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**Road vehicles — Vocabulary and  
characteristics for engineering of  
starting devices**

*Véhicules routiers — Vocabulaire et caractéristiques pour l'ingénierie  
des équipements d'allumage*

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

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

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 32, *Electrical and electronic components and general system aspects*.

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).

## Introduction

This document harmonizes key terms and their definitions in the form of basic technical words and simple explanations, because third parties involved in starter motor testing and start/stop systems are spreading to various regions. The purpose is to guarantee an efficient and effective communication throughout development projects within and among engineering organizations and related institutions.

In practice, many inefficiencies have been observed due to unclear or ambiguous usage of engineering terms and missing knowledge about application to various starter motor development and testing. This document is meant to preserve the essential knowledge of best practices, which rely on undocumented usage of terms. With these terms and definitions, starter motor engineers as well as newcomers are able to refer to this vocabulary framework when working together on starter motor development and testing projects in an international environment.

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# Road vehicles — Vocabulary and characteristics for engineering of starting devices

## 1 Scope

This document includes common definitions for terms and their interdependencies related to starting devices as well as describes their general and specific characteristics.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

#### **armature**

rotating assembly of the electric machine part of the starter motor

### 3.2

#### **battery**

electrical energy source connected to the starter motor

### 3.3

#### **battery open circuit voltage**

voltage at the *battery* (3.2) *terminals* (3.40) without electrical load

### 3.4

#### **battery voltage**

voltage between the *battery* (3.2) *terminals* (3.40)

### 3.5

#### **cranking**

condition in which the starter motor rotates the *internal combustion engine (ICE)* (3.17)

[SOURCE: ISO 20574:2019, 3.16, modified — "engine" has been replaced by internal combustion engine.]

### 3.6

#### **cranking time**

time period where the starter motor drives the *internal combustion engine (ICE)* (3.17) until a significant rotational frequency change, caused by the *first ignition* (3.13), can be observed

### 3.7

#### **crankshaft**

shaft of the *internal combustion engine (ICE)* (3.17), which is connected to the *ring gear* (3.31)

**3.8**

**direct starter motor**

starter motor type in which the *pinion* (3.27) is driven at the same rotational frequency as the *armature* (3.1)

**3.9**

**driveshaft**

shaft of the starter motor, which supports and drives the *overrunning* (3.23) clutch and the *pinion* (3.27)

**3.10**

**engagement lever**

fork lever

lever to move the *pinion* (3.27)

**3.11**

**engine speed**

rotational frequency of the *crankshaft* (3.7)

**3.12**

**excitation winding**

field winding

winding that carries an exciting current to create an electromagnet

**3.13**

**first ignition**

initial ignition of the *internal combustion engine (ICE)* (3.17) while the starter motor is *cranking* (3.4) the ICE

**3.14**

**helical spline**

spline that transfers torque and axial load from the drive shaft to the *pinion* (3.27)

**3.15**

**idle speed**

rotational frequency of the *internal combustion engine (ICE)* (3.17) when the accelerator is not pushed

**3.16**

**inrush current**

maximum current when the starter motor is activated

**3.17**

**internal combustion engine**

**ICE**

engine, which generates motive power by the burning of a fuel-air mixture by means of a crank mechanism

**3.18**

**lock current**

stall current

current which is drawn by the starter motor when the *pinion* (3.27) is locked (no rotation)

**3.19**

**lock torque**

stall torque

torque of the starter motor at the *pinion* (3.27) with the *armature* (3.1) shaft locked (no rotation)

[SOURCE: ISO 8856:2014, 2.1, modified — The term "stall torque" has been added and Note 1 to entry has been removed.]

**3.20****meshing spring**

spring that allows axial movement of the *pinion* (3.27)

**3.21****minimum battery voltage**

lowest *battery voltage* (3.4) which occurs when the starter motor is activated

Note 1 to entry: In practice the term voltage drop is used as a synonym.

**3.22****nominal battery voltage**

approximate value of the voltage used to identify a *battery* (3.2)

[SOURCE: Electropedia 482-03-31, modified — The word "battery" has been added to the term, the phrase "suitable approximate value" has been replaced by "approximate value", and the phrase "to designate or identify a cell, a battery or an electromechanical system" has been replaced by "to identify a battery".]

**3.23****overrunning**

condition in which the *internal combustion engine (ICE)* (3.17) rotates the starter motor *pinion* (3.27) before starter motor OFF

[SOURCE: ISO 20574:2019, 3.17, modified — The term "engine" has been replaced by "internal combustion engine".]

