
**ISO general purpose metric screw
threads — Tolerances —**

**Part 1:
Principles and basic data**

*Filetages métriques ISO pour usages généraux — Tolérances —
Partie 1: Principes et données fondamentales*



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.

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.

International Standard ISO 965-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 1, *Screw threads*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Tolerances*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 965-1:1980), which has been technically revised.

ISO 965 consists of the following parts, under the general title *ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Tolerances*

- *Part 1: Principles and basic data*
- *Part 2: Limits of sizes for general purpose bolt and nut threads – Medium quality*
- *Part 3: Deviations for constructional screw threads*
- *Part 4: Limits of sizes for hot-dip galvanized external threads to mate with internal threads tapped with tolerance position H or G after galvanizing*
- *Part 5: Limits of sizes for internal screw threads to mate with hot-dip galvanized external screw threads with maximum size of tolerance position h before galvanizing*

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ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Tolerances —

Part 1: Principles and basic data

1 Scope

This part of ISO 965 specifies the basic profile for ISO general purpose metric screw threads (M) conforming to ISO 261.

The tolerance system refers to the basic profile in accordance with ISO 68-1.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 965. At the time of publication the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 965 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 68-1:1998, *ISO general purpose screw threads — Basic profile — Part 1: Metric screw threads.*

ISO 261:1998, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads — General plan.*

ISO 262:1998, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Selected sizes for screws, bolts and nuts.*

ISO 724:1993, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Basic dimensions.*

ISO 898-1:—¹⁾, *Mechanical properties of fasteners made of carbon steel and alloy steel — Part 1: Bolts, screws and studs.*

ISO 965-2:1998, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Tolerances — Part 2: Limits of sizes for general purpose bolt and nut threads — Medium quality.*

ISO 965-3:1998, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Tolerances — Part 3: Deviations for constructional screw threads.*

ISO 1502:1996, *ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Gauges and gauging.*

ISO 5408:1983, *Cylindrical screw threads — Vocabulary.*

1) To be published. (Revision of ISO 898-1:1988)

3 Definitions and symbols

3.1 Definitions

For the purpose of this part of ISO 965 the definitions given in ISO 5408 apply.

3.2 Symbols

The following symbols are used:

Symbol	Explanation
D	basic major diameter of internal thread
D_1	basic minor diameter of internal thread
D_2	basic pitch diameter of internal thread
d	basic major diameter of external thread
d_1	basic minor diameter of external thread
d_2	basic pitch diameter of external thread
d_3	minor diameter of external thread
P	pitch
Ph	lead
H	height of fundamental triangle
S	designation for thread engagement group "short"
N	designation for thread engagement group "normal"
L	designation for thread engagement group "long"
T	tolerance
T_{D1}, T_{D2} T_{d1}, T_{d2}	tolerances for D_1, D_2, d, d_2
e_l, EI	lower deviations (see figure 1)
e_s, ES	upper deviations (see figure 1)
R	root radius of external thread
C	root truncation of external thread

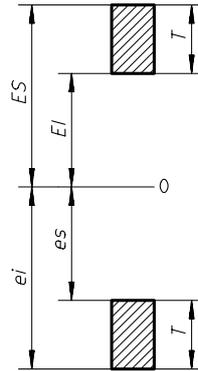


Figure 1 — Position of tolerances with respect to zero line (basic size)

4 Structure of the tolerance system

The system gives tolerances defined by tolerance grades and tolerance positions and a selection of grades and positions.

The system provides for:

- a) a series of tolerance grades for each of the four screw thread diameters, as follows:

	Tolerance grades
D_1	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
d	4, 6, 8
D_2	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
d_2	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Details of tolerance grades and combinations of tolerance grades for pitch and crest diameters according to tolerance quality and length of engagement group required, with order of preference, are shown in clause 12.

- b) Series of tolerance positions:

- G and H for internal threads;
- e, f, g and h for external threads.

The established tolerance positions comply with the need of current coating thickness and with the demands of easy assembly.

