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**Drilling and foundation machinery —  
Horizontal directional drilling  
(HDD) machines — Commercial  
specifications**

*Machines de forage et de fondation — Machines de forage horizontal  
dirigé (HDD) — Spécifications commerciales*

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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 of 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 [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 195, *Building construction machinery and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Drilling and foundation machinery and equipment*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 21467:2004), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the title has been updated;
- the Scope has been updated, including machines that were previously excluded;
- the term "machine" has been replaced by "HDD machine" throughout the document;
- [Clause 2](#) has been updated with the removal of ISO 6165;
- in [Clause 3](#), several HDD machine type definitions have been added to align with [Clause 4](#); additional definitions have been added to align with the figures in [Annex A](#); definitions have been removed (for example, performance definitions) if not covered in the body text; [Clause 3](#) has been divided into sub-sections for better flow and readability;
- in [Clause 4](#), nomenclature has been removed because it was out of the scope; [Clause 4](#) now covers machine types; figures that are still appropriate have been moved to [Annex A](#);
- [Clause 5](#) for commercial specifications has been added;
- [Annex A](#) has been added to include figures and key items previously in [Clause 4](#);
- [Annex B](#) has been added to illustrate key drilling tool components;
- [Annex C](#) has been added to illustrate external structures used with large HDD machines;
- Bibliography has been added.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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# Drilling and foundation machinery — Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) machines — Commercial specifications

## 1 Scope

This document establishes content for commercial specifications for horizontal directional drilling (HDD) machines.

It is not applicable to:

- soil drilling machines (see ISO 11886);
- soil/rock drilling machines (see ISO 11886);
- foundation machines (see ISO 11886);
- pile driving machines (see ISO 11886);
- rock drill rigs (see ISO 18758-1).

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 9249, *Earth-moving machinery — Engine test code — Net power*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

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

### 3.1 General

#### 3.1.1

##### **horizontal directional drilling machine**

##### **HDD machine**

machine that uses a steerable *drill head* (3.3.1) attached to the end of a *drill string* (3.3.2) to drill through the earth in a mostly horizontal direction

Note 1 to entry: HDD machines typically apply force to the drill string using a *drill frame* (3.3.8) parallel to, or inclined up to 30° relative to, the operating earth surface.

Note 2 to entry: For examples, see [Annex A](#).

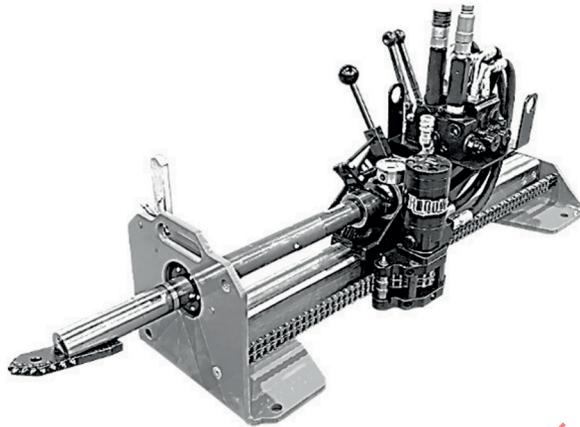
### 3.2 HDD machine types

#### 3.2.1

##### **portable HDD machine**

*HDD machine (3.1.1)* designed to be hand-carried or transported manually entirely or partly

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 1](#).



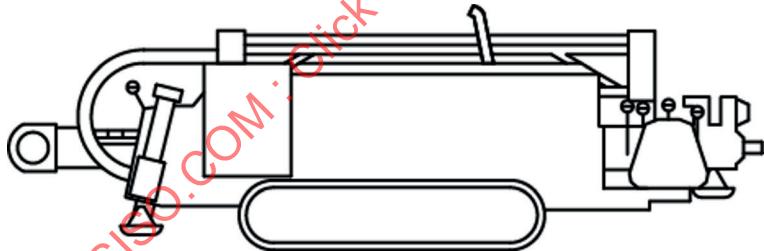
**Figure 1 — Example of portable HDD machine**

#### 3.2.2

##### **pedestrian-controlled HDD machine**

*self-propelled HDD machine (3.2.4)* operated by a pedestrian operator with on-board or cabled controls

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 2](#).



