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## Absorbent incontinence products for urine and/or faeces — Product type names and illustrations

*Produits d'incontinence pour l'absorption d'urine et/ou de matières  
fécales — Noms de types de produits et illustrations*

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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](http://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](http://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 of the voluntary nature of standards, 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 [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 173, *Assistive products*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Aids for ostomy and incontinence*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 293, *Assistive products and accessibility*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Incontinence is defined as the complaint of any involuntary leakage of urine and/or faeces. It is estimated that 400 million people are affected by incontinence worldwide and the number is increasing as the population in many countries ages. Incontinence that cannot be (fully) cured is most commonly managed using absorbent products.

Products come in a range of different designs but the terms that are currently used to describe the product types vary considerably among - and even within - countries, resulting in a confusing variety of synonyms among clinicians and academics and in the literature provided by product suppliers. A standardized terminology would facilitate understanding and communication among stakeholders.

For many product types, several synonyms are in established use - in different countries and markets - so that the widespread adoption of just one is unlikely to be achieved quickly. Accordingly, while this document provides a recommended term for each product type, it also acknowledges the complexity of the current situation by listing synonyms considered to have some merit. Meanwhile this document will also work to facilitate understanding between different stakeholders by providing a tool with the different synonyms combined with pictures of each product type.

In this document, a hierarchy of descriptors is used to distinguish, describe and name the various (sub) categories of product types, always using the descriptors (when needed) in the same order: Product type (e.g. all-in-one); User group (e.g. for children); To contain (urine only, faeces only or both); Features and purpose (e.g. with fastener system); Use case (single use or washable). Some products (e.g. pads for underwear) are designed to absorb and contain just urine, and some to contain just faeces (faecal pads). In each case, "urine" or "faeces" - as appropriate - is included in the corresponding (sub-)category name. If neither urine nor faeces is included in a (sub)category name, it refers to products that are designed primarily to absorb urine, but also have some capacity to contain faeces. It is particularly important that products used to contain faeces are changed promptly after soiling in order to avoid skin damage. If no user group (e.g. children or male) is specified in the name of a sub-category, the products it includes can be taken to be suitable for adults of either gender.

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