
**Personal protective equipment —
Protective footwear**

Équipement de protection individuelle — Chaussures de protection

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information.

ISO 20346 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 161, *Foot and leg protectors*, in collaboration with ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 94, *Personal safety — Protective clothing and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Foot protection*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 20346:2004), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 20346:2004/Amd. 1:2007 and the Technical Corrigenda ISO 20346:2004/Cor. 1:2005 and ISO 20346:2004/Cor. 2:2006.

Changes between this edition and the 2004 version are as follows.

- Slip resistance was moved from [Annex A](#) into the main text ([5.3.5](#)).
- The requirements for seat region ([5.2.3](#)) are more specific.
- The requirements for corrosion resistance of metallic toecaps ([5.3.2.5.1](#)) have been slightly changed.
- Innocuousness ([5.3.6](#)) has been added.
- The requirement for Chromium VI content was exactly specified.
- The requirement for abrasion resistance of seat region lining has been included.
- The requirements for penetration resistance have been adjusted to EN 12568.
- A new kind of footwear “Hybrid Footwear” has been included in [Annex A](#).

Personal protective equipment — Protective footwear

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies basic and additional (optional) requirements for protective footwear used for general purpose. It includes, for example, mechanical risks, slip resistance, thermal risks, ergonomic behaviour.

Special risks are covered by complementary job-related standards (e.g. footwear for firefighters, electrical insulating footwear, protection against chain saw injuries, protection against chemicals and molten metal splash, protection for motor cycle riders).

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 17075, *Leather — Chemical tests — Determination of chromium(VI) content*

ISO 20344:2011, *Personal protective equipment — Test methods for footwear*

EN 12568:2010, *Foot and leg protectors — Requirements and test methods for toecaps and penetration resistant inserts*

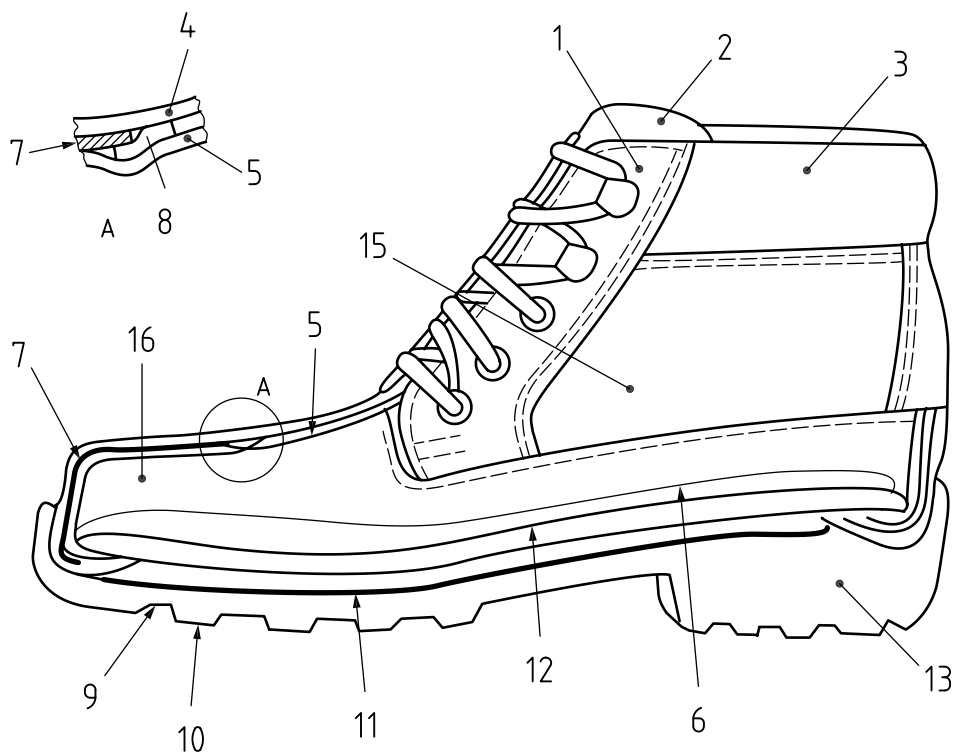
EN 50321, *Electrically insulating footwear for working on low voltage installations*