**Figure 2 — Example of pedestrian-controlled HDD machine**

#### 3.2.3

##### **towed HDD machine**

*HDD machine (3.1.1)* with an integrated trailer chassis for transport

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 3](#).

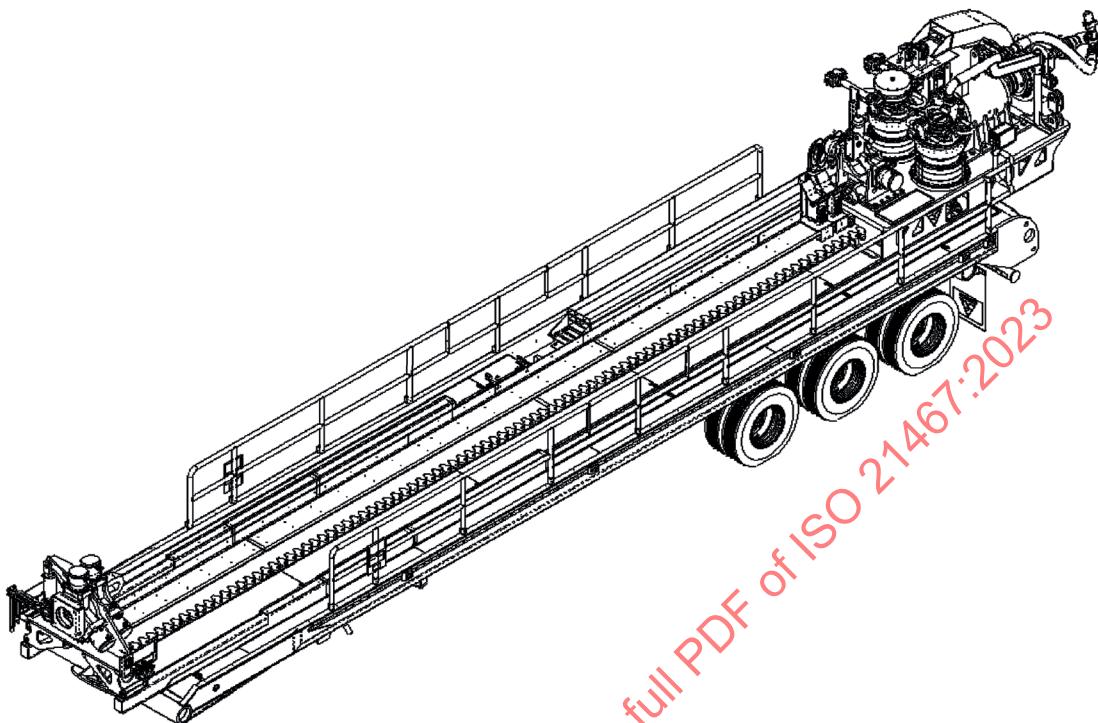


Figure 3 — Example of towed HDD machine

#### 3.2.4

#### self-propelled HDD machine

*HDD machine (3.1.1) that trams under its own power*

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 4](#).

