
**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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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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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 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*

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.

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](#).