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Replacing GB/T 12601-1990

Basic terminology of the harmonic gear drive

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(English Translation)

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Foreword

GB/T 12601-2026 is a recommended national standard (GB/T) of the People's Republic of China, issued on 28 September 2026 by the State Administration for Market Regulation and the Standardization Administration of China, with effect from 1 April 2027.

This edition replaces GB/T 12601-1990.

It is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (Electronics).

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1 Scope

Basic terminology of the harmonic gear drive is defined in this standard. Harmonic gear drives, also known as strain wave gearing, are used where compact size, high reduction ratio, and precise motion are needed, for example in robots, instruments, and automation equipment. A shared vocabulary helps engineers, buyers, and sellers describe components in the same way in drawings, contracts, and technical documents.

The document is useful to gear designers, reducer manufacturers, robotics and machinery companies, technical writers, and translators who must handle Chinese engineering terminology consistently. It is a recommended national standard (GB/T), so it is voluntary unless referenced elsewhere. This edition replaces GB/T 12601-1990 and was issued on 28 September 2026, with effect from 1 April 2027. It sits alongside the separate standard for harmonic drive reducers as part of the same technical area, though the two documents serve different purposes: one defines terms, the other addresses the products.

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