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## Synchronous belts — Calculation of power rating and drive centre distance

*Courroies synchrones — Calcul de la puissance transmissible et de  
l'entraxe*

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ISO copyright office  
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax +41 22 749 09 47  
copyright@iso.org  
www.iso.org

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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)).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

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

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 41, *Pulleys and belts (including veebelts)* Subcommittee SC 4, *Synchronous belt drives*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 5295:1987), which has been technically revised. The scope been revised to clarify the applicability of the document.

# Synchronous belts — Calculation of power rating and drive centre distance

## 1 Scope

This document establishes formulae for the calculation of power rating and centre distance of standard synchronous belts on two pulley drives.

It is applicable to trapezoidal belts only. It does not apply to curvilinear synchronous belts.

The numerical values of certain parameters used in the calculations depend upon the pitch and the construction of the belt and are specified by the belt manufacturer.

## 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 terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **power rating**

power that a specified synchronous belt can transmit under specified geometrical and ambient conditions for a satisfactory period of time, provided that the drive has been installed and is maintained in a proper manner

Note 1 to entry: The power rating depends on the following:

- the pitch of the belt and pulley teeth;
- the belt width;
- the mass of a linear metre of belt;
- the allowable working tension in the belt;
- the angular velocity of the smaller pulley;
- the number of teeth of the smaller pulley;
- the number of teeth in mesh on the smaller pulley.

## 4 Symbols

Symbol	Description	Units
$P_b$	pitch of the teeth of the belt and pulleys	mm
$b_s$	width of the belt to be rated	mm
$b_{so}$	base width of the widest standard belt of pitch $P_b$ (see Table 2)	mm
$m$	linear mass of a belt having a width $b_{so}$	kg/m
$T_a$	allowable working tension of a belt having a width $b_{so}$	N
$w$	angular velocity of the smaller pulley	rad/s
$v$	belt velocity	m/s
$z_1$	number of teeth of the smaller pulley	
$z_2$	number of teeth of the larger pulley	
$z_b$	number of teeth of the belt	
$Z_m$	number of teeth in mesh on the smaller pulley	
$c$	centre distance of the pulleys	mm
$P_o$	power rating of a belt of base width $b_{so}$	kW
$P$	power rating of a belt of base width $b_s$	kW
$k_w$	width factor	
$k_z$	teeth in mesh factor	
ent [ ]	integer part only of the expression following	

## 5 Basic power rating

The basic power rating of a belt of base width,  $b_{so}$ , is given by the [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$P_o = \frac{(T_a - m v^2) v}{1000} \quad (1)$$

where the belt velocity,  $v$ , has the value given by [Formula \(2\)](#):

$$v = \frac{\omega P_b z_1 \times 10^{-3}}{2\pi} \quad (2)$$

[Formula \(1\)](#) is valid only if the number of teeth in mesh  $z_m \geq 6$  (see [Clause 6](#) for  $z_m < 6$ ).

The values of  $T_a$  and  $m$  depend upon the construction and the type of belt; these shall be supplied by the belt manufacturer.

## 6 Power rating

### 6.1 Exact formula

The power rating of a belt of width,  $b_s$ , having  $z_m$  teeth in mesh on the smaller pulley, is given by [Formula \(3\)](#):

$$P = \left( k_z k_w T_a - \frac{b_s m v^2}{b_{so}} \right) v \times 10^{-3} \quad (3)$$

See [Clauses 9](#) and [10](#) for  $k_z$  and  $k_w$ , respectively.

## 6.2 Approximate formula

The power rating may be calculated approximately by simplification of [Formula \(3\)](#) as given by [Formula \(4\)](#):

$$P \approx k_Z k_W P_0 \quad (4)$$

## 7 Centre distance

### 7.1 Exact formula

First, calculate the auxiliary angle,  $\theta$ , using [Formula \(5\)](#):

$$\theta = \pi \frac{z_b - z_2}{z_2 - z_1} \quad (5)$$

where  $\text{inv } \theta = \tan \theta - \theta$ ; the value of  $\theta$  (see [Figure 1](#)) can be determined by iteration or from involute tables.