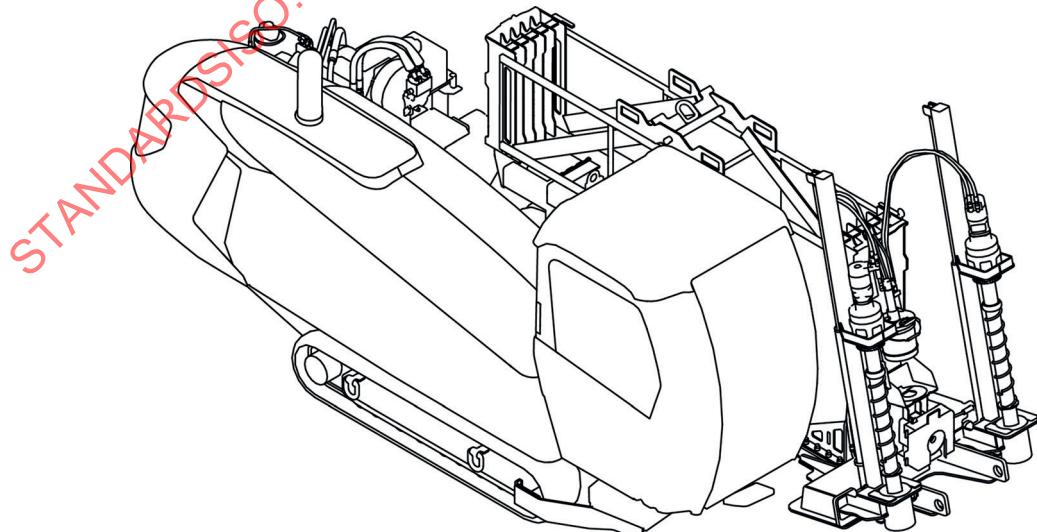


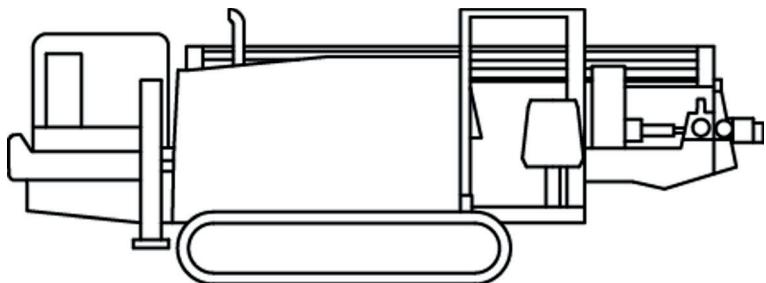
Figure 4 — Example of self-propelled HDD machine

### 3.2.5

#### **ride-on HDD machine**

*self-propelled HDD machine (3.2.4) that is controlled by a seated or standing operator on the machine while tramping*

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 5](#).



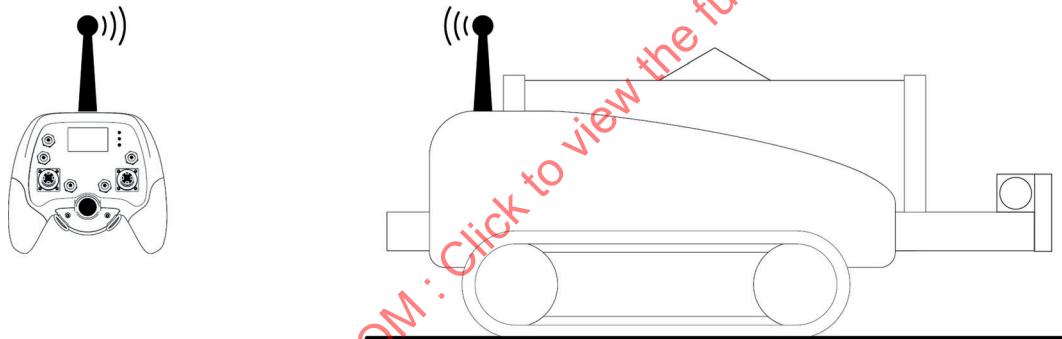
**Figure 5 — Example of ride-on HDD machine**

### 3.2.6

#### **remote-controlled tramping HDD machine**

*self-propelled HDD machine (3.2.4) that is operated with a wireless remote control*

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 6](#).