- c) Selection of recommended combinations of grades and positions (tolerance classes) giving the commonly used tolerance qualities fine, medium and coarse for the three groups of length of thread engagement short, normal and long. Moreover a further selection of tolerance classes is given for commercial bolt and nut threads. Tolerance classes other than those shown in clause 12 are not recommended and shall only be used for special cases.

5 Designation

5.1 General

The complete designation for a screw thread comprises a designation for the thread system and size, a designation for the thread tolerance class followed by further individual items if necessary.

5.2 Designation of single-start screw threads

A screw thread complying with the requirements of the International Standards for ISO general purpose metric screw threads according to ISO 68-1, ISO 261, ISO 262, ISO 724, ISO 965-2 and ISO 965-3 shall be designated by the letter M followed by the value of the nominal diameter and of the pitch, expressed in millimetres and separated by the sign "×".

EXAMPLE: M8 × 1,25

For coarse pitch threads listed in ISO 261, the pitch may be omitted.

EXAMPLE: M8

The tolerances class designation comprises a class designation for the pitch diameter tolerance followed by a class designation for the crest diameter tolerance.

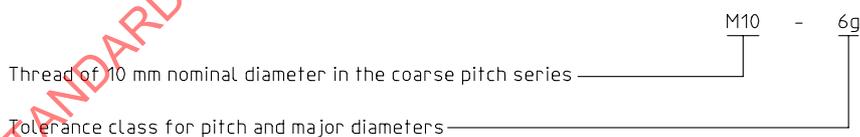
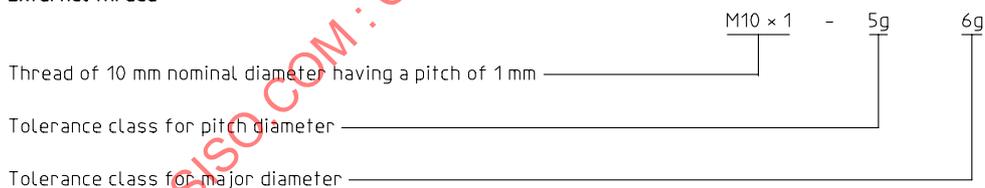
Each class designation consists of

- a figure indicating the tolerance grade;
- a letter indicating the tolerance position, capital for internal threads, small for external threads.

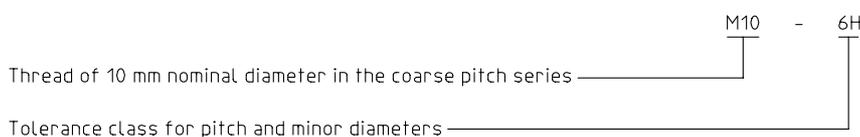
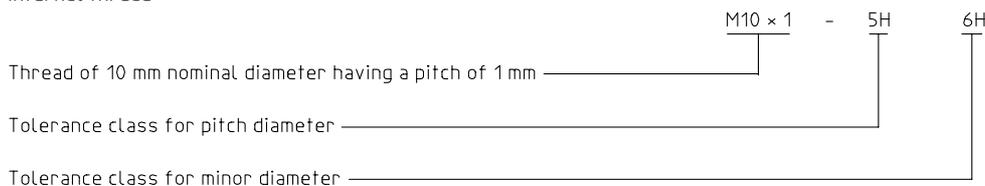
If the two class designations for the pitch diameter and crest diameter (major or minor diameter for internal and external threads respectively) are the same it is not necessary to repeat the symbols.

EXAMPLES:

External thread



Internal thread



A fit between threaded parts is indicated by the internal thread tolerance class followed by the external thread tolerance class separated by a stroke.

EXAMPLE:

M6 – 6H/6g

M20 × 2 – 6H/5g6g

The absence of tolerance class designation means that tolerance quality "medium" with the following tolerance classes are specified:

Internal threads

- 5H for threads up to and including M1,4;
- 6H for threads M1,6 and larger.

NOTE Except for threads with pitch $P = 0,2$ mm for which the tolerance grade 4 is defined only (see tables 3 and 5).

External threads

- 6h for threads up to and including M1,4;
- 6g for threads M1,6 and larger.

