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English Version

**Nanotechnologies - Plain language explanation of selected  
terms from the ISO/IEC 80004 series (ISO/TR  
18401:2017)**

Nanotechnologies - Explication en langage simple des  
termes choisis de la série de normes ISO/IEC 80004  
(ISO/TR 18401:2017)

Nanotechnologien - Erläuterung ausgewählter Begriffe  
der Normenreihe ISO/IEC 80004 in einfacher Sprache  
(ISO/TR 18401:2017)

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## European foreword

The text of ISO/TR 18401:2017 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 229 "Nanotechnologies" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as CEN ISO/TR 18401:2020 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 352 "Nanotechnologies" the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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## Endorsement notice

The text of ISO/TR 18401:2017 has been approved by CEN as CEN ISO/TR 18401:2020 without any modification.

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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)).

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

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

## Introduction

The increasing use of nanomaterials in industry and society means that their utility, risks and benefits throughout their life-cycle are important topics for discussion.

This document offers explanations (including examples) of selected nanotechnology terms and is intended to facilitate an understanding of the use and applications of nanotechnology. Its target audience is those who need to make decisions about the use of nanotechnology. The specific aim is to:

- a) promote consistent usage and reduce misinterpretation of terms among users; and
- b) facilitate communication and understanding in developing or commercializing applications of nanotechnologies.

This document contains selected key terms and provides definitions and explanations to aid understanding and illustrate, where applicable, the relationship between one term and another, using practical examples where possible.

For ease of reference the ISO definitions are repeated throughout the document as appropriate.

Explanations and examples are chosen to underpin the selected terms published in the ISO/IEC 80004 vocabulary series.

Where new understanding develops, then the tools used to communicate such knowledge will benefit from the constant review and revision of key terms as necessary. New terms can find common usage which are not yet in the ISO/IEC 80004 vocabulary series. Such terms can be synonymous with terms and definitions already found in existing ISO documents.

# Nanotechnologies — Plain language explanation of selected terms from the ISO/IEC 80004 series

## 1 Scope

This document is intended to assist stakeholders who are making decisions about the direction, management and application of nanotechnologies to better understand selected key terms and definitions in the ISO/IEC 80004 vocabulary series for nanotechnologies.

## 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/TS 80004-1, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 1: Core terms*

ISO/TS 80004-2, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 2: Nano-objects*

ISO/TS 80004-4, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 4: Nanostructured materials*

ISO/TS 80004-11, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 11: Nanolayer, nanocoating, nanofilm, and related terms*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/TS 80004-1, ISO/TS 80004-2, ISO/TS 80004-4 and ISO/TS 80004-11 and the following apply.

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

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

### 3.1

#### **nanoscale**

length range approximately from 1 nm to 100 nm

Note 1 to entry: Properties that are not extrapolations from larger sizes are predominantly exhibited in this length range.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 80004-1:2015, 2.1]

### 3.2

#### **nanoscale phenomenon**

effect attributable to the presence of nano-objects or nanoscale regions

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 80004-1:2015, 2.13]