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**Robots and robotic devices —  
Coordinate systems and motion  
nomenclatures**

*Robots et composants robotiques — Systèmes de coordonnées et  
nomenclatures de mouvements*



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Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Web [www.iso.org](http://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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 9787 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 184, *Automation systems and integration*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Robots and robotic devices*.

This third edition of ISO 9787 cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 9787:1999), which has been technically revised. In particular, the scope has been expanded to include robots operating in both industrial and non-industrial environments.

## Introduction

This International Standard is one of a series of International Standards dealing with robots and robotic devices, which cover topics including vocabulary, safety, presentation of characteristics, performance criteria and related test methods, and mechanical interfaces. The series of International Standards dealing with robots and robotic devices are interrelated and are related to other International Standards.

[Annex A](#) provides examples of applications for different mechanical structures.



# Robots and robotic devices — Coordinate systems and motion nomenclatures

## 1 Scope

This International Standard defines and specifies robot coordinate systems. It also provides nomenclature, including notations, for the basic robot motions. It is intended to aid in robot alignment, testing, and programming.

This International Standard applies to all robots and robotic devices as defined in ISO 8373.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 8373:2012, *Robots and robotic devices — Vocabulary*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 8373 and the following apply.

### 3.1

#### **configuration**

set of all joint values that completely determines the shape of the robot at any time

[SOURCE: ISO 8373:2012, 3.5]

### 3.2

#### **base mounting surface**

connection surface between the arm and its supporting structure

[SOURCE: ISO 8373:2012, 3.9]

### 3.3

#### **mobile platform**

assembly of all components of the mobile robot which enables locomotion

[SOURCE: ISO 8373:2012, 3.18, modified — Notes 1 and 2 have been removed.]

### 3.4

#### **world coordinate system**

stationary coordinate system referenced to earth, which is independent of the robot motion

[SOURCE: ISO 8373:2012, 4.7.1]

### 3.5

#### **base coordinate system**

coordinate system referenced to the base mounting surface

[SOURCE: ISO 8373:2012, 4.7.2]