As a result of wear, the distance between the centers of the through-holes of a link plate can increase by, among other causes, modification of the embodiment of the through-holes from the "new condition," or the "delivered" condition, which occurs in particular with a deformation of a through-hole with an elongation in the direction of the adjacent border area of the link plate. The through-hole of a link plate in a chain can thus be elongated in the direction of the adjacent chain link. With increasing use of the chain, the through-hole to the border area of the link plate elongates, that is, the diameter, or the width of the through-hole, increases along the centerline of the link plate. As a result of this increase in diameter along the central axis of the link plate, wear with an elongation of the chain occurs, which is called wear elongation. Typically, articulated chains are replaced after reaching a specified wear elongation. Generally, articulated chains with an elongation due to wear of 3% compared to the nominal length are considered to be worn to such an extent that failure-free and safe operation can no longer be guaranteed. In particular cases, a lesser elongation may also be specified as the acceptable elongation.