The designation for the group of length of thread engagement "short" S and "long" L should be added to the tolerance class designation separated by a dash.

EXAMPLE: M20 × 2 – 5H – S

M6 – 7H/7g6g – L

The absence of the designation for the group of length of thread engagement means the group "normal" N is specified.

5.3 Designation of multiple-start screw threads

Multiple-start metric screw threads shall be designated by the letter M followed by the value of the nominal diameter, the sign ×, the letters Ph and the value of the lead, the letter P and the value of the pitch (axial distance between two neighbouring flanks in the same direction) a dash, and the tolerance class. Nominal diameter, lead and pitch are expressed in millimetres.

EXAMPLE: M16 × Ph3P1,5 – 6H

For extra clarity the number of starts i.e. the value of $\frac{Ph}{P}$ may be added in verbal form and in paranthesis.

EXAMPLE: M16 × Ph3P1,5 (two starts) – 6H

5.4 Designation of the left hand threads

When left hand threads are specified the letters LH shall be added to the thread designation, separated by a dash.

EXAMPLES: M8 × 1 – LH

M6 × 0,75 – 5h6h – S – LH

M14 × Ph6P2 – 7H – L – LH

M14 × Ph6P2 (three starts) – 7H – L – LH

6 Tolerance grades

For each of the two elements, pitch diameter and crest diameter, a number of tolerance grades have been established. In each case, grade 6 shall be used for tolerance quality medium and normal length of thread engagement. The grades below 6 are intended for tolerance quality fine and/or short length of thread engagement. The grades above 6 are intended for tolerance quality coarse and/or long lengths of thread engagement. In some grades, certain tolerance values for small pitches are not shown because of insufficient thread overlap or the requirement that the pitch diameter tolerance shall not exceed the crest diameter tolerance.

7 Tolerance positions

The following tolerance positions are standardized:

- for internal threads: G with positive fundamental deviation
H with zero fundamental deviation
- for external threads: e, f and g with negative fundamental deviation
h with zero fundamental deviation