**Figure 6 — Example of remote-controlled tramping HDD machine**

### 3.2.7

#### **skid-mounted HDD machine**

*stationary HDD machine (3.1.1) mounted on a frame with provisions for it to be transported*

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 7](#).

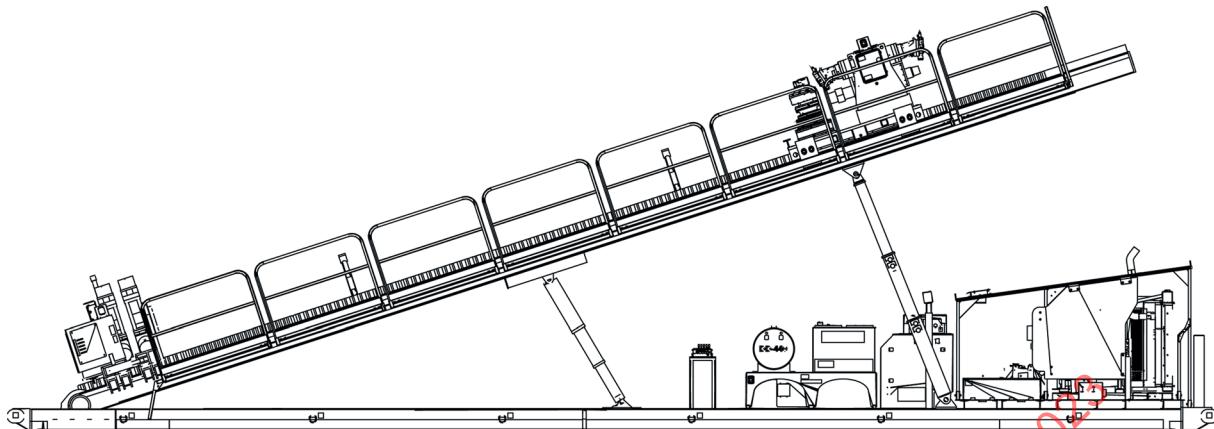


Figure 7 — Example of skid-mounted HDD machine

### 3.2.8

#### **pit-launched HDD machine**

*portable HDD machine (3.2.1) that is set up in an excavated pit to perform the drilling operation*

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 8](#).

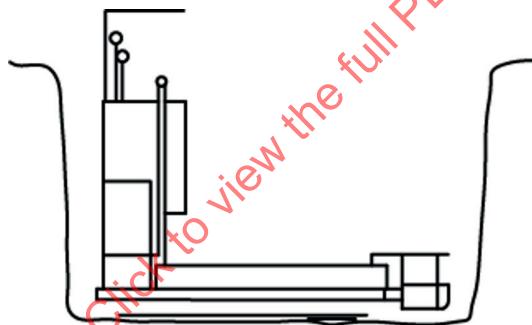


Figure 8 — Example of pit-launched HDD machine

### 3.2.9

#### **surface-launched HDD machine**

*HDD machine (3.1.1) that is set up on the ground surface*

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 9](#).

