



ISO 25178-601

**Geometrical product specifications
(GPS) — Surface texture: Areal —**

Part 601:
**Design and characteristics of
contact (stylus) instruments**

*Spécification géométrique des produits (GPS) — État de surface:
Surfacique —*

*Partie 601: Conception et caractéristiques des instruments à
contact (palpeur)*

**Second edition
2025-02**

This is a preview of ISO 25178-601:2025. Click [here](#) to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2025

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

This is a preview of ISO 25178-601:2025. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Foreword	iv
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Instrument requirements	4
5 Metrological characteristics	4
6 Design features	5
6.1 General.....	5
6.2 Nominal values for characteristics of a contact stylus instrument.....	5
6.2.1 Stylus tip geometry.....	5
6.2.2 Static measuring force.....	5
7 General information	5
Annex A (informative) Principles of contact stylus instruments for areal surface topography measurement	6
Annex B (informative) Sources of measurement error for contact stylus instruments	11
Annex C (informative) Background regarding changes from ISO 3274	13
Annex D (informative) Relationship to the GPS matrix model	15
Bibliography	16

This is a preview of ISO 25178-601:2025. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

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 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).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 213, *Dimensional and geometrical product specifications and verification*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 290, *Dimensional and geometrical product specification and verification*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 25178-601:2010), which has been technically revised, and cancels and replaces ISO 3274:1996, whose contents have been revised and incorporated into this document and others, see [Annex C](#) for more information.

The main changes are as follows:

- removal of information about the general metrological characteristics for the areal topography measuring method, which are specified in ISO 25178-600;
- removal of the terms and definitions now specified in ISO 25178-600;
- revision of all terms and definitions for clarity and consistency with other ISO standards documents;
- addition of [Clause 4](#) for instrument requirements, which summarizes normative features and characteristics;
- addition of an information flow concept diagram in [Clause 4](#);
- addition of [Clause 5](#) on metrological characteristics;
- addition of [Clause 6](#) on design features, which clarifies the types of instruments relevant to this document;
- revision of [Annex A](#) describing the principles of instruments addressed by this document;
- addition of [Annex B](#) on the metrological characteristics and influence quantities; replacement of the normative table of influence quantities with an informative description of common error sources and how these relate to the metrological characteristics in ISO 25178-600;

This is a preview of ISO 25178-601:2025. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

A list of all parts in the ISO 25178 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.

This is a preview of ISO 25178-601:2025. [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

This document is a geometrical product specification (GPS) standard and is to be regarded as a general GPS standard (see ISO 14638). It influences chain link F of the chains of standards on profile and areal surface texture.

The ISO GPS matrix model given in ISO 14638 gives an overview of the ISO GPS system of which this document is a part. The fundamental rules of ISO GPS given in ISO 8015 apply to this document and the default decision rules given in ISO 14253-1 apply to the specifications made in accordance with this document, unless otherwise indicated.

For more detailed information on the relation of this document to other standards and the GPS matrix model, see [Annex D](#).

This document includes terms and definitions relevant to contact stylus instruments for the measurement of areal surface topography. [Annex A](#) briefly summarizes contact stylus instruments and methods to clarify the definitions and to provide a foundation for [Annex B](#), which describes common sources of uncertainty and their relation to the metrological characteristics of contact stylus instruments.

The stylus instrument for the profile method was previously defined in ISO 3274. Based on this, this document was published in 2010. Since this is the more modern instrument standard and stylus instruments for the profile method and the areal method differ only in the presence of a y -axis (drive unit y), this edition of this document replaces not only the previous version of ISO 25178-601 but also ISO 3274:1996 (and the Technical Corrigendum of 1998), see [Annex C](#) for more details.

NOTE Portions of this document, particularly the informative sections, describe patented systems and methods. This information is provided only to assist users in understanding the operating principles of contact stylus instruments. This document is not intended to establish priority for any intellectual property, nor does it imply a license to proprietary technologies described herein.