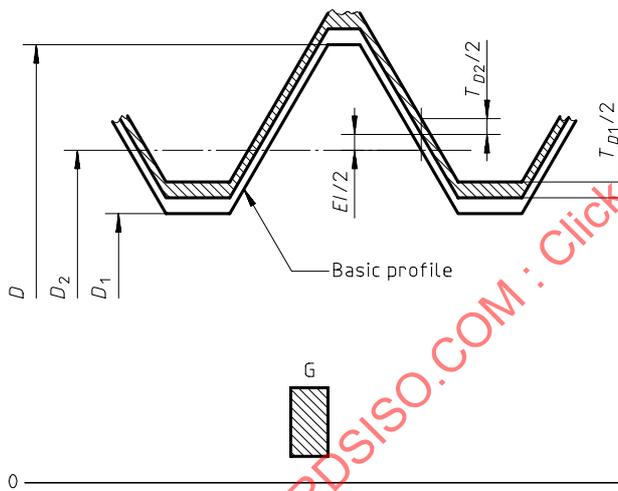


Figure 2 — Internal threads with tolerance position G

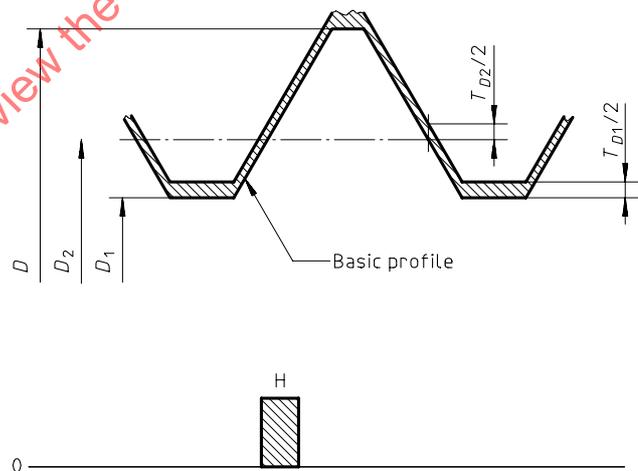
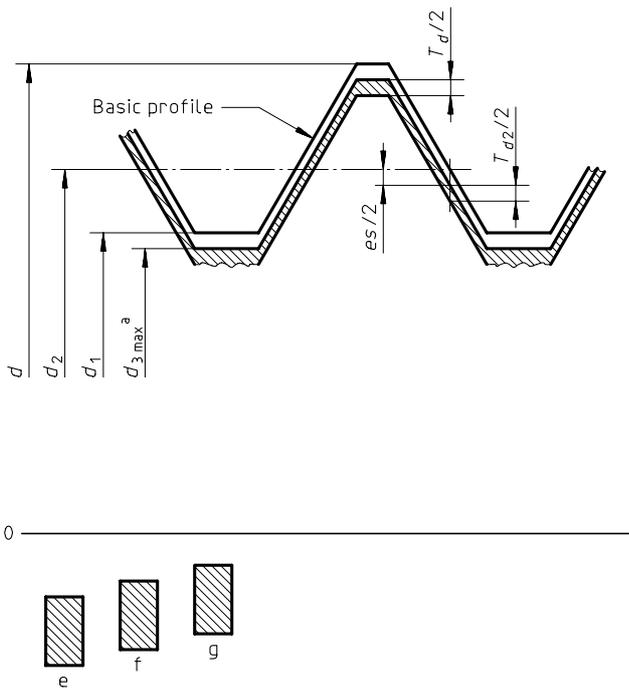
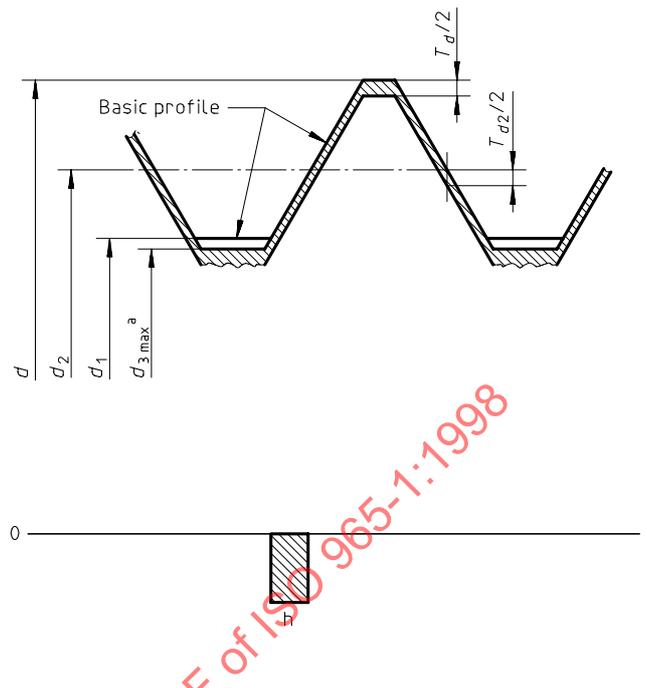


Figure 3 — Internal threads with tolerance position H



a Application only in connection with minimum material limits ($d_{2 \min}$), see clause 11, figure 6.

Figure 4 — External threads with tolerance positions e, f and g



a Application only in connection with minimum material limits ($d_{2 \min}$), see clause 11, figure 6.

Figure 5 — External threads with tolerance position h

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Table 1 — Fundamental deviations for internal threads and external threads

