INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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Size designation of clothes —

Part 2:
Primary and secondary dimension indicators

Désignation des tailles de vêtements —

Partie 2: Indicateurs des dimensions principales et secondaires

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Contents

Page

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 World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 133, *Clothing sizing systems — Size designation, size measurement methods and digital fittings.*

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO 3636, ISO 3637, ISO 3638, ISO 4415, ISO 4416, ISO 4417 and ISO 4418, which have been technically revised.

A list of all parts in ISO 8559 can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

Different sizing systems in different companies mean that different size designations can fit people with identical or very similar body measurements.

This document can be used as a reference document for an international size designation system for different types of garment.

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Size designation of clothes —

Part 2:
Primary and secondary dimension indicators

1   Scope

This document specifies primary and secondary dimensions for specified types of garments to be used in combination with ISO 8559-1 (anthropometric definitions for body measurement).

The primary aim of this document is to establish a size designation system that can be used by manufacturers and retailers to indicate to consumers (in a simple, direct and meaningful manner) the body dimensions of the person that the garment is intended to fit. Provided that the size of the person's body (as indicated by the specified dimensions) has been determined in accordance with ISO 8559-1, this designation system will facilitate the choice of garments that fit. This information can be indicated by labelling, etc.

The size designation system is based on body measurements, not garment measurements. The choice of garment measurements is normally determined by the designer and the manufacturers who make appropriate allowances to accommodate the type and position of wear, style, cut and fashion elements of the garment.

2   Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 8559-1, *Size designation of clothes — Anthropometric definitions for body measurement*

3   Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

—   IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

—   ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
primary dimension
body dimension, in centimetres, that is used to designate the size of a garment for the consumer

3.2
secondary dimension
body dimension, in centimetres (or in the case of pantyhose, body mass in kilograms), that can additionally be used to designate the size of a garment for the consumer

3.3
cup size
difference between the bust girth and the underbust girth

Note 1 to entry: See ISO 8559-1:2017, 5.7.7.

1

4 Definition of primary and secondary dimensions in garments

Primary and secondary dimensions are defined as shown in Table 1. These body measurements provide the basis for the designation of clothing sizes, independently from the product itself, for garment types as diverse as jackets, skirts, underwear, corsetry (intimate apparel) and headwear.

Body measurements are listed separately for men's, women's, boys' and girls' clothing.

For infants, body height is used as the primary dimension (see ISO 8559-1) except for headwear, socks, stockings and gloves.

Heights and girths are measured in accordance with ISO 8559-1.

The primary dimension constitutes the basic size designation system.

A number of the secondary dimensions, as given in Table 1, may be used in such a designation system.

The following example explains how to use the table.

EXAMPLE   The relevant indication of a men's jacket is designated by the chest girth, indicated on a pictogram. Waist girth and/or body height and/or back shoulder width can be given as further optional measurements.

Hand size is a code based on the hand girth in centimetres (ISO 8559-1).

Table 1 — Primary and secondary dimensions in garments

Garments for:	Men		Women		Boys		Girls	
Dimensions:	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]
1. Outer garments								
Jackets	Chest girth	Height Waist girth Back shoulder width	Bust girth	Height Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth
Suits (set of jacket and trouser together)	Chest girth and Waist girth	Height Inside leg length	Bust girth and Hip girth	Height Waist girth Inside leg length	Height	Chest girth Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Bust girth Waist girth Hip girth
Suits (set of jacket and skirt together)	Chest girth and Waist girth	Height	Bust girth and Hip girth	Height Waist girth	Height	Chest girth Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Bust girth Waist girth Hip girth

a   PD: Primary dimension.

b   SD: Secondary dimension.

c   Large meaning for "dress", whatever the gender (e.g. tunic).

d   When one PD is chosen as PD, the second alternative PD can be selected as SD.

e   Cup size: refer to the definition given in 3.3.

f   Foot length is related to shoe size.

g   Hand girth is related to hand size.