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3 Terms and definitions

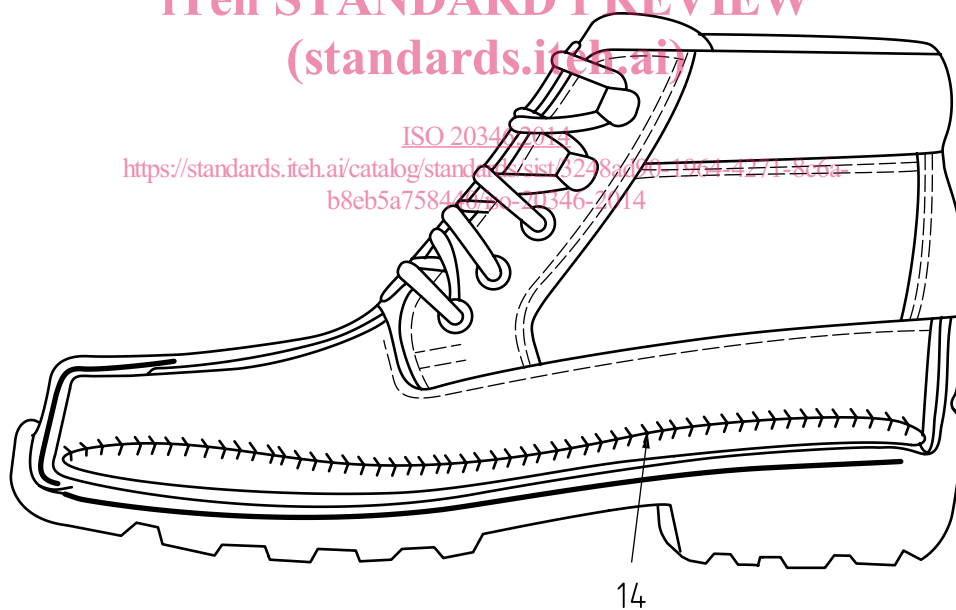
For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

NOTE The component parts of footwear are illustrated in [Figures 1, 2 and 3](#).



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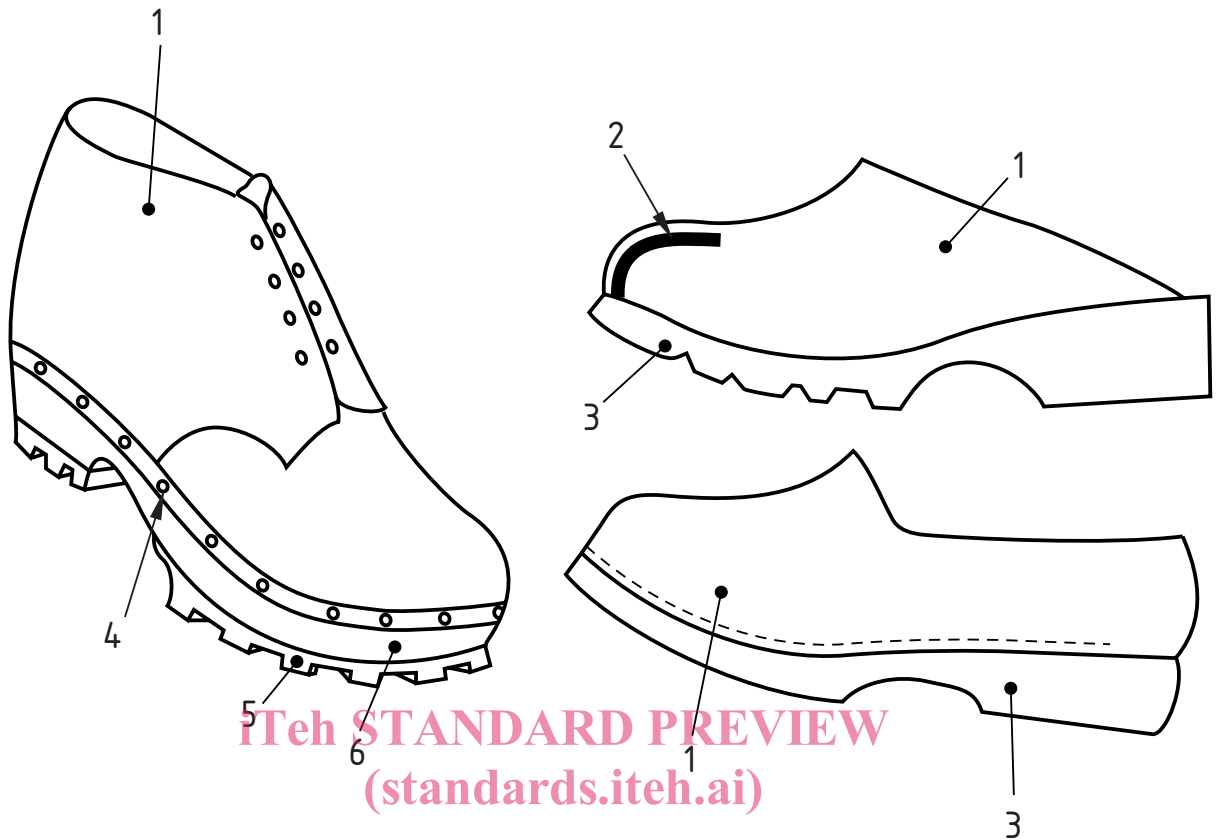
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Key