**3.24****overrunning clutch**

mechanism to transfer starter motor torque to the *pinion* (3.27) in only one direction of rotation

**3.25****overrunning time**

time period where engine drives the starter motor *pinion* (3.27) before starter motor OFF

**3.26****permanent magnet type starter motor**

starter motor type, which uses permanent magnets to create the magnetic field inside the motor

**3.27****pinion**

gear driving the *ring gear* (3.31)

**3.28****plunger**

relay armature  
movable part of the *solenoid* (3.32), which moves the *engagement lever* (3.10)

**3.29****reduction gear type starter motor**

starter motor type for which the *pinion* (3.27) is driven with a lower rotational frequency than the *armature* (3.1) rotational frequency to increase the torque

**3.30****return spring**

spring exerting a force against the working direction of the *plunger* (3.28)

**3.31****ring gear**

gear to transfer torque from the starter motor to the *internal combustion engine (ICE)* (3.17)

**3.32**

**solenoid**

**engagement relay**

magnetic switch

mechanism to move the *pinion* (3.27) and to close the contact bridge

**3.33**

**solenoid cover**

switch cover

cap of the *solenoid* (3.32) including the electrical *terminals* (3.40)

**3.34**

**starter motor disengagement speed**

rotational frequency of the *internal combustion engine (ICE)* (3.17) at starter motor OFF

**3.35**

**starter motor current**

$I_{STR}$

current drawn by the starter motor

[SOURCE: ISO 20574:2019, 3.27]

**3.36**

**starter motor energy**

$E_{STR}$

electrical energy consumed by the starter motor during one start event

**3.37**

**starter motor ON time**

time period where starter motor is activated

Note 1 to entry: It is typically the time period when *starter motor current* (3.35) is above a certain level.

**3.38**

**starter motor voltage**

$U_{STR}$

voltage at the *battery* (3.2) *terminal* (3.40) of the starter motor

[SOURCE: ISO 20574:2019, 3.26]

**3.39**

**switch**

device that supplies electricity to the *solenoid* (3.32) *terminal* (3.40)

**3.40**

**terminal**

electrical interface of the starter motor and the *battery* (3.2)

**3.41**

**wound field type starter motor**

starter motor type, which uses the *excitation windings* (3.12) to create the magnetic field inside the motor

**3.42**

**yoke**

pole housing

housing enclosing the *armature* (3.1) and containing the *excitation windings* (3.12) or magnets

## 4 General characteristics of the starter motor

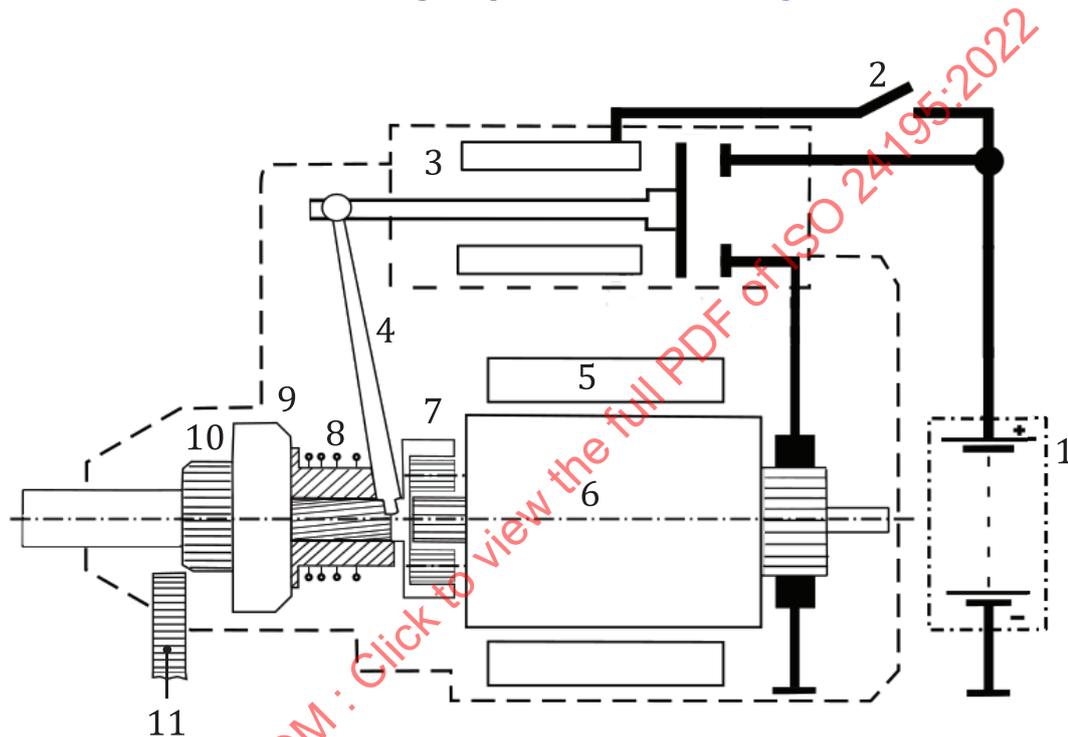
### 4.1 General

This clause describes the starter motor and its components.