Table 1 *(continued)*

Garments for:	Men		Women		Boys		Girls	
Dimensions:	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]
Overcoats	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth	Height Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth
Trousers/ shorts	Waist girth	Height Hip girth Inside leg length	Hip girth	Height Waist girth Inside leg length	Height	Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Waist girth Hip girth
Skirts	Waist girth	Height	Hip girth	Height Waist girth	Height	Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Waist girth Hip girth
Dresses[c]	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth	Height Hip girth Waist girth	Height	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth
Knits: cardigans, sweaters, T-shirts	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth	Height	Height	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth
Shirts/blouses	Neck girth[d] or Chest girth[d]	Height Under arm length Arm length Back neck point to wrist length	Bust girth	Height Neck girth Under arm length Arm length Back neck point to wrist length	Height	Neck girth Chest girth Under arm length Arm length Back neck point to wrist length	Height	Neck girth Bust girth Under arm length Arm length Back neck point to wrist length
Full bodies: Overalls, surf-suits, wetsuits, Bicycling gear, Full swimwear, skiwear, brace and bibs	Chest girth[d] or Waist girth[d]	Height	Bust girth	Height Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Chest girth Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Bust girth Waist girth Hip girth

a	PD: Primary dimension.
b	SD: Secondary dimension.
c	Large meaning for "dress", whatever the gender (e.g. tunic).
d	When one PD is chosen as PD, the second alternative PD can be selected as SD.
e	Cup size: refer to the definition given in 3.3.
f	Foot length is related to shoe size.
g	Hand girth is related to hand size.

Table 1 *(continued)*

Garments for:	Men		Women		Boys		Girls	
Dimensions:	PDª	SDᵇ	PDª	SDᵇ	PDª	SDᵇ	PDª	SDᵇ
2. Underwear								
Undervest	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth	Height Hip girth	Height	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth
Underpants, trunk	Waist girth	Height Hip girth	Hip girth	Height Waist girth	Height	Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Waist girth Hip girth
Leggings, longjohns	Waist girth	Height	Hip girth	Height Inside leg length	Height	Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Waist girth Hip girth
Nightwear	Chest girth	Height Waist girth	Bust girth	Height Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Chest girth	Height	Bust girth
Swimwear (without cups)	Waist girth	Height	Bust girth	Height Hip girth	Height	Chest girth Waist girth Hip girth	Height	Bust girth Waist girth Hip girth
Swimwear (with cups)	—	—	Bust girth and underbust girthᵉ	—	—	—	Bust girth and underbust girth	—
3. Corsetry (intimate apparel)								
Bras	Chest girth	—	Bust girth and underbust girthᵉ	—	—	—	Bust girth and underbust girth	—
Corsetry upper and full body (with cups)	—	—	Bust girth and underbust girthᵉ	Height Hip girth Waist girth	—	—	—	—
Corsetry upper and full body (without cups)	—	—	Bust girth	Height Hip girth Waist girth	—	—	—	—

a	PD: Primary dimension.
b	SD: Secondary dimension.
c	Large meaning for "dress", whatever the gender (e.g. tunic).
d	When one PD is chosen as PD, the second alternative PD can be selected as SD.
e	Cup size: refer to the definition given in 3.3.
f	Foot length is related to shoe size.
g	Hand girth is related to hand size.

Table 1 *(continued)*

Garments for:	Men		Women		Boys		Girls	
Dimensions:	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]	PD[a]	SD[b]
Corsetry lower body	—	—	Waist girth Hip girth	Height	—	—	—	—
Panty girdle	—	—	Waist girth	Hip girth	—	—	—	—
4. Hosiery								
Pantyhose	Height[d] or Waist girth[d]	Weight	Height[d] or Hip girth[d]	Weight	Height	—	Height	—
Stockings, knee-highs	Foot length[f]	—	Foot length[f]	—	Foot length[f]	—	Foot length[f]	—
Socks	Foot length[f]	Calf girth Ankle girth	Foot length[f]	Calf girth Ankle girth	Foot length[f]	Calf girth Ankle girth	Foot length[f]	Calf girth Ankle girth
5. Gloves	Hand girth[g]	Hand length	Hand girth[g]	Hand length	Hand girth[g]	Hand length	Hand girth[g]	Hand length
6. Headwear	Head girth	—	Head girth	—	Head girth	—	Head girth	—

a   PD: Primary dimension.