Pitch <i>P</i>	Fundamental deviation					
	Internal thread <i>D</i> ₂ , <i>D</i> ₁		External thread <i>d</i> , <i>d</i> ₂			
	G <i>EI</i>	H <i>EI</i>	e <i>es</i>	f <i>es</i>	g <i>es</i>	h <i>es</i>
mm	µm	µm	µm	µm	µm	µm
0,2	+17	0	—	—	−17	0
0,25	+18	0	—	—	−18	0
0,3	+18	0	—	—	−18	0
0,35	+19	0	—	−34	−19	0
0,4	+19	0	—	−34	−19	0
0,45	+20	0	—	−35	−20	0
0,5	+20	0	−50	−36	−20	0
0,6	+21	0	−53	−36	−21	0
0,7	+22	0	−56	−38	−22	0
0,75	+22	0	−56	−38	−22	0
0,8	+24	0	−60	−38	−24	0
1	+26	0	−60	−40	−26	0
1,25	+28	0	−63	−42	−28	0
1,5	+32	0	−67	−45	−32	0
1,75	+34	0	−71	−48	−34	0
2	+38	0	−71	−52	−38	0
2,5	+42	0	−80	−58	−42	0
3	+48	0	−85	−63	−48	0
3,5	+53	0	−90	−70	−53	0
4	+60	0	−95	−75	−60	0
4,5	+63	0	−100	−80	−63	0
5	+71	0	−106	−85	−71	0
5,5	+75	0	−112	−90	−75	0
6	+80	0	−118	−95	−80	0
8	+100	0	−140	−118	−100	0

8 Lengths of thread engagement

The length of thread engagement is classified into one of three groups S, N or L, in accordance with table 2.

Table 2 — Lengths of thread engagement

Dimensions in millimetres

Basic major diameter <i>D, d</i>		Pitch <i>P</i>	Lengths of thread engagement			
			S	N		L
over	up to and including		up to and including	over	up to and including	over
0,99	1,4	0,2	0,5	0,5	1,4	1,4
		0,25	0,6	0,6	1,7	1,7
		0,3	0,7	0,7	2	2
1,4	2,8	0,2	0,5	0,5	1,5	1,5
		0,25	0,6	0,6	1,9	1,9
		0,35	0,8	0,8	2,6	2,6
		0,4	1	1	3	3
		0,45	1,3	1,3	3,8	3,8
2,8	5,6	0,35	1	1	3	3
		0,5	1,5	1,5	4,5	4,5
		0,6	1,7	1,7	5	5
		0,7	2	2	6	6
		0,75	2,2	2,2	6,7	6,7
		0,8	2,5	2,5	7,5	7,5
5,6	11,2	0,75	2,4	2,4	7,1	7,1
		1	3	3	9	9
		1,25	4	4	12	12
		1,5	5	5	15	15
11,2	22,4	1	3,8	3,8	11	11
		1,25	4,5	4,5	13	13
		1,5	5,6	5,6	16	16
		1,75	6	6	18	18
		2	8	8	24	24
		2,5	10	10	30	30
22,4	45	1	4	4	12	12
		1,5	6,3	6,3	19	19
		2	8,5	8,5	25	25
		3	12	12	36	36
		3,5	15	15	45	45
		4	18	18	53	53
45	90	4,5	21	21	63	63
		1,5	7,5	7,5	22	22
		2	9,5	9,5	28	28
		3	15	15	45	45
		4	19	19	56	56
		5	24	24	71	71
		5,5	28	28	85	85
6	32	32	95	95		
90	180	2	12	12	36	36
		3	18	18	53	53
		4	24	24	71	71
		6	36	36	106	106
		8	45	45	132	132
180	355	3	20	20	60	60
		4	26	26	80	80
		6	40	40	118	118
		8	50	50	150	150

9 Crest diameter tolerances

9.1 Minor diameter tolerances of internal threads (T_{D1})

For the minor diameter tolerance of internal thread (T_{D1}) there are five tolerance grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, in accordance with table 3.

9.2 Major diameter tolerance of external thread (T_d)

For the major diameter tolerance of external thread (T_d) there are three tolerance grades 4, 6 and 8, in accordance with table 4.

The tolerance grades 5 and 7 do not exist for the major diameter of external threads.

