

Rope Terminology

Strands

Strand: An element of rope usually consisting of an assembly of wires of appropriate shape and dimensions laid helically in the same direction in one or more layers around a centre.

Note: Strands containing three or four wires in the first layer or certain shaped (e.g. ribbon) strands may not have a centre.

Round strand: A strand with a cross-section which is approximately the shape of a circle.

Triangular strand: A strand with a cross-section which is approximately the shape of a triangle.

Note: Triangular strands may have built-up centres (i.e. more than one wire forming a triangle).

Oval strand: A strand with a cross-section which is approximately the shape of an oval

Flat ribbon strand: A strand without a centre wire with a cross-section which is approximately the shape of a rectangle.

Compacted strand: A strand which has been subjected to a compacting process such as drawing, rolling or swaging whereby the metallic cross-sectional area of the wires remains unaltered and the shape of the wires and the dimensions of the strand are modified.

Note: Bridon's brands of Dyform rope contain strands which have been compacted.

Single lay strand: Strand which contains only one layer of wires, e.g. 6-1.

Parallel lay strand: Strand which contains at least two layers of wires, all of which are laid in one operation (in the same direction), e.g. 9-9-1; 12-6F-6-1; 14-7+7-7-1. Each layer of wires lies in the interstices of the underlying layer such that they are parallel to one another, resulting in linear contact.

Note: This is also referred to as equal lay. The lay length of all the wire layers are equal.

Seale: Parallel lay strand construction with the same number of wires in each wire layer, each wire layer containing wires of the same size, e.g. 7-7-1; 8-8-1; 9-9-1.

Warrington: Parallel lay strand construction having an outer layer of wires containing alternately large and small wires, the number of wires in the outer layer being twice that in the underlying layer of wires, e.g. 6+6-6-1; 7+7-7-1.

Filler: Parallel lay strand construction having an outer layer of wires containing twice the number of wires than in the inner layer with filler wires laid in the interstices of the underlying layer of wires, e.g. 12-6F-6-1; 14-7F-7-1.

Combined parallel lay: Parallel lay strand construction having three or more layers of wires, e.g. 14-7+7-7-1; 16-8+8-8-1; 14-14-7F-7-1; 16-16-8F+8-1.

Note: The first two examples above are also referred to as Warrington-Seale construction. The latter two examples are also referred to as Seale-Filler construction.

Multiple operation lay strand: Strand construction containing at least two layers of wires, at least one of which is laid in a separate operation. All of the wires are laid in the same direction.

Cross-lay: Multiple operation strand construction in which the wires of superimposed wire layers cross over one another and make point contact, e.g. 12/6-1.

Compound lay: Multiple operation strand which contains a minimum of three layers of wires, the outer layer of which is laid over a parallel lay centre, e.g. 16/6+6-6-1.

Ropes

Spiral Rope: An assembly of two or more layers of shaped and/or round wires laid helically over a centre, usually a single round wire. There are three categories of spiral rope, viz. spiral strand, half-locked coil and full-locked coil.

Spiral Strand: An assembly of two or more layers of round wires laid helically over a centre, usually a single round wire.

Half-locked Coil Rope: A spiral rope type having an outer layer of wires containing alternate half lock and round wires.

Full-locked Coil Rope: A spiral rope type having an outer layer of full lock wires.

Stranded Rope: An assembly of several strands laid helically in one or more layers around a core or centre. There are three categories of stranded rope, viz. single layer, multi-layer and parallel-closed.

Single Layer Rope: Stranded rope consisting of one layer of strands laid helically over a core.

Note: Stranded ropes consisting of three or four outer strands may, or may not, have a core. Some three and four strand single layer ropes are designed to generate torque levels equivalent to those generated by rotation-resistant and low rotation ropes.

Rotation-resistant Rope: Stranded rope having no less than ten outer strands and comprising an assembly of at least two layers of strands laid over a centre, the direction of lay of the outer strands being opposite (i.e. contra - lay) to that of the underlying layer of strands.

Low Rotation Rope: Rotation resistant rope having at least fifteen outer strands and comprising an assembly of at least three layers of strands laid over a centre in two operations.

Note: this category of rotation resistant rope is constructed in such a manner that it displays little or no tendency to rotate, or if guided,



Rope Terminology

generates little or no torque when loaded.

Compacted Strand Rope: Rope in which the outer strands, prior to closing of the rope, are subjected to a compacting process such as drawing, rolling or swaging.

Note: Bridon's products containing compacted strands are identified by "Dyform".

Compacted Rope: Rope which is subjected to a compacting process after closing, thus reducing its diameter.

Solid Polymer Filled Rope: Rope in which the free internal spaces are filled with a solid polymer. The polymer extends to, or slightly beyond, the outer circumference of the rope.

Cushioned Rope: Stranded rope in which the inner layers, inner strands or core strands are covered with solid polymers or fibres to form a cushion between adjacent strands or layers of strands.

Cushion Core Rope: Stranded rope in which the core is covered (coated) or filled and covered (coated) with a solid polymer.

Solid Polymer Covered Rope: Rope which is covered (coated) with a solid polymer.

Solid Polymer Covered and Filled Rope: Rope which is covered (coated) and filled with a solid polymer.

Rope Grade (R_t): A number corresponding to a wire tensile strength grade on which the minimum breaking force of a rope is calculated.

Note: It does not imply that the actual tensile strength grades of the wires in a rope are necessarily the same as the rope grade.

Preformed Rope: Stranded rope in which the wires in the strands and the strands in the rope have their internal stresses reduced resulting in a rope in which, after removal of any serving, the wires and the strands will not spring out of the rope formation.

