
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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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.

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.

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