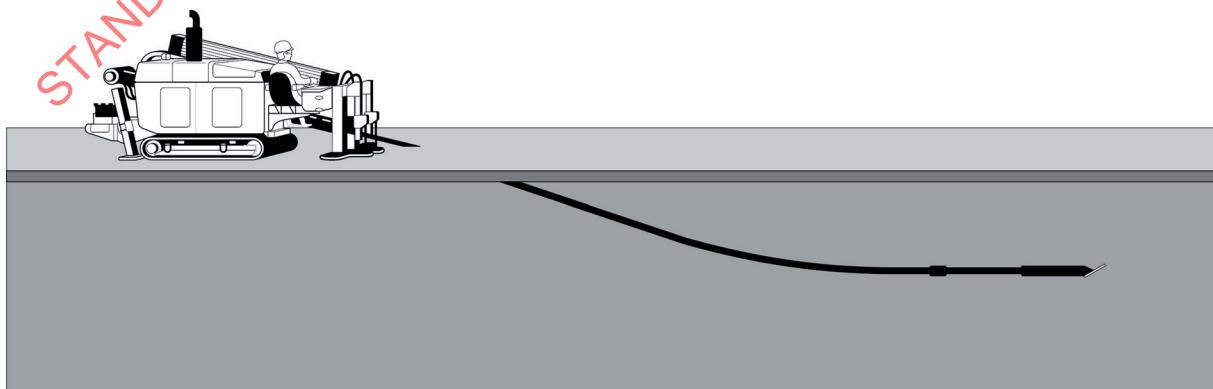


Figure 9 — Example of surface-launched HDD machine

### 3.3 Components

#### 3.3.1

##### **drill head**

device at the leading end of the *drill string* (3.3.2) that holds the *drill bit* (3.3.4), injects flushing media into the *bore* (3.8.1), and holds the tracking device

Note 1 to entry: See [Annex B](#) for examples and further information.

#### 3.3.2

##### **drill string**

piece or pieces of *drill pipe* (3.3.3) joined together that transmit forces from the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) to the *drill head* (3.3.1) or *reamer* (3.3.5)

Note 1 to entry: It is also used to rotate the drill head to position it for steering.

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B](#) for examples and further information.

#### 3.3.3

##### **drill pipe**

drill rod

length of tube designed to transfer flushing media and rotation energy from the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) to the *drill bit* (3.3.4)

Note 1 to entry: See [Annex B](#) for examples and further information.

#### 3.3.4

##### **drill bit**

device designed as a tool to penetrate the formation being drilled by the drilling method employed

Note 1 to entry: The drill bit can be typically replaced or rebuilt.

Note 2 to entry: See [Annex B](#) for examples and further information.

[SOURCE: ISO 22475-1:2021, 3.2.2, modified — Removed "which is attached to, or an integral part of, the drill string that is used as a cutting tool" and added "designed as a tool"; added notes 1 and 2 to entry.]

#### 3.3.5

##### **reamer**

cutting tool designed specifically to enlarge a bored hole

Note 1 to entry: See [Annex B](#) for examples and further information.

#### 3.3.6

##### **clamp**

vise

wrench

device used to hold either the *drill pipe* (3.3.3) or the *drill head* (3.3.1), or both, securely to join or disconnect the joints

#### 3.3.7

##### **drill pipe rack**

drill rod rack

structure that holds multiple *drill pipes* (3.3.3)

Note 1 to entry: The drill pipe rack can be loaded or uploaded manually or with the use of a *loader* (3.8.2).

#### 3.3.8

##### **drill frame**

structure on the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) that carries the *drill frame carriage* (3.3.9)

**3.3.9****drill frame carriage**

structure that travels along the *drill frame* (3.3.8) that transmits rotational and push/pull forces to the *drill string* (3.3.2)

**3.3.10****spindle**

structure on the *drill frame carriage* (3.3.9) that provides the connection to the *drill string* (3.3.2) to transmit torque, thrust, and pull from the *drill frame* (3.3.8) to the *drill string*

**3.3.11****stabilising device**

device or structure used to stabilise the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) by supporting or levelling it

EXAMPLE Stabiliser, outrigger.

**3.3.12****undercarriage**

chassis providing mobility for and supporting the weight of the *HDD machine* (3.1.1)

**3.3.13****on-board fluid tank**

vessel mounted on the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) containing water or drilling fluid

**3.4 Dimensional characteristics****3.4.1****overall machine length**

*L*

longitudinal distance between the planes of the outer extremities in operating configuration

**3.4.2****overall machine height**

*H*

distance from the ground reference plane to the highest extremity in operating configuration

**3.4.3****overall machine width**

*W*

transverse distance between the planes of the outer extremities in operating configuration

**3.4.4****bore entry angle**

angle between the *drill pipe* (3.3.3) and the ground reference plane, with the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) in operating (work) position