Furthermore, this clause describes how certain terms related to each other and how they are used.

### 4.2 Starter motor components

The starter motor consists of the following components as shown in [Figure 1](#).



#### Key

- |   |                            |    |                    |
|---|----------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | battery                    | 7  | planetary gear     |
| 2 | ignition or driving switch | 8  | meshing spring     |
| 3 | solenoid                   | 9  | overrunning clutch |
| 4 | engagement lever           | 10 | pinion             |
| 5 | permanent magnet           | 11 | ring gear          |
| 6 | armature                   |    |                    |

**Figure 1 — Components of the permanent magnet type starter motor**

The closed ignition switch connects the battery to the solenoid. An activated solenoid causes a forward movement of the engagement lever as well as closes the contact to the excitation/series winding which rotates the armature. The armature is connected to the planetary gear that transfers the rotational movement of the armature to the pinion shaft. The axial forward movement of the pinion gear is supported by the meshing spring. The overrunning clutch connects the armature shaft to the pinion which engages the ring gear.

### 4.3 Starter motor functions

The starter motor can engage with the ring gear by using special forms of functions, such as the helical spline, the meshing spring and the overrunning clutch.

The helical spline allows a forward movement of the pinion gear initiated by a rotation of the armature. To furthermore allow an engagement of the pinion gear with the ring gear, the starter motor is equipped with a meshing spring that supports the engagement by applying an axial force towards the ring gear.

The solenoid operates the engagement lever by closing the contact inside the engagement relay. Hereby the connection inside the armature between the excitation winding and the battery gets closed, as well as the engagement lever pushes the pinion gear with the overrunning clutch outward in the direction of the ring gear.

After the ICE has reached its minimum rotational frequency, the ICE will continue to raise its rotational frequency. In order to not harm the starter motor by generating a voltage in the armature, the starter motor is equipped with an overrunning clutch which allows the ring gear to overrun the pinion gear of the starter motor.

