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NORME INTERNATIONALE

Fourth edition
Quatrième édition
2015-09-01

Corrosion of metals and alloys — Basic terms and definitions

Corrosion des métaux et alliages — Termes principaux et définitions

Korrosion von Metallen und Legierungen — Grundbegriffe



Reference number
Numéro de référence
ISO 8044:2015(E/F)

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Published in Switzerland/Publié en Suisse

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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.

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 documents 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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 156, *Corrosion of metals and alloys*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 8044:1999), which has been revised to include additional terms and definitions.

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Introduction

The definitions in this International Standard have been drawn up with the objective of achieving a proper balance between precision and simplicity. The main objective of this International Standard is to provide definitions that can be understood to have the same meaning by all concerned. Some corrosion terms in present use have developed through common usage and are not always logical. It has not, therefore, been possible to define certain terms in the form they are used in some countries. Because of the occasional conflicts between tradition and logic some definitions inevitably represent a compromise.

An example of this kind of conflict is the term "corrosion". This has been used to mean the process, results of the process and damage caused by the process. In this International Standard corrosion is understood to mean the process. Any detectable result of corrosion in any part of a corrosion system is termed "corrosion effect". The term "corrosion damage" covers any impairment of the function of the technical system of which the metal and the environment form a part. Consequently the term "corrosion protection" implies that the important thing is to avoid corrosion damage rather than to prevent corrosion, which in many cases is impossible and sometimes not necessary.