**3.4.5****setback**

minimum required distance between the front of the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) and the entry point of the *drill string* (3.3.2) into the ground

**3.4.6****angle of approach**

angle between the ground reference plane and a plane, tangent to the front tyres or tracks of an *HDD machine* (3.1.1) and passing through the lowest point of any protruding structure or component ahead of the front tyres or tracks, which limits the magnitude of the angle

[SOURCE: ISO 13539:1998, 3.8.9, modified — Removed the symbol "A 1"; removed "[GRP]" after "ground reference plane"; changed "forward" to "front"; changed "a machine" to "an HDD machine"; changed "in front of" to "ahead of"; changed "tyres or tracks" to "front tyres or tracks"; removed references to figures.]

### 3.4.7

#### **angle of departure**

angle between the ground reference plane and a plane, tangent to the rear tyres or tracks of an *HDD machine* (3.1.1) and passing through the lowest point of any protruding structure or component behind the rear tyres or tracks, which limits the magnitude of the angle

[SOURCE: ISO 13539:1998, 3.8.10, modified — Removed the symbol "A 2"; removed "[GRP]" after "ground reference plane"; changed "a machine" to "an HDD machine"; removed references to figures.]

### 3.4.8

#### **pit width**

*A*

minimum measured width at bottom of pit to the theoretical vertical ground planes for a given machine

### 3.4.9

#### **pit length**

*B*

minimum measured length at the bottom of the pit to the theoretical vertical ground planes for a given machine

## 3.5 Masses

### 3.5.1

#### **operating mass**

mass of base machine with hydraulic tank full, fuel tank full, *on-board fluid tank* (3.3.13) full (if so equipped) and *drill pipe rack* (3.3.7) on the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) full with the heaviest pipe configuration (if so equipped)

### 3.5.2

#### **drill pipe mass**

drill rod mass

measured mass of an empty *drill pipe* (3.3.3)

## 3.6 Speeds, torques, and forces

### 3.6.1

#### **maximum ground travel speed**

ground travel speed of the *HDD machine* (3.1.1) in both forward and reverse directions at *operating mass* (3.5.1) at maximum engine rotational speed

### 3.6.2

#### **maximum spindle speed**

maximum measured revolutions per minute of the *spindle* (3.3.10) under no load

### 3.6.3

#### **maximum spindle torque**

maximum torque measured to stall *spindle* (3.3.10) rotation

### 3.6.4

#### **carriage thrust travel speed**

maximum speed of movement of the *drill frame carriage* (3.3.9) at no load in the advancing direction

### 3.6.5

#### **maximum carriage thrust force**

maximum force measured to stall movement of the *drill frame carriage* (3.3.9) in the advancing direction

### 3.6.6

#### **carriage pullback travel speed**

maximum speed of movement of the *drill frame carriage* (3.3.9) at no load in the retracting direction

**3.6.7****maximum carriage pullback force**

maximum force measured to stall movement of the *drill frame carriage* (3.3.9) in the retracting direction

## 3.7 Fluid pressure and flow

**3.7.1****maximum drilling fluid pressure**

maximum pressure measured at the *spindle* (3.3.10)

**3.7.2****maximum drilling fluid flow**

maximum flow measured at the *spindle* (3.3.10)

## 3.8 Other terms

**3.8.1****bore**

horizontal hole produced underground

**3.8.2****loader**

handling device

device used to handle and position items for the drilling operation

Note 1 to entry: These items are typically *drill pipes* (3.3.3), *drill pipe racks* (3.3.7) and *drill tooling*.

## 3.9 External structures

**3.9.1****external power supply**

energy source that is not part of the machine for supplying power to the *HDD machine* (3.1.1)

Note 1 to entry: See [Annex C](#) for examples.

**3.9.2****external control room**

free-standing structure with provisions for observing and controlling *HDD machine* (3.1.1) operation

Note 1 to entry: See [Annex C](#) for examples.