Table 3 — Minor diameter tolerance of internal thread (T_{D1})

Pitch P	Tolerance grades				
	4	5	6	7	8
mm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm
0,2	38	—	—	—	—
0,25	45	56	—	—	—
0,3	53	67	85	—	—
0,35	63	80	100	—	—
0,4	71	90	112	—	—
0,45	80	100	125	—	—
0,5	90	112	140	180	—
0,6	100	125	160	200	—
0,7	112	140	180	224	—
0,75	118	150	190	236	—
0,8	125	160	200	250	315
1	150	190	236	300	375
1,25	170	212	265	335	425
1,5	190	236	300	375	475
1,75	212	265	335	425	530
2	236	300	375	475	600
2,5	280	355	450	560	710
3	315	400	500	630	800
3,5	355	450	560	710	900
4	375	475	600	750	950
4,5	425	530	670	850	1 060
5	450	560	710	900	1 120
5,5	475	600	750	950	1 180
6	500	630	800	1 000	1 250
8	630	800	1 000	1 250	1 600

Table 4 — Major diameter tolerance of external thread (T_d)

Pitch P	Tolerance grades		
	4	6	8
mm	μm	μm	μm
0,2	36	56	—
0,25	42	67	—
0,3	48	75	—
0,35	53	85	—
0,4	60	95	—
0,45	63	100	—
0,5	67	106	—
0,6	80	125	—
0,7	90	140	—
0,75	90	140	—
0,8	95	150	236
1	112	180	280
1,25	132	212	335
1,5	150	236	375
1,75	170	265	425
2	180	280	450
2,5	212	335	530
3	236	375	600
3,5	265	425	670
4	300	475	750
4,5	315	500	800
5	335	530	850
5,5	355	560	900
6	375	600	950
8	450	710	1 180

10 Pitch diameter tolerances

For the pitch diameter tolerance of internal thread (T_{D2}), there are five tolerance grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, in accordance with table 5.

For the pitch diameter tolerance of external thread (T_{d2}) there are seven tolerance grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, in accordance with table 6.

Table 5 — Pitch diameter tolerance of internal thread (T_{D2})

Basic major diameter D		Pitch P	Tolerance grades				
over	up to and including		4	5	6	7	8
mm	mm	mm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm
0,99	1,4	0,2 0,25 0,3	40 45 48	— 56 60	— — 75	— — —	— — —
1,4	2,8	0,2 0,25 0,35 0,4 0,45	42 48 53 56 60	— 60 67 71 75	— — 85 90 95	— — — — —	— — — — —
2,8	5,6	0,35 0,5 0,6 0,7 0,75 0,8	56 63 71 75 75 80	71 80 90 95 95 100	90 100 112 118 118 125	— 125 140 150 150 160	— — — — — 200
5,6	11,2	0,75 1 1,25 1,5	85 95 100 112	106 118 125 140	132 150 160 180	170 190 200 224	— 236 250 280
11,2	22,4	1 1,25 1,5 1,75 2 2,5	100 112 118 125 132 140	125 140 150 160 170 180	160 180 190 200 212 224	200 224 236 250 265 280	250 280 300 315 335 355
22,4	45	1 1,5 2 3 3,5 4 4,5	106 125 140 170 180 190 200	132 160 180 212 224 236 250	170 200 224 265 280 300 315	212 250 280 335 355 375 400	— 315 355 425 450 475 500
45	90	1,5 2 3 4 5 5,5 6	132 150 180 200 212 224 236	170 190 224 250 265 280 300	212 236 280 315 335 355 375	265 300 355 400 425 450 475	335 375 450 500 530 560 600
90	180	2 3 4 6 8	160 190 212 250 280	200 236 265 315 355	250 300 335 400 450	315 375 425 500 560	400 475 530 630 710
180	355	3 4 6 8	212 236 265 300	265 300 335 375	335 375 425 475	425 475 530 600	530 600 670 750

Table 6 — Pitch diameter tolerance of external thread (T_{d2})

