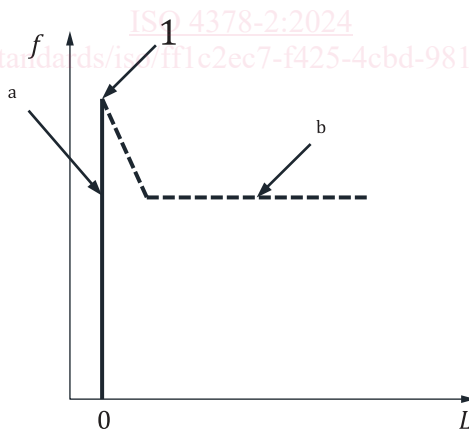
3.2.1.1

static friction

friction (3.1.3) and its phenomena that occur between two contacting bodies before the start of relative motion under increasing external force

Note 1 to entry: See Figure 2.

Note 2 to entry: Friction that occurs at an extremely low sliding speed is also referred to as static friction.



Key

- 1 position of the curve corresponding to maximum static friction (3.2.1.2)
- f* friction (3.1.3)
- L* sliding distance
- a The solid line represents static friction.
- b The dotted line represents dynamic friction (3.2.1.3).

Figure 2 — Friction according to relative motion

3.2.1.2

maximum static friction

friction (3.1.3) and its phenomena that occur between two contacting bodies just before the start of relative motion under gradually increasing external force

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 2](#).

3.2.1.3

dynamic friction

friction (3.1.3) and its phenomena between two bodies in relative motion

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 2](#).

3.2.2 Classification according to the mode of relative motion

3.2.2.1

sliding motion

relative motion between two bodies in contact when the contact areas of both bodies move with different magnitudes and/or directions of tangential velocity

3.2.2.2

sliding friction

force and its phenomena of resistance to the *sliding motion* (3.2.2.1) between two bodies

Note 1 to entry: See [3.1.3](#).

3.2.2.3

sliding velocity

difference between tangential velocities of two bodies in contact, at their contact point, during sliding

3.2.2.4

sliding surface

body surface subjected to *sliding motion* (3.2.2.1)

3.2.2.5

rolling motion

relative motion between two bodies in contact when the contact areas of both bodies move with the same magnitude and direction of tangential velocity

3.2.2.6

rolling velocity

tangential velocity at the common contact point between bodies that are rolling relative to each other

3.2.2.7

rolling friction

force and its phenomena of resistance to the *rolling motion* (3.2.2.5) between two bodies

3.2.2.8

combined rolling and sliding friction

dynamic friction (3.2.1.3) that occurs between two contacting bodies when *rolling motion* (3.2.2.5) and *sliding motion* (3.2.2.1) take place simultaneously within the contact area

3.2.2.9

traction

force and its phenomena that occur during the *rolling motion* (3.2.2.5) of a body on another body, accompanied by sliding at the contact area in the tangential direction, and which are utilized for power transmission

3.2.2.10

traction force

force that occurs during the *rolling motion* (3.2.2.5) of a body on another body, accompanied by sliding at the contact area in the tangential direction