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**Geometrical product specifications  
(GPS) — ISO code system for tolerances  
on linear sizes —**

**Part 2:  
Tables of standard tolerance classes and  
limit deviations for holes and shafts**

*Spécification géométrique des produits (GPS) — Système de  
codification ISO pour les tolérances sur les tailles linéaires —*

*Partie 2: Tableaux des classes de tolérance normalisées et des écarts  
limites des alésages et des arbres*



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 286-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 213, *Dimensional and geometrical product specifications and verification*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 286-2:1988), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO 286-2:1988/Cor.1:2006.

ISO 286 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Geometrical product specifications (GPS) — ISO code system for tolerances on linear sizes*:

- *Part 1: Basis of tolerances, deviations and fits*
- *Part 2: Tables of standard tolerance classes and limit deviations for holes and shafts*

## Introduction

This part of ISO 286 is a geometrical product specification (GPS) standard and is to be regarded as a general GPS standard (see ISO/TR 14638). It influences chain links 1 and 2 of the chain of standards on size in the general GPS matrix.

For more detailed information on the relationship of this part of ISO 286 to the GPS matrix model, see Annex B.

The need for limits and fits for machined workpieces was brought about mainly by the requirement for interchangeability between mass-produced parts and the inherent inaccuracy of manufacturing methods, coupled with the fact that “exactness” of size was found to be unnecessary for most workpiece features. In order that the fit function could be satisfied, it was found sufficient to manufacture a given workpiece so that its size lay within two permissible limits, i.e. a tolerance, this being the variation in size acceptable in manufacture while ensuring the functional fit requirements of the product.

Similarly, where a specific fit condition is required between mating features of two different workpieces, it is necessary to ascribe an allowance, either positive or negative, to the nominal size to achieve the required clearance or interference. ISO 286 gives the internationally accepted code system for tolerances on linear sizes. It provides a system of tolerances and deviations suitable for two types of feature: “cylinder” and “two parallel opposite surfaces”. The main intention of this code system is the fulfilment of the function fit.

The terms “hole”, “shaft” and “diameter” are used to designate the types of feature of cylinders (e.g. for the tolerancing of the diameter of a hole or shaft). For simplicity, they are also used for two parallel opposite surfaces (e.g. for the tolerancing of the thickness of a key or the width of a slot).

The pre-condition for the application of the ISO code system for tolerances on linear sizes for the features forming a fit is that the nominal sizes of the hole and the shaft are identical.

The previous edition of ISO 286-2 (published in 1988) had the envelope criterion as the default association criterion for the size of a feature; however, ISO 14405-1 changes this default association criterion to the two-point size criterion. This means that form is no longer controlled by the default specification of size.

In many cases, the diameter tolerances specified in this part of ISO 286 are not sufficient for effective control of the intended function of the fit. The envelope criterion specified in ISO 14405-1 may be required. In addition, the use of geometrical form tolerances and surface texture requirements may improve the control of the intended function.

A general graphical representation of the relationship between the respective tolerance classes and their deviations is given in Annex A.