The centre distance,  $C$ , is then given by [Formula \(6\)](#):

$$C = \frac{P_b (z_2 - z_1)}{2\pi \cos \theta} \quad (6)$$

The method according to [Formula \(5\)](#) and [\(6\)](#) is valid in any case. However, it should not be used if the ratio  $z_2/z_1$  is close to unity, because the expression for  $C$  becomes the ratio of two small quantities. In this case, the method according to [7.2](#) is recommended.

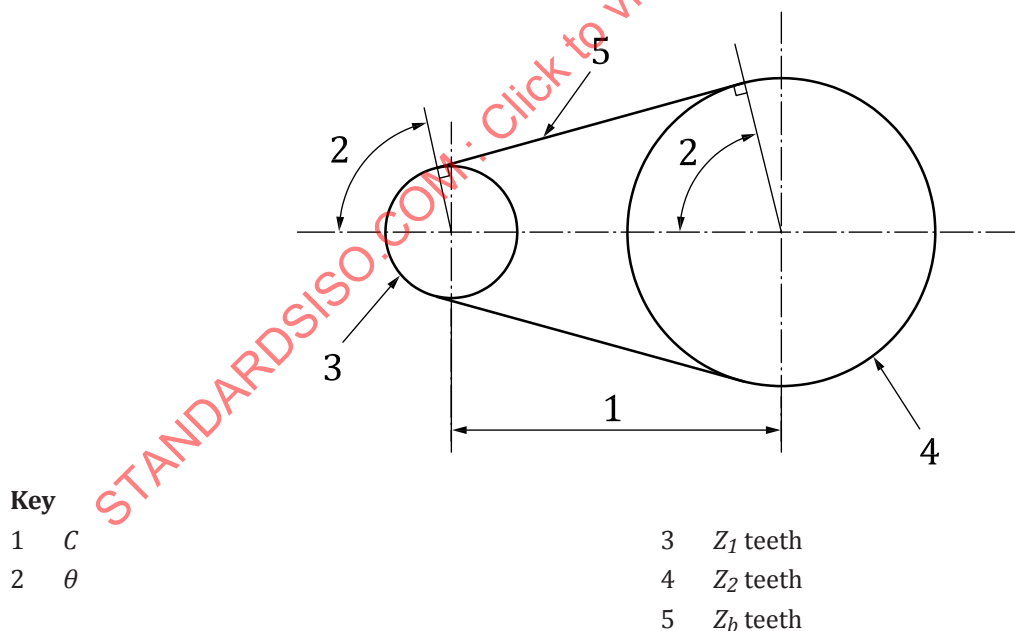


Figure 1 — Centre distance

## 7.2 Approximate formula

Firstly, calculate  $M$  by [Formula \(7\)](#)

$$M = \frac{P_b}{8} (2z_b - z_1 - z_2) \quad (7)$$

then the centre distance,  $C$ , by [Formula \(8\)](#):

$$C = M + \sqrt{M^2 - \frac{1}{8} \left[ \frac{P_b (z_2 - z_1)}{\pi} \right]^2} \quad (8)$$

This method is to be avoided when the ratio  $z_2/z_1$  is large. In this case, the method according to [7.1](#) shall be used.

## 8 Number of teeth in mesh

This number is given by [Formula \(9\)](#):

$$z_m = \text{ent} \left[ \frac{z_1}{2} - \frac{P_b z_1}{2\pi^2 C} (z_2 - z_1) \right] \quad (9)$$

in which  $\frac{1}{2\pi^2}$  may be replaced by  $\frac{1}{20}$  for ease of calculation.

## 9 Factor $k_z$

The factor  $k_z$  is given by [Formulae \(10\)](#) and [\(11\)](#):

$$\text{If } z_m \geq 6, k_z = 1 \quad (10)$$

$$\text{If } z_m < 6, k_z = 1 - 0,2(6 - z_m) \quad (11)$$

## 10 Factor $k_w$

The factor  $k_w$  is given by [Formula \(12\)](#):

$$k_w = \left( \frac{b_s}{b_{so}} \right)^{1,14} \quad (12)$$

where  $b_{so}$  depends upon the pitch code as given in [Table 1](#).

The resulting calculation of  $k_w$  is rounded off to two decimal places according to the usual convention.