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 facing | 9 outsole |
| 2 tongue | 10 cleat |
| 3 collar | 11 penetration-resistant insert |
| 4 upper | 12 insole |
| 5 vamp lining | 13 heel |
| 6 insock | 14 Strobel stitching |
| 7 toecap | 15 quarter |
| 8 edge covering, e.g. foam strip | 16 vamp |

Figure 1 — Types of footwear: Example of parts of footwear of Strobel construction

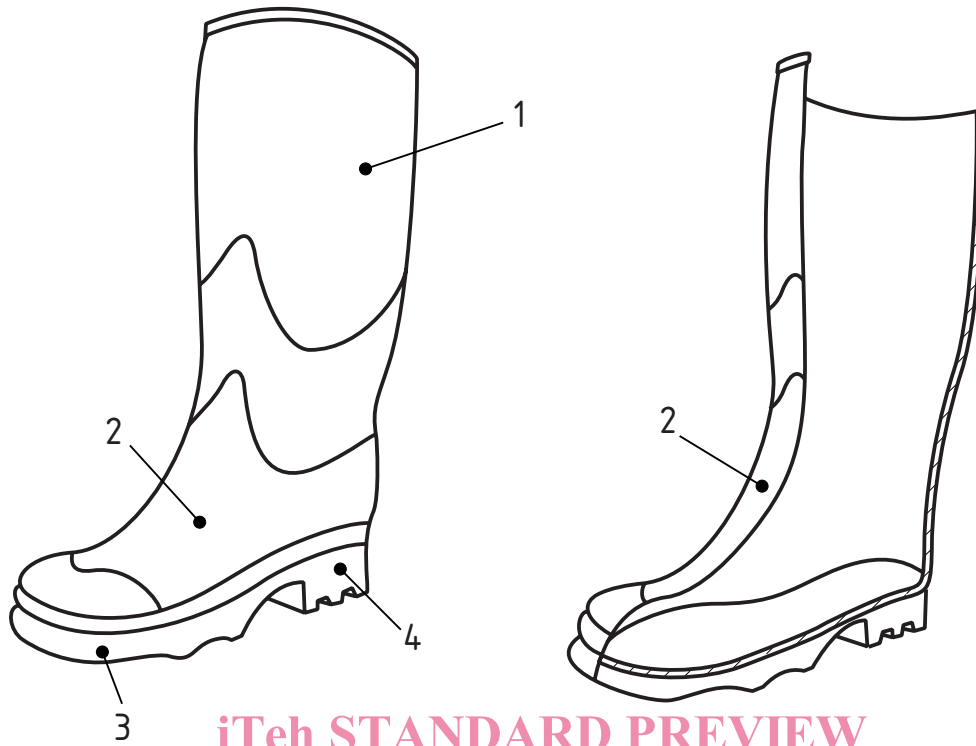


Key

- 1 upper
- 2 toecap
- 3 rigid sole

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- 4 reinforcing welt with nails
 - 5 outsole
 - 6 wooden sole

Figure 2 — Types of footwear: Example of other footwear



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Key

- 1 upper
- 2 vamp
- 3 outsole
- 4 heel

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Figure 3 — Example of all-rubber (i.e. vulcanized) or all-polymeric (i.e. entirely moulded) footwear

3.1 protective footwear

footwear incorporating protective features to protect the wearer from injuries that could arise through accidents

Note 1 to entry: Items of protective footwear are fitted with toecaps designed to give protection against impact when tested at an energy level of at least 100 J and against compression when tested at a compression load of at least 10 kN.