## 4 HDD machine types

HDD machine types are listed but not limited to the following:

- a) portable HDD machines;
  - pit-launched HDD machines;
- b) towed HDD machines;
- c) self-propelled HDD machines;
  - pedestrian-controlled HDD machines;
  - ride-on HDD machines;
  - remote-controlled tramping HDD machines;
- d) skid-mounted HDD machines;

e) surface-launched HDD machines.

NOTE See [Annex A](#) for examples.

## 5 Commercial specifications

### 5.1 General specifications

The following general characteristics shall be specified and expressed in:

a) overall machine length	m
b) overall machine height	m
c) overall machine width	m
d) operating mass	kg
e) bore entry angle (maximum)	degrees
f) setback	m
g) angle of approach	degrees
h) angle of departure	degrees
i) bore diameter	mm
j) maximum ground travel speed	km/h
k) fuel tank capacity	l
l) hydraulic tank capacity	l
m) drilling fluid capacity (if equipped)	l
n) water tank capacity (if equipped)	l

### 5.2 Engine specifications

The following engine specifications shall be specified:

a) make and model	
b) fuel type	
c) maximum engine speed	r/min
d) engine net power	kW in accordance with ISO 9249

### 5.3 Operating specifications

The following operating specifications shall be specified and expressed in:

a) operating machine length	m
b) operating machine height	m
c) operating machine width	m

d)	maximum spindle torque	N·m
e)	maximum spindle speed	r/min
f)	carriage thrust travel speed	m/s
g)	carriage pullback travel speed	m/s
h)	maximum carriage thrust force	kN
i)	maximum carriage pullback force	kN
j)	maximum drilling fluid pump pressure	bar
k)	maximum drilling fluid pump flow	l/m

#### 5.4 Drill pipe specifications

The following drill pipe specifications shall be specified and expressed in:

a)	minimum bend radius	m
b)	length	m
c)	joint diameter	mm
d)	drill pipe mass	kg

#### 5.5 Drilling fluid specifications

The following drilling fluid specifications shall be specified and expressed in:

a)	maximum drilling fluid pressure	bar
b)	maximum drilling fluid flow	l/m

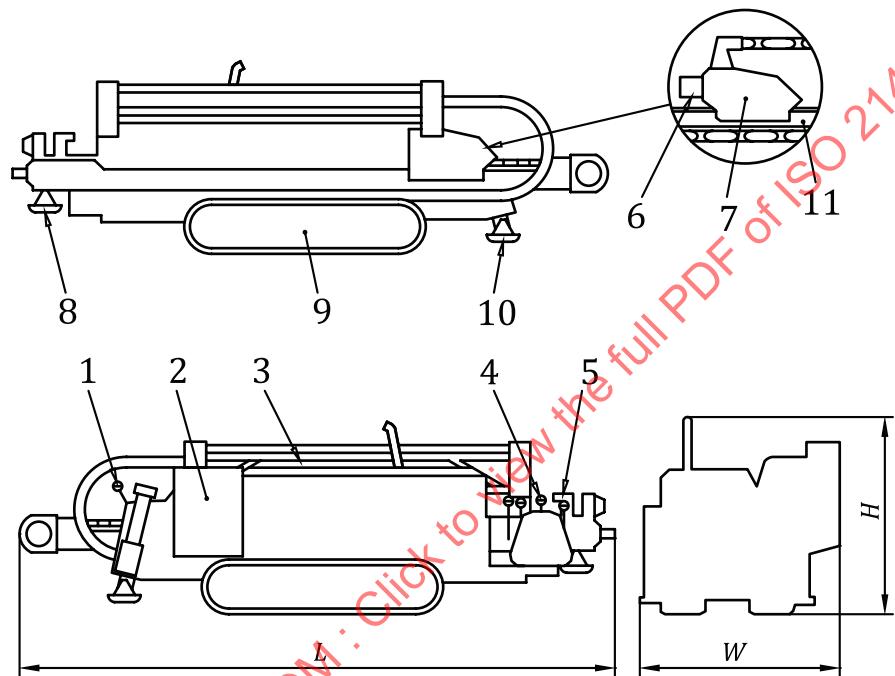
## Annex A

(informative)

### Examples of HDD machines

#### A.1 Example of pedestrian-controlled HDD machine

[Figure A.1](#) illustrates an example of a pedestrian-controlled HDD machine.