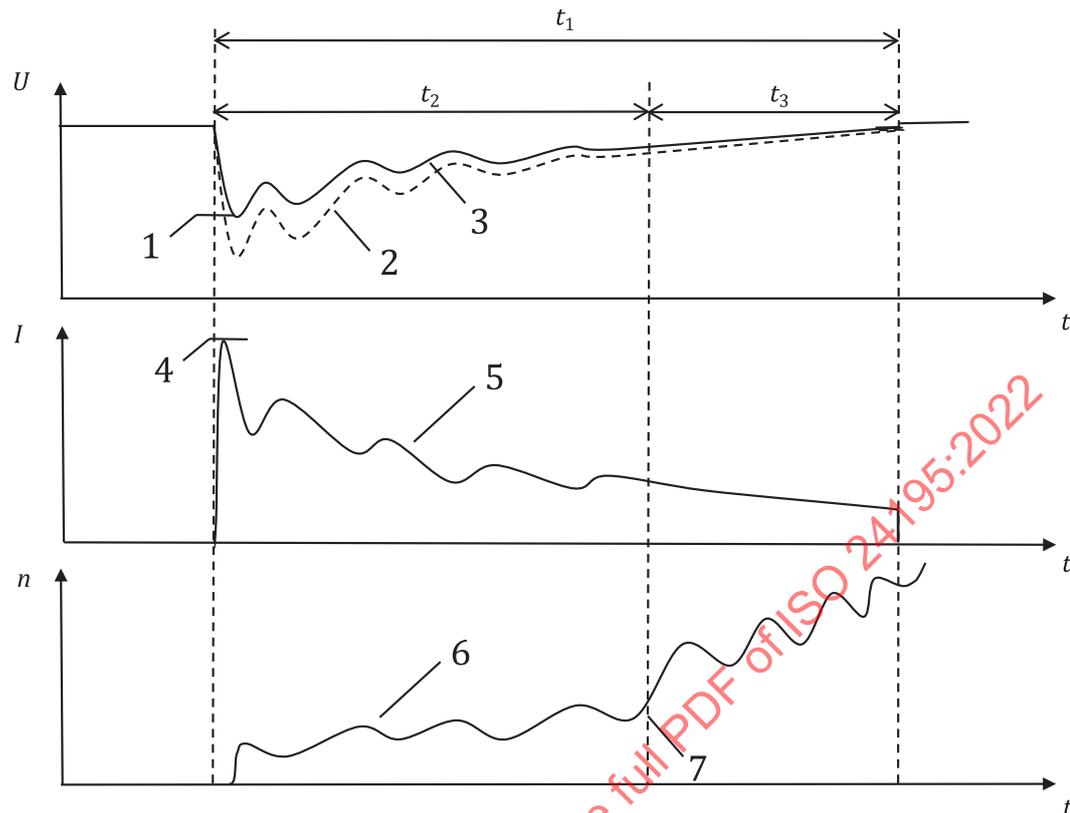
### 4.4 Starting parameters

Important starting parameters are shown in [Figure 2](#). In detail, [Figure 2](#) shows typical wave forms of starter motor voltage, battery voltage, starter motor current and ICE rotational frequency versus time.

The start motor ON time defines the period where the starter motor is activated. The starter motor ON time is the sum of the cranking time and the overrunning time. Typically, the overrunning time begins with the 1<sup>st</sup> ignition of the ICE where the ICE drives the starter motor pinion before starter motor OFF.

Immediately after the starter motor is activated, the inrush current occurs and leads to the minimum battery voltage which is in practice often called the voltage drop.

The starter motor voltage differs from the battery voltage due to the line resistance.



### Key

$U$	voltage, expressed in V	1	minimum battery voltage
$I$	current, expressed in A	2	starter motor voltage
$n$	rotational frequency, expressed in rpm	3	battery voltage
$t$	time, expressed in s	4	inrush current
$t_1$	starter motor ON time	5	starter motor current
$t_2$	cranking time	6	ICE rotational frequency
$t_3$	overrunning time	7	first ignition

Figure 2 — Starting parameters: voltage, starter motor current, engine rotational frequency

## 5 Special characteristics of the starter motor

### 5.1 General

This clause describes the special aspects of starter motor which support starter motor function and starter motor application design.

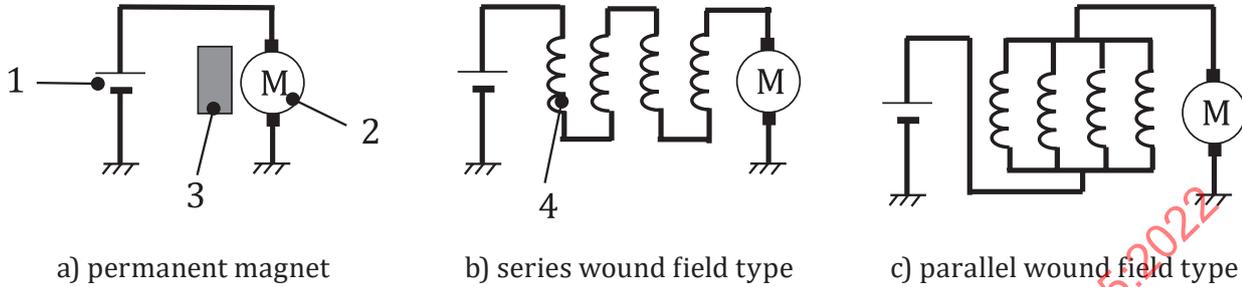
### 5.2 Magnetic field

Figure 3 shows the typical types of magnetic fields used in starter motor designs.

In the permanent magnet type starter motor, the magnetic field is constant because it is created by the permanent magnet. On the other hand, in the wound field type starter motor, the magnetic field changes depending on the starter motor current, so the magnetic field is low in the low current area and increases in the high current area. As a result, the features of the wound field type starter motor are high no load speed and high torque. At present, the permanent magnet type starter motor is generally used below 2 kW and the wound field type starter motor is used above 2 kW.

There are two types of connection methods, series and parallel.

A parallel type is often used at 12 V and a series type is often used at 24 V. This is because the resistance value is adjusted by wiring according to the voltage so that the amount of heat generated per body size will be the same.



**Key**

- 1 battery
- 2 armature
- 3 permanent magnet
- 4 field coil

**Figure 3 — Magnetic field types**

**5.3 Starting performance**

The relationship between ICE friction torque and ICE rotational frequency, and the starter motor output converted to the ICE crankshaft axis, is shown by the torque-speed curve as shown in [Figure 4](#). The intersection of ICE friction torque and the starter motor performance is estimated to be the ICE cranking point that will result from this specific starter motor.

Here, the starter motor performance is generally calculated under the following conditions:

- required temperature;
- input characteristic to starter (battery performance and line resistance);
- reduction ratio between the starter motor and the ICE (ratio of the pinion and the ring gear teeth).