3.2 leather

hide or skin tanned to be imputrescible

3.2.1 leather split

flesh or middle part of a hide or skin, obtained by splitting a thick leather, which is tanned to be imputrescible

3.3 rubber

vulcanized elastomers

3.4 polymeric materials

large molecules composed of repeating structural units (monomers) typically connected by chemical bond

EXAMPLE Polyurethane (PU) or polyvinylchloride (PVC).

3.5 insole

non-removable component used to form the base of the shoe to which the upper is usually attached during lasting

3.6 insock

removable or non-removable footwear component used to cover part or all of the insole

Note 1 to entry: "Non-removable" means that the insock cannot be removed without being damaged.

3.7 lining

material covering the inner surface of the upper

Note 1 to entry: The wearer's foot is in direct contact with the lining.

Note 2 to entry: Where an upper is split at the forepart to house the toecap, or if an external piece of material is stitched to the upper to form a pocket to house the toecap, the material under the toecap acts as a lining.

3.7.1 vamp lining

material covering the inner surface of the forepart of the upper

3.7.2 quarter lining

material covering the inner surface of the quarters of the upper

3.8 cleat

protruding part of the outer surface of the sole

3.9 rigid outsole

sole which cannot be bent through an angle of 45° under a load of 30 N

Note 1 to entry: Testing is performed in accordance with ISO 20344:2011, 8.4.1.

3.10 cellular outsole

outsole which has a density of 0,9 g/ml or less with a cell structure that is visible under 10× magnification

3.11 penetration-resistant insert

footwear component placed in the sole complex in order to provide protection against penetration

3.12 protective toecap

built-in footwear component designed to protect the toes of the wearer from impacts of an energy level of at least 100 J and compression at a load of at least 10 kN

3.13 seat region counter area

rear 10 % of the total length of the footwear (upper and sole)

**3.14
conductive footwear**

footwear, the resistance of which is in the range of 0 kΩ to 100 kΩ

Note 1 to entry: Resistance is measured in accordance with ISO 20344:2011, 5.10.

**3.15
antistatic footwear**

footwear, the resistance of which is above 100 kΩ and less than or equal to 1 000 MΩ

Note 1 to entry: Resistance is measured in accordance with ISO 20344:2011, 5.10.

**3.16
electrically insulating footwear**

footwear which protects the wearer against electrical shocks by preventing the passage of dangerous current through the body via the feet

**3.17
fuel oil**

aliphatic hydrocarbon constituent of petroleum

**3.18
specific job-related footwear**

safety or occupational footwear relating to a specific profession

EXAMPLE Footwear for firefighters; footwear with resistance to chain saw cutting.

**3.19
hybrid footwear**

class II footwear incorporating another material which extends the upper

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure A.1](#).

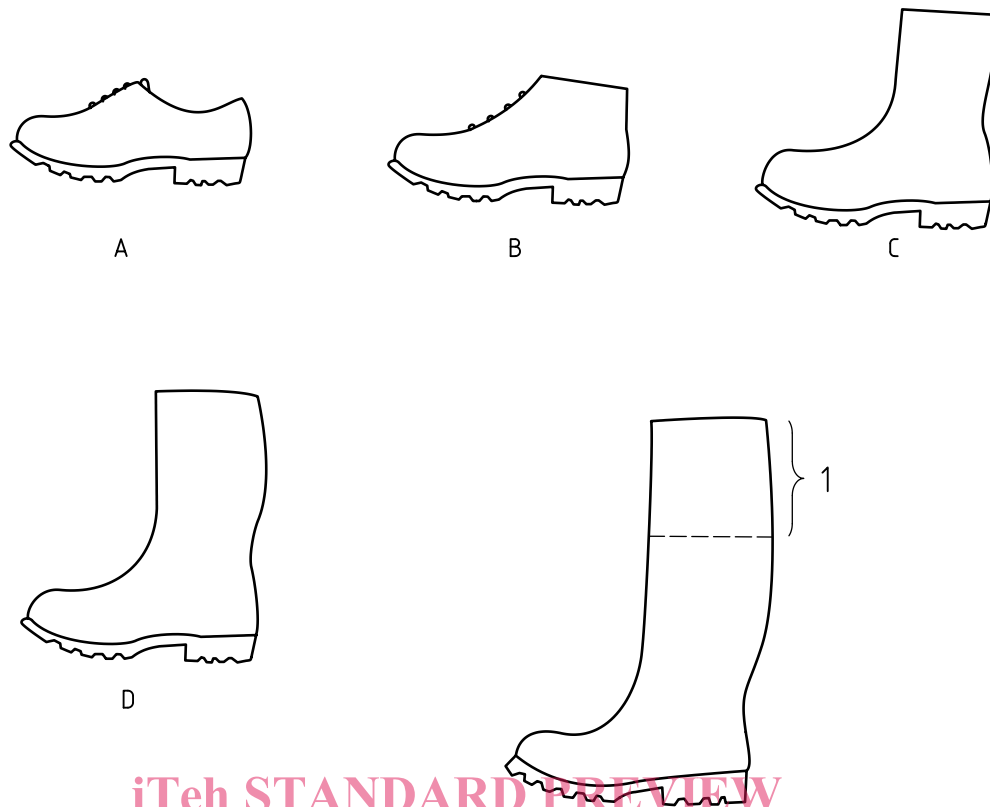
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4 Classification and designs

