

British Standard Glossary of

## Building and civil engineering terms

Part 1. General and miscellaneous

Section 1.7 Characteristics and performance

Subsection 1.7.2 Characteristics

Glossaire de la construction et des travaux publics

Partie 1. Généralités et divers

Section 1.7 Caractéristiques et fonctionnement

Sous-section 1.7.2 Caractéristiques

Begriffe für den Hoch- und Tiefbau

Teil 1. Allgemeines

Abschnitt 1.7 Merkmale und Gebrauchseigenschaften

Unterabschnitt 1.7.2 Merkmale

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### Foreword

This Subsection of Part 1 of BS 6100 has been prepared under the direction of the Basic Data and Performance Criteria for Civil Engineering and Building Structures Standards Policy Committee.

This Subsection of BS 6100 is not intended to be comprehensive. It defines some of the characteristics of materials and products most commonly referred to in the construction industry. A number of 'measures' of characteristics are included because in these cases the measure is a more familiar concept than the related characteristic. For instance, 'sound reduction index' as a measure of the reduction of sound passing through a material is more a familiar concept than the characteristic

of a material that reduces the sound passing through it.

Definitions of characteristics take the form of 'characteristic of . . . ' or 'ability to . . . ' whereas definitions of measures take the form of 'measure of . . . ' 'ratio of . . . ' or 'quantity of . . . '. The choice of wording has been influenced by definitions previously agreed in British Standard glossaries. Where those definitions are in a different style from that adopted for the definitions in BS 6100, they have sometimes been reworded in this Subsection, but remain technically equivalent.

A general introduction to and explanation of this glossary is given in Part 0 of BS 6100 which itemizes the Parts, Sections and Subsections into which this glossary is divided

and provides a general alphabetical index of all the terms in the Sections and Subsections already published. Those using individual Sections and Subsections of this glossary are urged to consult Part 0 when doing so.

The other Sections of this Part are as follows.

- 1.0 General
- 1.1 Types of building
- 1.2 Spaces
- 1.3 Parts of construction works
- 1.4 Materials
- 1.5 Operation; associated plant and equipment
- 1.6 Persons
- 1.8 Environmental and physical planning

The other Subsection of this Section is as follows.

#### 1.7.1 Performance

Terms are listed alphabetically in the index and are referred to by numbers which are found against the terms in the body of the Subsection. They are arranged in a classified order, each term having an individual number consisting of seven digits in two parts, the first of three digits, the second of four. The first three digits represent the number of the Part, Section and Subsection. The fourth digit represents the group of terms, the fifth digit represents the subgroup of terms (in cases where there is no division into subgroups the fifth digit is 0) and the last two digits represent the place within the subgroup.

Alternative terms are given in medium type below the preferred terms with their status indicated, e.g. 'deprecated'. These terms are not individually numbered,

but are included in the index with a reference to the preferred term. Terms of more than one word, e.g. 'abrasion resistance' are written in a direct style, not as 'resistance, abrasion'. The inverted term is included in the index with a reference to the direct term.

It has been considered necessary to repeat in this Subsection certain terms from Section 1.0 'General'. Where this occurs, the definitions of such terms are preceded by an asterisk (\*). A number of other terms and definitions have been repeated from other Sections and Subsections as follows:

in group 1 Base terms, from Subsection 1.7.1 'Performance';

in subgroup 31 Structural and mechanical, from Section 2.1 'Structural design and elements';

in subgroup 36 Optical, from Section 3.4 'Lighting';

in subgroups 38 Electrical and 39 Energy, from Section 3.1 'Energy sources and distribution'.

However this Subsection does not include definitions of characteristics of three dimensional space, for which reference should be made to Subsection 1.5.1 'Coordination of dimensions; tolerances and accuracy'.

For the measurement units associated with the characteristics defined in this Subsection refer to BS 5775 'Specification for quantities, units and symbols'.

Italicized words in definitions indicate that they are defined elsewhere in this Subsection.

**Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.**

Amendment No. 1  
published and effective from 15 August 1992  
to BS 6100 : Subsection 1.7.2 : 1989

Glossary of building and civil engineering terms  
Part 1. General and miscellaneous  
Section 1.7 Characteristics and performance  
Subsection 1.7.2 Characteristics

## Revised text

AMD 7248  
August 1992

### Group 172 1 Base terms

For term 172 1001, delete the existing text and substitute the following.

|           |                |                                                                         |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| '172 1001 | characteristic | Property that distinguishes the totality of items under consideration.' |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|

AMD 7248  
August 1992

### Group 172 2 Descriptive characteristics

For term 172 2003, delete the existing text and substitute the following.

|           |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| '172 2003 | density | <i>Mass</i> per unit volume, usually expressed in kilograms per cubic metre.<br>NOTE. Since changes in <i>moisture content</i> of hygroscopic materials affect their <i>mass</i> and volume, it is necessary (for those materials) to know the <i>moisture content</i> of the material at the time the density is determined.' |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

After term 172 2009, insert the following new text.

|           |          |                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| '172 2010 | handed   | <i>Characteristic</i> of a non-symmetrical component, element or building that has left- and right-hand versions.                 |
| 172 2011  | fall     | Difference in level between a higher and a lower point of a slope.                                                                |
| 172 2012  | gradient | Ratio of difference in level between two points to the horizontal distance between them.                                          |
| 172 2013  | slope    | Inclination of a plane surface to the horizontal, expressed as one vertical linear unit to the number of horizontal linear units. |
| 172 2014  | gauge    | Measure of thickness of metal sheets, strips, wire, etc.                                                                          |
| 172 2015  | cover    | Vertical distance between the top of a buried pipe or other construction and the surface of the ground.'                          |

AMD 7248  
August 1992

### Group 172 32 Fire

Delete the entire group, i.e. terms 172 3201 to 172 3207, and against each number insert 'deleted'.



AMD 7248  
August 1992

#### Group 172 33 Fluids

For term 172 3304, delete the existing text and substitute the following.

'172 3304      **porosity**      *Characteristic of a material of having pores or other voids, measured as the ratio of voids to the volume.'*

After term 172 3329, insert the following new text.

'172 3330      **acidity**      Capacity of aqueous media to react with hydroxyl ions.

172 3331      **alkalinity**      Capacity of aqueous media to react with hydrogen ions.'

AMD 7248  
August 1992

#### Group 172 34 Solids

For term 172 3407, delete the existing text and substitute the following.

'172 3407      **roughness**      *Characteristic of a substance or surface that has a **texture** formed by projections or irregularities.'*

After term 172 3413, insert the following new text.

'172 3414      **suction**      Ability of a material to absorb moisture from a material or liquid source in contact.

172 3415      **bulking factor**      Ratio of excavated material to its volume before excavation.'

AMD 7248  
August 1992

#### Group 172 36 Optical

For term 172 3602, delete the existing text and substitute the following.

'172 3602      **luminous intensity**      Ratio of *luminous flux* leaving a source and propagated in an element of solid angle containing the given direction to the element of solid angle.'

For term 172 3602 luminance, delete the term number and substitute '172 3603'.

After term 172 3616, insert the following new text.

'172 3617      **specular reflection**      Reflection without diffusion in accordance with the laws of optical reflection as in a mirror.'

AMD 7248  
August 1992

#### Group 172 4 Compatibility and durability

After term 172 4011, insert the following new text.

'172 4012      **weathering**      Change in *colour* or *texture* or *composition* at the surface as a result of action by the weather.'



AMD 7248  
August 1992

## Group 172 5 Working characteristics

For term 172 5001, delete the existing text and substitute the following.

'172 5001      **setting time**      Period of time required for a liquid to change to a solid state.'

AMD 7248  
August 1992

## Index

Insert the following new entries in the correct alphabetical order.

acidity 172 3330  
alkalinity 172 3331  
bulking factor 172 3415  
cover 172 2015  
factor, bulking 172 3415  
fall 172 2011  
gauge 172 2014  
gradient 172 2012  
handed 172 2010  
reflection, specular 172 3617  
slope 172 2013  
specular reflection 172 3617  
suction 172 3414  
weathering 172 4012

Delete the following entries.

combustibility 172 3202  
fire resistance 172 3201  
flameproof 172 3205  
flammability 172 3204  
flash point 172 3207  
generation, smoke 172 3206  
ignitability 172 3203  
point, flash 172 3207  
resistance, fire 172 3201  
smoke generation 172 3206