b   SD: Secondary dimension.

c   Large meaning for "dress", whatever the gender (e.g. tunic).

d   When one PD is chosen as PD, the second alternative PD can be selected as SD.

e   Cup size: refer to the definition given in 3.3.

f   Foot length is related to shoe size.

g   Hand girth is related to hand size.

5   Size designation

5.1   General

The size designation of each garment shall comprise the range of the primary dimension(s) (PD in Table 1), in centimetres, of the intended wearer of that garment and, optionally, the range of the secondary dimension(s) (SD in Table 1) in centimetres. Where practicable, the standard pictogram Figure 1, as given in ISO 8559-1, should be used as a means of indicating the size designation.

The range of the dimensions shall be expressed as the minimum and the maximum dimensions of the body for which the garment has been designed.

EXAMPLE   For a garment designed to fit a body of which the height is between 174 cm and 178 cm, the minimum dimension is 174 cm and the maximum dimension is 178 cm, and then the dimension range is expressed as "174-178" (given that the data are expressed in cm).

Where it is not practicable to use the standard pictogram Figure 1, as given in ISO 8559-1, the numerical values of the primary and secondary dimensions shall be given, together with the descriptive words such as chest girth, waist girth, etc., alongside, in the order in which they are given in Table 1.

Where a similar graphic image (e.g. human body silhouette) is used in replacement of the standardised pictogram, information related to the range(s) of body dimension(s) with their body dimension position should be provided.

The size information shall be provided at the points of sale (stores, catalogue, websites, etc.).

NOTE   From the point of view of a user, it is not necessary to distinguish the primary dimensions (PD) from the secondary dimensions (SD). It means that the SD lines are drawn as the PD ones and the SD dimensions are edited using the same characters as the PD dimensions. See examples in Annex A.

5.2   Garment dimensions

Garment dimensions shall not be incorporated in the size designation but, where considered of value, garment dimensions may be indicated separately (see 6.3) in order to avoid the confusion with the body dimensions.

5.3   Garment with cups

In the cases of bras and swimwear with cups, one of the PD may be replaced by cup size (3.3), i.e. bust girth replaced by cup size, or, underbust girth by cup size.

6   Labelling

6.1   Method

The size designation of each garment shall be indicated clearly, conspicuously and in plainly legible form on a label, on a swing ticket/tag, or by any other marking support (e.g. packaging, leaflets, and posters). Pictograms shall be large enough to ensure immediate understanding and numerals shall, in all cases, be easy to read.

6.2   Label attachment

When required, the label shall be securely attached to the garment and so positioned as to be easily readable. The potential lifespan of the garment label shall be at least that of the garment.

6.3   Additional information

Information additional to the size designation may be separately indicated on the label, or on the swing ticket, or on both, provided that it does not in any way reduce the prominence and conspicuousness of the size designation. Such additional information may include a size code number, body measurements, or garment measurements considered to constitute useful information.

6.4   Examples of labels

The examples of labels given in Figures A.1 to A.14 illustrate methods of labelling, based on the use of the standard pictogram, and the ranges of PD and/or SD.

NOTE 1   The body dimension(s) line(s) in the figures in Annex A are indicated with a straight line. The use of arrows to draw the measurement lines is possible.

NOTE 2   The body dimension(s) range(s) in the figures in Annex A are indicated inside a box. Boxes are intended to enlighten a range in the figure. The use of boxes can be omitted. If used, the box shape can be of any shape.

For a type of garment intended for a particular sector (women, men, girls, boys, etc.), the number of pictogram variants depends on the number of SD.

For example:

— If the size designation is based on one PD and two SD (SD1 and SD2), this situation leads to four possible variants, as follows:

   — 1) PD alone;