The nine dictionaries of the former PIARC Terminology database have now been merged into a single PIARC Road Dictionary covering all the technical aspects of roads and engineering structures throughout their life cycles (design, construction, operation including traffic and transport, and recycling or disposal) while adding a number of relevant concepts in related fields (environment, mathematics and statistics, physics and chemistry, data processing, finance and procurement, law and regulations, etc.).

Consult this multidisciplinary dictionary and display the results in up to three languages at the same time!

At the present time, this web-based dictionary contains approximately 16,300 concepts in English and French (the reference languages), and a variable number of terms in thirty-five other languages.

The PIARC Committee on Terminology (CTERM) regularly updates the terms and definitions in the reference languages, with inputs from the PIARC Technical Committees.

Translations into other languages are complemented and updated in liaison with the member countries of PIARC.

Any suggestions for additions or improvements are welcome, in any language!

Connection page

When you are connected, you can carry out a search:

a. for a term;
b. or by theme.

The navigation language (English, Spanish or French) can be changed by hovering the mouse over the language switch to the top right of the screen and selecting the appropriate language.

"Road Dictionary"

To understand and make oneself understood.

In 1931, the first edition of the "Road Technical Dictionary of Road Terms" was published in six languages: Danish, English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. The World Road Association has continued working on terminology ever since. In 2007, the eighth and last hard-copy edition was released in five languages: English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

The multilingual terminology database can be accessed on-line on the PIARC website for specific terms and/or per theme searching, and the search results can be displayed simultaneously in three languages.

"PIARC multilingual terminology database"

The multilingual terminology database of the World Road Association has been created by merging the Technical Dictionary of Road Terms, the Lexicon of Road and Traffic Engineering, and a number of specialized dictionaries in the field of roads and road transport. It will, henceforth, be on line as a single "PIARC Road Dictionary".

"Responsibility of the Committee on Terminology"

The Committee on Terminology is responsible for updating and upgrading this Road Dictionary, with inputs from the experts in the Technical Committees and with the help of National Committees and member countries for translations into other languages than English and French.

You are invited to contribute on-line towards upgrading and extending this Dictionary, by submitting your proposals to the Committee on Terminology for careful consideration.
a. **Term search**

To search for a term in several languages:

1. click on “Term search” (see previous page);
2. type the term or expression (“Keyword”);
3. select the (source) language for the request;
4. select the target language(s);
5. send your request: **SEARCH**.

By adding criteria, you can make a search:

- through the data field of the term only;
- through the data fields of the term and its synonyms (default option);
- through all the contents of the data sheets (term, synonyms, definition, acronym).
Search results for a term

Here, the term “black” has been searched in English with the results to be displayed in French and Spanish.

The table of results indicates:

- the theme, sub-theme and sub-sub-theme (if any) of each term;
- the terms fitting the search criteria;
- their translations in the two target languages.

This table may continue on several screens.

By clicking on a term, the data sheets of this term are shown in the three selected languages (see next page).

Note: in case there is one result only, the next page is directly displayed.

The chain of characters found is displayed in italics. Where “black” does not appear in the source language, “black” is included in the definition or synonyms of the concept (search through all contents).

If a term has not yet been translated into a target language, the corresponding line will remain blank.
Term sheets

When clicking on one of the terms in the list of results, the data sheets of this term are shown in the three selected languages, in the selected order: source language, target language 1, and target language 2.

The term is displayed in bold.

The source dictionary and the theme, sub-theme (and sub-sub-theme, if any) define the context of the term.

Definition, grammatical attributes, acronyms and synonyms are displayed only when the corresponding fields are not empty.

One illustration (enlarged by a simple “click”) may complete the information. In case of illustration with a text (schemes), one illustration is displayed separately per language; here, the same photograph illustrates the three displays.

The user can make a remark on the term or its definition by completing and sending the form which is displayed when clicking on the relevant link.

The navigation may continue by going back to Term search (see page 2) or to the list of results (BACK TO RESULTS at the top and bottom of the screen).

Note: text can be selected, copied and pasted in other (e.g. word processing) software.
b. **Search per theme**

To make a search per theme in any language:

1. click on “Search per theme” (see page 2);
2. select the (source) language for the request;
3. click on a theme to display its sub-themes;
4. select a sub-theme;
5. if necessary, click on this sub-theme to display its sub-sub-themes, and select one.

At the lowest level of the structure, all the terms of the sub-theme (or sub-sub-theme, if subdivided) are displayed.

In the example presented here all the terms included in the sub-theme “Winter Serviceability” are displayed, in Italian.

It is possible, through this kind of search, to ask for a display of the data sheets of the terms in two target languages in addition to the source language. The sheets are displayed when clicking on the terms, in the same manner as on the previous page.

Note: here, the first two terms are not translated into Italian, because they refer to concepts with no equivalent in this language; therefore, they are translated into Italian through a definition only.

The list of results may continue on several screens.