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**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**GB/T 4549.4-2004**

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**Railway vehicle vocabulary - Part 4: Coupler, draft gear and  
vestibule diaphragm**

铁道车辆词汇 第4部分:车钩缓冲及风挡装置

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### 1 Scope

Part 4 of China's national railway vehicle vocabulary, covering couplers, draft gear and vestibule diaphragms. The coupler is what makes a train a train, and its vocabulary is unusually consequential: a Chinese freight train may be a hundred wagons and ten thousand tonnes, and the longitudinal forces running through the couplings during braking and acceleration are what break trains apart. So the terms cover the coupler itself with its knuckle, lock and yoke, the draft gear that absorbs those forces, the buffers where they are used, and the failure modes and inspection limits that go with them. The vestibule diaphragm belongs here because it is the other thing spanning the gap between vehicles - the flexible enclosure through which passengers pass, which must accommodate the same relative movement without opening. This part sits with the other ten as the reference vocabulary for Chinese railway rolling stock documents.

### About this edition

GB/T 4549.4-2004 is the current edition. It was issued on 11 June 2004 and has been in force since 1 December 2004.

The interval between issue and effect is the transition period. It exists so that producers, laboratories and buyers can requalify products, revise procedures and use up documentation before the new text becomes the one that applies. The date on this page is the official one from the record of the Standardization Administration.

### Classification and status

GB/T 4549.4-2004 is classified under ICS 01.040.45; 45.060.20. ICS is the International Classification for Standards, the same scheme used by ISO and by the national bodies of most countries, which is what allows a Chinese standard to be placed beside its foreign counterparts on subject rather than on number.

Its Chinese Standard Classification code is CCS S 50. CCS is the domestic scheme, a

letter for the sector and two digits for the subject within it, and it is the code by which the standard is filed and searched in China.

The GB/T prefix marks a recommended national standard. It is not, in itself, law: it becomes binding when a contract names it, when a regulation or a mandatory standard refers to it, or when a producer declares conformity with it. In practice that covers most of the cases in which it will be read - a purchase specification, an inspection agreement or a certification scheme.

## **How a Chinese national standard is set out**

Chinese national standards are drafted to the rules of GB/T 1.1, which fixes the order in which a standard is set out. The document opens with a foreword recording the issuing bodies, the relationship to any previous edition and the technical committee responsible for it. Clause 1 is the scope. Clause 2 lists the normative references - the other standards that have to be applied together with this one, and without which its requirements cannot be met. Clause 3 gives the terms and definitions. The technical clauses follow: the requirements themselves, the test or measurement methods by which conformity is established, the inspection rules that say how a lot is sampled and judged, and, for a product standard, the provisions on marking, packaging, transport and storage. Annexes, normative or informative, come last.

GB/T 4549.4-2004 runs to 15 pages in the English translation. What is delivered is the complete document in that order: every clause, every table, every figure and every annex of the Chinese original, with the same numbering, so that a reference to a clause number in a contract or a test report points to the same place in both languages.

## **About this English translation**

The English edition of GB/T 4549.4-2004 is a full translation of the official Chinese text, not a summary, an abstract or a machine rendering left unchecked. Clause and subclause numbers, table and figure numbers and annex letters are those of the original, because they are what a specification, a purchase order or a test report cites.

Technical terms are translated against the vocabulary standards of the same field, so that a term used in GB/T 4549.4-2004 reads the same way as in the other Chinese standards it is used beside. Where a term has an established English form in an ISO or IEC document on the same subject, that form is used; where China's term has no foreign counterpart, it is translated literally and the Chinese is kept alongside it rather than replaced by an approximation.

Quantities, units and symbols are carried over unchanged. Chinese standards use SI, so a value in the translation is the value in the original document, not a conversion, and a limit read from the English text is the limit that will be applied by a Chinese inspection body

reading the Chinese one.

This page is compiled from the official publication record: the standard number and both titles, the issuing bodies, the dates of issue and effect, the ICS and CCS classification. The requirements, limits, tables and test conditions are in the document itself.

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