

PIARC ROAD DICTIONARY

Online, Multilingual, Multidisciplinary

Help for users

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!

<http://www.piarc.org/en/Terminology-Dictionaries-Road-Transport-Roads/>

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Connection page

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

- for a term;
- 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.

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Road Dictionary. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the World Road Association logo and menu items: ABOUT US, MEMBERSHIP / APPLICATION, NATIONAL COMMITTEES, TECHNICAL COMMITTEES, and language options (FRANÇAIS, ENGLISH, ESPAÑOL, 日本語, 한국어). Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text "SEARCH Keyword" and an "OK" button. A "MY ACCOUNT" button is also visible. The main content area is titled "Road Dictionary" and includes a search menu with options: "Term search", "Search per theme", and "Help". The "Road Dictionary" section contains the following text: "« 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 term and/or per theme searching, and the search results can be displayed simultaneously in three languages." Below this is the "PIARC multilingual terminology database" section, which states: "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"." The "Responsibility of the Committee on Terminology" section explains: "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." On the right side, there is a "Workspace" section with an image of a computer and the text "» Terminology Editors' access". Below that is the "Technical Dictionary of Road Terms" section with an image of a book and the text "» Available in hard copy".

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**.

Term search

Source language Target language(s)

SEARCH

Add criteria

- Only the term
- The term and its synonyms
- All content

Search results

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.

Term search

black

Source language English Target language(s) French Spanish

SEARCH

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.

Add criteria

- SEARCH
- Only the term
- The term and its synonyms
- All content

Results for the term: black

Themes	Terms	Translations
Structures - Tunnels	<i>black hole effect</i>	<i>effet de trou noir</i> <i>efecto de agujero negro</i>
	<i>tunnel portal louvre grid</i>	<i>paralume</i> <i>paralumen</i>
Operations - Traffic - Traffic Signing and Road Marking	<i>blacking over [road marks]</i>	<i>noircissement [marquage]</i>
Operations - Transport - Vehicles	<i>winter tyre</i> syn : winter tire (US, CA)	<i>pneu d'hiver</i> syn : pneumatique d'hiver <i>neumáticos de invierno</i>
Operations - Transport - Intelligent Transport Systems	<i>black box</i> ¹	<i>boîte noire</i> ¹
	<i>event data recorder</i> syn : black box ²	<i>boîte noire</i> ²
Operations - Road Safety	<i>black hole</i>	<i>trou noir</i>
	<i>black line</i> syn : black length syn : accident accumulation line syn : high-accident line (US)	<i>linéaire d'accumulation d'accidents</i>

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).

Term sheet

[« BACK TO RESULTS](#)

cable-stayed bridge



Dictionary : [PIARC Road Dictionary](#) / English

Theme : [Structures](#) / [Bridges](#)

Definition : Bridge in which the deck is supported by a system of inclined cables ("stays" or "guys") from one or more towers, each cable being anchored to a given point of the deck.

Synonyms : guyed bridge

pont à haubans



Dictionary : [PIARC Road Dictionary](#) / French

Theme : [Ouvrages d'art](#) / [Ponts](#)

Definition : Pont dont le tablier est soutenu par un système de câbles obliques (appelés "haubans"), chacun d'eux reliant un pylône à un point donné du tablier.

Synonyms : pont haubané

punte atirantado



Dictionary : [PIARC Road Dictionary](#) / Spanish

Theme : [Estructuras](#) / [Puentes](#)

Definition : Puente cuyo tablero se sostiene por un sistema de cables oblicuos (llamados tirantes), de forma que cada uno de ellos une una torre con un punto determinado del tablero.

Grammar : nm

[Submit your remarks on this term](#) ↓

[« BACK TO RESULTS](#)

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 screenshot shows the PIARC Road Dictionary website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'ABOUT US', 'MEMBERSHIP/APPLICATION', 'NATIONAL COMMITTEES', and 'TECHNICAL COMMITTEES'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'SEARCH Keyword' and an 'OK' button. The main content area is titled 'PIARC Road Dictionary' and includes a 'More about this dictionary' link. There are dropdown menus for 'Source language' (set to 'Italian') and 'Target language(s)'. A 'SEARCH' button is visible on the right. The 'Themes' section lists several categories, with '3-0-0 Gestione della rete' selected. Under this theme, the 'Sub-themes' section lists '3-1-0 Circolazione', '3-2-0 Trasporti', '3-3-0 Sicurezza stradale', '3-4-0 Caratteristiche della sede stradale', '3-5-0 Manutenzione e gestione', and '3-6-0 Viabilità invernale'. The 'Terms in Viabilità invernale.' section lists several terms, including 'abbassamento del punto di congelamento', 'ablazione', 'abrasivo', 'acetato di calcio e magnesio', and 'acetato di potassio'. Orange arrows from the text on the left point to the search bar, the 'Source language' dropdown, the '3-6-0 Viabilità invernale' sub-theme, and the first two terms in the 'Terms in Viabilità invernale.' list.

The list of results may continue on several screens.