



BSI Standards Publication

Ships and marine technology — Submersibles — Vocabulary

National foreword

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CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 8, *Ships and marine technology*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Marine technology*.

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Introduction

Many countries have the technology and ability to design, construct and operate submersibles, together with the industrial capability and resources to support safe and effective submersible operations. To enable greater international understanding and collaboration between participating regions, operators and manufacturers, it is advantageous to use a common set of terms and concept definitions. This will result in several benefits including facilitating comparison of products, contributing to innovation, reducing misunderstanding, improving efficiency and enabling international trade. In essence, standardized terminology is fundamental to a series of standardization activities of submersibles.

Ships and marine technology — Submersibles — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This document provides basic terminology and concepts related to submersibles. It covers 11 aspects of terminology related to submersibles: types, performance, structural system, mechanical system, electrical system, acoustic system, control system, surface system, work pattern, test and maintenance and personnel.

It is not applicable to particular conditions, such as the classification and construction of submersibles.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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/>

3.1 Types

3.1.1

submersible

type of powered vessel that can travel and manoeuvre underwater

3.1.2

manned submersible

submersible (3.1.1) that encloses one or more persons within its *pressure hull* (3.3.2), fitted with one or more available surface accesses, or underwater pressurized or non-pressurized accesses

3.1.3

tethered submersible

submersible (3.1.1) with an *umbilical* (3.8.1) or *tether* (3.8.2) attached to the surface, *support ship* (3.8.4) or underwater structure

3.1.4

untethered submersible

submersible (3.1.1) without an *umbilical* (3.8.1) or *tether* (3.8.2)

3.1.5

transport submersible

manned submersible (3.1.2), designed for the movement of cargo, equipment or *passengers* (3.11.3) in addition to *crew* (3.11.2) underwater, for recreation, scientific expedition, rescue or other purposes

3.1.6

passenger submersible

passenger-carrying mobile vessel, which primarily operates under water and relies on surface support

[SOURCE: IMO MSC/Circ. 981, 1.2.12]