Basic major diameter d		Pitch P	Tolerance grades						
over	up to and including		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
mm	mm	mm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm	μm
0,99	1,4	0,2	24	30	38	48	—	—	—
		0,25	26	34	42	53	—	—	—
		0,3	28	36	45	56	—	—	—
1,4	2,8	0,2	25	32	40	50	—	—	—
		0,25	28	36	45	56	—	—	—
		0,35	32	40	50	63	80	—	—
		0,4	34	42	53	67	85	—	—
		0,45	36	45	56	71	90	—	—
2,8	5,6	0,35	34	42	53	67	85	—	—
		0,5	38	48	60	75	95	—	—
		0,6	42	53	67	85	106	—	—
		0,7	45	56	71	90	112	—	—
		0,75	45	56	71	90	112	—	—
		0,8	48	60	75	95	118	150	190
5,6	11,2	0,75	50	63	80	100	125	—	—
		1	56	71	90	112	140	180	224
		1,25	60	75	95	118	150	190	236
		1,5	67	85	106	132	170	212	265
11,2	22,4	1	60	75	95	118	150	190	236
		1,25	67	85	106	132	170	212	265
		1,5	71	90	112	140	180	224	280
		1,75	75	95	118	150	190	236	300
		2	80	100	125	160	200	250	315
		2,5	85	106	132	170	212	265	335
22,4	45	1	63	80	100	125	160	200	250
		1,5	75	95	118	150	190	236	300
		2	85	106	132	170	212	265	335
		3	100	125	160	200	250	315	400
		3,5	106	132	170	212	265	335	425
		4	112	140	180	224	280	355	450
		4,5	118	150	190	236	300	375	475
45	90	1,5	80	100	125	160	200	250	315
		2	90	112	140	180	224	280	355
		3	106	132	170	212	265	335	425
		4	118	150	190	236	300	375	475
		5	125	160	200	250	315	400	500
		5,5	132	170	212	265	335	425	530
		6	140	180	224	280	355	450	560
90	180	2	95	118	150	190	236	300	375
		3	112	140	180	224	280	355	450
		4	125	160	200	250	315	400	500
		6	150	190	236	300	375	475	600
		8	170	212	265	335	425	530	670
180	355	3	125	160	200	250	315	400	500
		4	140	180	224	280	355	450	560
		6	160	200	250	315	400	500	630
		8	180	224	280	355	450	560	710

11 Root contours

For internal threads as well as for external threads, the actual root contours shall not at any point transgress the basic profile.

For external threads on fasteners of property class 8.8 and higher (see ISO 898-1), the root profile shall have a non-reversing curvature, no portion of which shall have a radius of less than $0,125 \times P$ (see table 7).

In the maximum minor diameter position, d_3 , the two radii $R_{min} = 0,125 P$ will go through the points of intersection between the maximum material flanks and the minor diameter cylinder of the Go-gauges according to ISO 1502 and blend tangentially into the minimum material flanks.

The maximum truncation, C_{max} , is calculated according to the following formula:

$$C_{max} = \frac{H}{4} - R_{min} \left\{ 1 - \cos \left[\frac{\pi}{3} - \arccos \left(1 - \frac{T_{d2}}{4 \cdot R_{min}} \right) \right] \right\} + \frac{T_{d2}}{2}$$

It is, however, advisable to aspire to a truncation of $\frac{H}{6}$ ($R = 0,144 34 \times P$) and to take $\frac{H}{6}$ as the basis for stress calculation of the minor diameter, d_3 , of external threads (for corresponding values see ISO 965-3).

The minimum truncation, C_{min} , is calculated according to the following formula:

$$C_{min} = 0,125 P \approx \frac{H}{7}$$

External threads on fasteners of property classes below 8.8 should preferably conform to the requirements stated above. This is particularly important for fasteners or other screwed connections which are subjected to fatigue or impact. However, there are in principle no restrictions other than that the maximum minor diameter, $d_{3 max}$, of the external thread shall be less than the minimum minor diameter of the Go-gauges according to ISO 1502.