#### Key

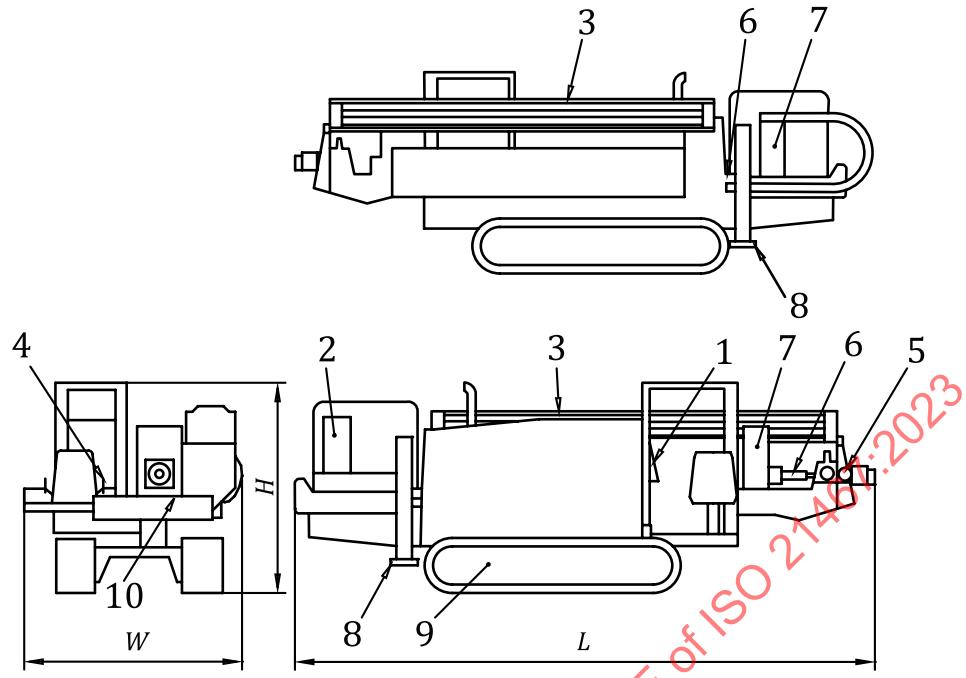
$H$	overall machine height	5	clamp
$L$	overall machine length	6	spindle
$W$	overall machine width	7	drill frame carriage
1	pedestrian controls	8	stabilising device (front)
2	on-board fluid tank	9	undercarriage
3	drill pipe rack	10	stabilising device (rear)
4	drilling controls	11	drill frame

NOTE The example is shown in transport configuration.

**Figure A.1 — Example of pedestrian-controlled HDD machine**

#### A.2 Example of ride-on HDD machine

[Figure A.2](#) illustrates an example of a ride-on HDD machine.

**Key**

$H$	overall machine height	5	clamp
$L$	overall machine length	6	spindle
$W$	overall machine width	7	drill frame carriage
1	operator controls	8	stabilising device (rear)
2	on-board fluid tank	9	undercarriage
3	drill pipe rack	10	drill frame
4	drilling controls — operator's station		

NOTE The example is shown in transport configuration.

**Figure A.2 — Example of ride-on HDD machine**

### A.3 Example of pit-launched HDD machine

[Figure A.3](#) illustrates an example of a pit-launched HDD machine.