
**Additive manufacturing — General
principles — Part positioning,
coordinates and orientation**

*Fabrication additive — Principes généraux — Positionnement,
coordonnées et orientation de la pièce*



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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 ISO/TC 261, *Additive manufacturing*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 438, *Additive manufacturing*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

The first edition of ISO 17295 cancels and replaces ISO/ASTM 52921:2013, which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- terms and definitions that are included in ISO/ASTM 52900 have been removed from this document and instead referred to ISO/ASTM 52900;
- since the list of terms and definitions have been removed from this edition, it is therefore not a standard terminology anymore, and therefore it has been renamed so that the title describes the actual content of the standard;
- the remaining normative content of the document including the annex have been consolidated into one single normative document;
- specifications of some aspects of initial build orientation and orthogonal orientation notation have been integrated in the text body of the document.

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

Although many additive manufacturing systems are based heavily upon the principles of computer numerical control (CNC), the coordinate systems and nomenclature specific to CNC are not sufficient to be applicable across the full spectrum of additive manufacturing equipment. This document expands upon the principles of ISO 841 and applies them specifically to additive manufacturing.

Additive manufacturing — General principles — Part positioning, coordinates and orientation

1 Scope

This document provides specifications and illustrations for the positioning and orientation of parts with regards with coordinate systems and testing methodologies for additive manufacturing (AM) technologies in an effort to standardize the method of representation used by AM users, producers, researchers, educators, press/media, and others, particularly when reporting results from testing of parts made on AM systems. Included specifications cover coordinate systems and the location and orientation of parts. It is intended to be in accordance with the principles of ISO 841 and to clarify the specific adaptation of those principles for additive manufacturing.

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 841, *Industrial automation systems and integration — Numerical control of machines — Coordinate system and motion nomenclature*

ISO/ASTM 52900, *Additive manufacturing — General principles — Fundamentals and vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/ASTM 52900 and ISO 841 apply.

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/>

4 Machine coordinate systems for additive manufacturing machines with different build directions

4.1 General

The location and orientation of a part within the build volume shall be specified using coordinates in a three-dimensional machine coordinate system. Examples of different machine coordinate systems for different types of additive manufacturing machines are illustrated in [Figures 1, 2 and 3](#).

4.2 Machine coordinate system for additive manufacturing machines with upwards Z-positive build direction

A three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system located at the build origin for a generic additive manufacturing process using upwards Z-positive building direction, is illustrated as seen from the front of the machine in [Figure 1](#). This is the most common type of machine coordinate system and is used for processes within all defined additive manufacturing process categories, though other types of coordinate systems can be used for specific process solutions within some process categories.