
Hydrometry — Vocabulary and symbols

Hydrométrie — Vocabulaire et symboles



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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).

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).

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 113, *Hydrometry*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 318, *Hydrometry*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition (ISO 772:2011) which has been technically revised. The main changes compared with the previous edition are as follows:

- terms related to precipitation have been added in a new [Clause 9](#);
- additional terms have been added in [Clause 10](#);
- [Figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11](#) and [12](#) have been modified and updated.

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

In the preparation of this document, the following principles were adopted wherever possible:

- a) to standardize suitable terms and symbols without perpetuating unsuitable ones;
- b) to discard any term or symbol with differing meanings in different countries, or for different people, or for the same person at different times, and to replace that term or symbol by one which has an unequivocal meaning;
- c) to exclude terms which are self-evident.

Terms in existing International Standards have been included as much as possible; however, these terms can be subject to future amendments.

NOTE Similar or identical terms can have separate definitions under the different categories.

It is recognized that it is not possible to produce a complete set of definitions which will be universally acceptable, but it is hoped that the definitions provided and the symbols used will find widespread acceptance and that their use will lead to a better understanding of hydrometric practices.

The terminology entries are presented in systematic order, grouped into sections according to particular methods of determination or in relation to particular subjects. [Annex A](#) lists the symbols used in this document.

The structure of each entry is in accordance with the ISO 10241 series. Country codes are in accordance with ISO 3166-1.

Hydrometry — Vocabulary and symbols

1 Scope

This document defines terms and symbols used in standards in the field of hydrometry.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

hydrometry

science and practice of measuring the components of the *hydrological cycle* (3.92), including *rainfall* (9.10), *water level* (3.64), flow and *sediment transport* (8.2) of surface waters, and *groundwater* (11.1) characteristics

3.2

hydrology

science that deals with the waters above and below the land surfaces of the Earth, their occurrence, circulation and distribution, their properties and their reaction with the environment

3.3

flow

water flowing on or below the land surface under gravitational influence

3.4

runoff

volume of water flowing through a given channel cross-section related to a given *drainage basin* (3.103) in a defined period of time

3.5

discharge

Q

volume of water flowing through a given channel cross-section in unit time

3.6

current

directed movement of water

3.7

steady flow

flow (3.3) in which parameters [such as *velocity* (3.113), pressure, density and temperature] are constant with respect to time