Footwear shall be classified in accordance with [Table 1](#). Designs of footwear are illustrated in [Figure 4](#).

Table 1 — Classification of footwear

Classification	Description
Class I	Footwear made from leather and other materials, excluding all-rubber or all-polymeric footwear
Class II	All-rubber (i.e. entirely vulcanized) or all-polymeric (i.e. entirely moulded) footwear



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Key

- A low shoe [ISO 20346:2014](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/3248ad90-1964-4271-8c6a-b8eb5a758440/iso-20346-2014)
 B ankle boot <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/3248ad90-1964-4271-8c6a-b8eb5a758440/iso-20346-2014>
 C half-knee boot
 D knee height boot
 E thigh boot
 1 Variable extension which can be adapted to the wearer

NOTE Design E can be a knee-height boot (design D) equipped with a thin impermeable material which extends the upper and which can be cut to adapt the boot to the wearer.

Figure 4 — Designs of footwear

Class II footwear can be equipped with another material which extends the upper. The requirements for this footwear are given in [Annex A](#).

5 Basic requirements for protective footwear

5.1 General

Protective footwear shall conform to the basic requirements given in [Table 2](#).

Table 2 — Basic requirements for protective footwear

Requirement	Subclause	Classification		
		I	II	
Design	Height of upper	5.2.2	X	X
	Seat region (design B, C, D, E)	5.2.3	X	X
Whole foot-wear	Sole performance:	5.3.1		
	— Construction	5.3.1.1	X	
	— Upper/outsole bond strength	5.3.1.2	X	
	Toe protection:	5.3.2		
	— General	5.3.2.1	X	X
	— Internal length of toecaps	5.3.2.2	X	X
	— Impact resistance	5.3.2.3	X	X
	— Compression resistance	5.3.2.4	X	X
	— Behaviour of toecaps	5.3.2.5	X	X
	Leakproofness	5.3.3		X
	Specific ergonomic features	5.3.4	X	X
	Slip resistance:	5.3.5	X	X
	— Slip resistance on ceramic tile floor with NaLS ^a	5.3.5.2		
— Slip resistance on steel floor with glycerine ^b	5.3.5.3			
— Slip resistance on ceramic tile floor with NaLS and on steel floor with glycerine ^c	5.3.5.4			
Upper	General	5.4.1	X	
	Thickness	5.4.2		X
	Tear strength	5.4.3	X	
	Tensile properties	5.4.4	X	X
	Flexing resistance	5.4.5		X
	Water vapour permeability and coefficient	5.4.6	X	
	pH value	5.4.7	X	
	Hydrolysis	5.4.8		X
	Chromium VI content	5.4.9	X	
Vamp lining	Tear strength	5.5.1	X	0
	Abrasion resistance	5.5.2	X	0
	Water vapour permeability and coefficient	5.5.3	X	
	pH value	5.5.4	X	0
	Chromium VI content	5.5.5	X	0
^a One of the three slip resistance requirements shall be met. ^a Marking symbol “SRA”. ^b Marking symbol “SRB”. ^c Marking symbol “SRC”.				