Note: Multi-layer stranded ropes should be regarded as non-preformed rope even though the strands may have been partially (lightly) preformed during the closing process.

Rope Class: A grouping of rope constructions where the number of outer strands and the number of wires and how they are laid up are within defined limits, resulting in ropes within the class having similar strength and rotational properties.

Rope Construction: System which denotes the arrangement of the strands and wires within a rope, e.g. 6x36WS, 6x19S.

Note: K denotes compacted strands.

Cable-laid Rope: An assembly of several (usually six) single layer stranded ropes (referred to as unit ropes) laid helically over a core (usually a seventh single layer stranded rope).

Braided Rope: An assembly of several round strands braided in pairs.

Electro-mechanical Rope: A stranded or spiral rope containing electrical conductors.

Strand and Rope Lays

Lay direction of strand: The direction right (z) or left (s) corresponding to the direction of lay of the outer layer of wires in relation to the longitudinal axis of the strand.

Lay direction of rope: The direction right (Z) or left (S) corresponding to the direction of lay of the outer strands in relation to the longitudinal axis of a stranded rope or the direction of lay of the outer wires in relation to the longitudinal axis of a spiral rope.

Ordinary lay: Stranded rope in which the direction of lay of the wires in the outer strands is in the opposite direction to the lay of the outer strands in the rope. Right hand ordinary lay is designated sZ and left hand ordinary lay is designated zS.

Note: This type of lay is sometimes referred to as 'regular' lay.

Lang's lay: Stranded rope in which the direction of lay of the wires in the outer strands is the same as that of the outer strands in the rope. Right hand Lang's lay is designated zZ and left hand Lang's lay is designated sS.

Alternate lay: Stranded rope in which the lay of the outer strands is alternatively Lang's lay and ordinary lay. Right hand alternate lay is designated AZ and left hand alternate lay is designated AS.

Contra-lay: Rope in which at least one inner layer of wires in a spiral rope or one layer of strands in a stranded rope is laid in the opposite direction to the other layer(s) of wires or strands respectively.

Note: Contra-lay is only possible in spiral ropes having more than one layer of wires and in multi-layer stranded ropes.

Rope lay length (Stranded Rope): That distance parallel to the axis of the rope in which the outer strands make one complete turn (or helix) about the axis of the rope.

Cores

Core: Central element, usually of fibre or steel, of a single layer stranded rope, around which are laid helically the outer strands of a stranded rope or the outer unit ropes of a cable-laid rope.

Fibre core: Core made from natural fibres (e.g. hemp, sisal) and designated by its diameter and runnage.

Fibre Film Core

Core made from synthetic fibres (e.g. polypropylene) and designated by its diameter and runnage.

Steel core: Core produced either as an independent wire rope (IWRC)(e.g. 7x7) or wire strand (WSC)(e.g. 1x7).

Solid polymer core: Core produced as a single element of solid polymer having a round or grooved shape. It may also contain internal elements of wire or fibre.

Insert: Element of fibre or solid polymer so positioned as to separate adjacent strands or wires in the same or overlying layers and fill, or partly fill, some of the interstices in the rope. (see Zebra)

Rope Characteristics and Properties

Calculated Minimum aggregate Breaking Force: Value of minimum aggregate breaking force is obtained by calculation from the sum of the products of the cross-sectional area (based on nominal wire diameter) and tensile strength grade of each wire in the rope, as given in the manufacturer's rope design.

Calculated Minimum breaking Force: Value of minimum breaking force based on the nominal wire sizes, wire tensile strength grades and spinning loss factor for the rope class or construction as given in the manufacturer's rope design.

Fill factor: The ratio between the sum of the nominal cross-sectional areas of all the load bearing wires in the rope and the circumscribed area of the rope based on its nominal diameter.

Spinning loss factor (k): The ratio between the calculated minimum breaking force of the rope and the calculated minimum aggregate breaking force of the rope.

Breaking force factor (K): An empirical factor used in the determination of minimum breaking force of a rope and obtained from the product of fill factor for the rope class or construction, spinning loss factor for the rope class or construction and the constant $\pi/4$.

Minimum breaking force (F_{min}): Specified value, in kN, below which the measured breaking force is not allowed to fall in a prescribed test and, for ropes having a grade, obtained by calculation from the product of the square of the nominal diameter, the rope grade and the breaking force factor.

Minimum aggregate breaking force (F_{e,min}): Specified value, in kN, below which the measured aggregate breaking force is not allowed to fall in a prescribed test and, for ropes having a grade, obtained from the product of the square of the nominal rope diameter (d), the metallic cross-sectional area factor (C) and the rope grade (Rr).

Norminal length mass: The nominal mass values are for the fully lubricated ropes. For friction winder ropes, the values should be reduced by 2%. The nominal length mass values are subject to a tolerance of plus 2% to minus 5%.

Rope torque: Value, usually expressed in N.m, resulting from either test or calculation, relating to the torque generated when both ends of the rope are fixed and the rope is subjected to tensile loading.

Rope turn: Value, usually expressed in degrees per metre, resulting from either test or calculation, relating to the amount of rotation when one end of the rope is free to rotate and the rope is subjected to tensile loading.

Initial extension: Amount of extension which is attributed to the initial bedding down of the wires within the strands and the strands within the rope due to tensile loading.

Note: This is sometimes referred to as constructional stretch.

Elastic extension: Amount of extension which follows Hooke's Law within certain limits due to application of a tensile load.

Permanent rope extension: Non-elastic extension.

