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Buildings and civil engineering works — Vocabulary —

Part 1: General terms

Bâtiments et ouvrages de génie civil — Vocabulaire —

Partie 1: Termes généraux

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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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 59, *Buildings and civil engineering works*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Terminology and harmonization of languages*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 6707-1:2004), which has been technically revised.

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

— *Part 1: General terms*

— *Part 2: Contract terms*

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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.

This International Standard 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.

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Buildings and civil engineering works — Vocabulary —

Part 1: General terms

1 Scope

This part of ISO 6707 contains the terms and definitions of general concepts to establish a vocabulary applicable to buildings and civil engineering works.

It comprises

a) fundamental concepts, which can 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.

Where a given preferred term designates more than one concept, each concept has been treated in a separate entry and a note to entry included to acknowledge the homonymy created and a reference included to the other term entry.

Where a preferred or admitted term is specific to a particular English-speaking country, e.g. the United States of America, etc., this has been given in boldface type following the international preferred term and annotated by the respective country code. Where no preferred terms are listed indicating usage in a specific geographical location, this signifies that the international preferred term is the accepted term in the English-speaking countries. A term following the preferred term not given in boldface type is an admitted (non-preferred) synonym. Country codes are also assigned to these terms.

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.

3 Types of buildings and civil engineering works

3.1 Base terms

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

Note 1 to entry: In the US, there are homographs for the term “construction”. See 5.5.6 and 7.1.1.

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3.1.2
civil engineering works
US: **civil engineering project**
construction works (3.1.1) comprising a *structure* (3.1.4), such as a *dam* (3.2.22), *bridge* (3.3.19), *road* (3.3.1), *railway* (3.3.3), runway, utilities, *pipeline* (3.2.30), 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 1 to entry: 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

Note 1 to entry: In English, there is a homograph for the term "building". See 7.1.4.

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

Note 1 to entry: In English, there is a homograph for the term "structure". See 5.1.2.

3.1.5
external works
US: **sitework**
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* (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 *finished ground level* (9.2.34) 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
US: **berm**
low *embankment* (3.2.3)

3.2.5
cut
material (6.1.1) excavated in bulk

Note 1 to entry: In English, there is a homograph for the term "cut". See 3.2.6.

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

Note 1 to entry: In English, there is a homograph for the term "cut". See 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
adit
nearly level tunnel (3.3.18) driven to underground workings

3.2.9
made ground
US: **fill**
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)

Note 1 to entry: In the US, there is a homograph for the term "fill". See 6.4.9.

3.2.10
bund wall
US: **retaining earthworks**
wall (5.2.46) that forms an enclosure around a storage tank and is used to retain the contents in the event of tank failure

3.2.11
dumpling
US: **mound**
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
horizontal or slightly inclined 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* (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 (5.2.46) that provides lateral support to the *ground* (6.2.1) or that resists pressure from a mass of other *material* (6.1.1)

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3.2.17
diaphragm wall
wall (5.2.46) made of *concrete* (6.4.15) constructed in a *trench* (3.2.12) temporarily supported by *bentonite* (3.2.18) suspension

Note 1 to entry: In English, there is a homograph for the term "diaphragm wall". See 5.1.63.

Note 2 to entry: In the US, there are homographs for the term "diaphragm wall". See 5.1.61 and 5.1.63.

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

3.2.19
water tower
civil engineering works (3.1.2) that comprises a large water tank raised above *ground level* (9.2.33)

3.2.20
silo
structure (3.1.4) for the storage of a large volume of loose material

3.2.21
breakwater
long *structure* (3.1.4) in a body of water designed to protect a *basin* (3.3.64) or the shore from waves

3.2.22
dam
barrier (5.2.9) constructed to retain water in order to raise its *level* (9.2.32), form a *reservoir* (3.2.36), or reduce or prevent flooding

3.2.23
flood bank
embankment (3.2.3) built up to retain or control the *level* (9.2.32) of flood water

3.2.24
cofferdam
structure (3.1.4), usually temporary, that is 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

3.2.25
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

Note 1 to entry: In the US, there is a homograph for the term "swale". See 10.8.

3.2.26
irrigation
artificial distribution of water to *land* (10.1), usually for growing crops

3.2.27
weir
structure (3.1.4) over which water can 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)

3.2.28
penstock
US: **lock gate**
gate, usually rectangular, that moves vertically between guides

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