

# ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

## ISO RECOMMENDATION R 217

METHOD OF EXPRESSION  
OF DIMENSIONS AND DIRECTION OF MANUFACTURE  
OF UNPROCESSED WRITING AND PRINTING PAPER

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## BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R 217, *Method of Expression of Dimensions and Direction of Manufacture of Unprocessed Writing and Printing Paper*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 6, *Paper*, the Secretariat of which is held by the Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR).

Work on this question by the Technical Committee began in 1958 and led, in 1959, to the adoption of a Draft ISO Recommendation.

In November 1959, this Draft ISO Recommendation (No. 331) was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry. It was approved, subject to some editorial amendments, by the following Member Bodies:

Australia	Greece	Portugal
Austria	India	Romania
Belgium	Ireland	Sweden
Chile	Israel	Switzerland
Czechoslovakia	Japan	Turkey
Denmark	Norway	United Kingdom
France	Pakistan	U.S.S.R.
Germany	Poland	

No Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft.

The Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided, in November 1961, to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

**METHOD OF EXPRESSION  
OF DIMENSIONS AND DIRECTION OF MANUFACTURE  
OF UNPROCESSED WRITING AND PRINTING PAPER**

For international trade, it is recommended, in regard to unprocessed (not written upon, not ruled and not punched) writing and printing paper:

1. that the size should be designated by its two dimensions, width and length, indicating the width (smaller dimension) first;
2. that, where it is necessary, the machine direction\* should be indicated as follows:
  - 2.1. *on written documents, orders, invoices, etc.*  
by the letter " M " placed after the dimension parallel to the machine direction;
  - 2.2. *on packets, reams or packages*  
by one of the following methods:
    - 2.2.1 by the letter " M " placed after the dimension parallel to the machine direction,
    - 2.2.2 by an arrow parallel to the machine direction,
    - 2.2.3 by a combination of both the above methods.

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\* See definitions Nos. 10 and 11 of ISO Recommendation R 66, *Paper Vocabulary. First Series of Terms.*