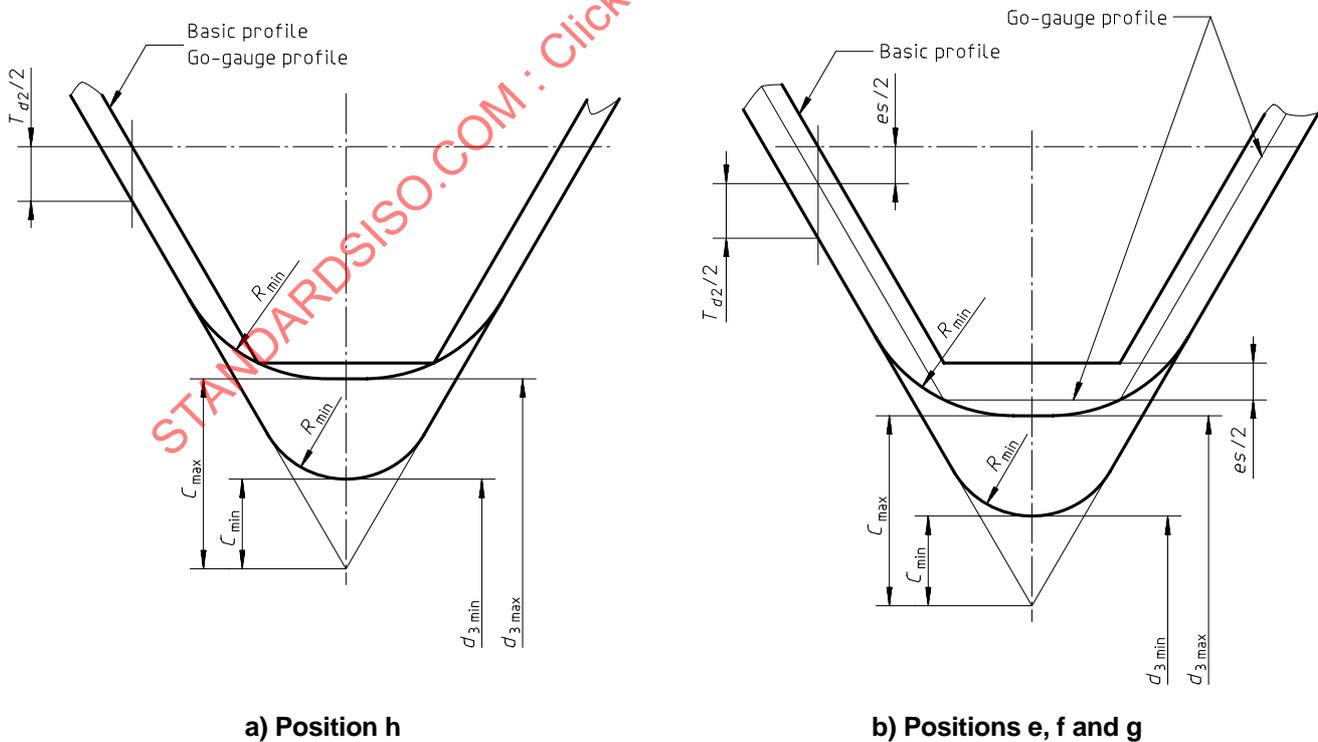


Figure 6 — External root profile

Table 7 — Minimum root radii

Pitch <i>P</i> mm	R_{\min} μm
0,2	25
0,25	31
0,3	38
0,35	44
0,4	50
0,45	56
0,5	63
0,6	75
0,7	88
0,75	94
0,8	100
1	125
1,25	156
1,5	188
1,75	219
2	250
2,5	313
3	375
3,5	438
4	500
4,5	563
5	625
5,5	688
6	750
8	1 000

12 Recommended tolerance classes

In order to reduce the number of gauges and tools, the tolerance classes should preferably be chosen from tables 8 and 9.

The following general rules can be formulated for the choice of tolerance quality:

- fine: for precision threads, when little variation of fit character is needed.
- medium: for general use.
- coarse: for cases where manufacturing difficulties can arise, for example when threading hot-rolled bars and long blind holes.

If the actual length of thread engagement is unknown (as in the manufacturing of standard bolts), group N is recommended.

Tolerance classes within broad frames are selected for commercial external and internal threads.

Tolerance classes in bold print are first choice.

Tolerance classes in ordinary print are second choice.

Tolerance classes in parentheses are third choice.

Any of the recommended tolerance classes for internal threads can be combined with any of the recommended tolerance classes for external threads. However, in order to guarantee sufficient overlap, the finished components should preferably be made to form the fits H/g, H/h or G/h. For thread sizes M1,4 and smaller the combinations 5H/6h, 4H/6h or finer shall be chosen.