



**ISO 18497-3**

**Agricultural machinery and tractors — Safety of partially automated, semi-autonomous and autonomous machinery —**

**Part 3:  
Autonomous operating zones**

*Tracteurs et matériels agricoles — Sécurité des machines partiellement automatisées, semi-autonomes et autonomes —  
Partie 3: Zones de fonctionnement autonome*

**First edition  
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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Foreword</b> .....  | <b>iv</b> |
| <b>Introduction</b> .....  | <b>v</b>  |
| <b>1 Scope</b> .....   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>2 Normative references</b> .....  | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>4 Safety requirements and protective or risk reduction measures</b> ..... | <b>3</b>  |
| 4.1 General.....   | 3         |
| 4.2 Design principles.....   | 3         |
| 4.2.1 General.....   | 3         |
| 4.2.2 Boundary detection.....  | 4         |
| 4.2.3 Operational limits.....  | 6         |
| 4.2.4 Monitoring.....  | 6         |
| 4.2.5 Faults and failures.....   | 6         |
| 4.3 Labelling and identification.....  | 7         |
| 4.4 Information for use.....   | 7         |
| <b>Bibliography</b> .....  | <b>9</b>  |

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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 document 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 23, *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry*, Subcommittee SC 19, *Agricultural electronics*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 144, *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This first edition of ISO 18497-3, together with ISO 18497-1, ISO 18497-2 and ISO 18497-4, cancels and replaces ISO 18497:2018, which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- autonomous operating zones were defined and were made its own part (i.e. ISO 18497-3), accounting for the wide range of functionality and use cases within agricultural machines and tractors.

A list of all parts in the ISO 18497 series can be found on the ISO website.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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This document is a type-B1 standard as stated in ISO 12100:2010.

This document is of relevance, in particular, for the following stakeholder groups representing the market players with regard to machinery safety:

- machine manufacturers (small, medium and large enterprises);
- health and safety bodies (regulators, accident prevention organisations, market surveillance, etc.).

Others can be affected by the level of machinery safety achieved with the means of the document by the above-mentioned stakeholder groups:

- machine users/employers (small, medium and large enterprises);
- machine users/employees (e.g. trade unions, organizations for people with special needs);
- service providers, e.g. for maintenance (small, medium and large enterprises);
- consumers (in case of machinery intended for use by consumers).

The above-mentioned stakeholder groups have been given the possibility to participate at the drafting process of this document.

In addition, this document is intended for standardization bodies elaborating type-C standards.

The requirements of this document can be supplemented or modified by a type-C standard.

For machines which are covered by the scope of a type-C standard and which have been designed and built according to the requirements of that standard, the requirements of that type-C standard take precedence.

The structure of safety standards in the field of machinery is as follows:

- Type-A standards (basis standards) give basic concepts, principles for design, and general aspects that can be applied to machinery;
- Type-B standards (generic safety standards) deal with one or more safety aspects or one or more types of safeguards that can be used across a wide range of machinery:
  - Type-B1 standards on particular safety aspects (e.g. safety distances, surface temperature, noise);
  - Type-B2 standards on safeguards (e.g. two-hands controls, interlocking devices, pressure sensitive devices, guards);
- Type-C standards (machinery safety standards) deal with detailed safety requirements for a particular machine or group of machines.

The purpose of the ISO 18497 series is to establish general design principles for partially automated, semi-autonomous and autonomous (see ISO 18497-1:2024, Clause 3) functions of agricultural machinery and tractors.

Manual non-automated functions are addressed in existing agricultural machinery and tractor safety standards. Due to the potential number of different functions of agricultural machinery and tractors and the mixed type and mode to which these functions can exist, it is necessary to establish general design principles. In this way, the combination, operator location, and types of interaction of these functions can be guided so that further type-C safety standards can be developed consistently and explicitly to address the mitigation of risk of injury to operators and bystanders. This is the primary focus of safety standards. Attempting to specify risk mitigation requirements based on combinations of type and mode of functions alone cannot be accomplished accurately for all agricultural machinery and tractors due to the wide variety of the machinery and variety of functionality.

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standards, using the general design principles of this document, to adequately account for the risks of agricultural machinery and tractors used in a specified way with various types of partially automated, semi-autonomous and autonomous functions.

When the requirements of the ISO 18497 series for partially automated, semi-autonomous and autonomous functions of agricultural machinery and tractors are different from those which are stated in a machine-specific type-C standard dealing with partially automated, semi-autonomous and autonomous functions of agricultural machinery and tractors, the requirements of the machine-specific standard take precedence over the requirements of the ISO 18497 series.