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Specification for  
**Size designation of women's wear**

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Spécification pour la désignation des tailles de vêtements pour femmes

Spezifikation für die Größenbezeichnung von Damenkleidung

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## Foreword

A revision of this British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Clothing Standards Committee. It supersedes the 1974 edition which is now withdrawn. The information in this standard is taken from two international standards ISO 3637-1977 and ISO 4416-1981, published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and developed by ISO/TC 133, Sizing systems and designations for clothes. The information on girls' wear given in these two international standards is contained in BS 3728.

This is the third edition of this British Standard. The first edition, published in 1963, introduced a scheme for designating the size of women's outerwear. The second metric edition was published in 1974. The size coding scheme established was so successful that it was agreed to incorporate this into this third edition, and it is recommended that this national size code is used in conjunction with the control body measurements agreed within ISO/TC 133.

British Standard Specification for  
**Size designation of women's wear**

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**0. Introduction**

This British Standard is one of a series which deals essentially with the size designation of clothing, and is not directly concerned with sizing systems as such.

The primary aim of this and other British Standards in this series is the establishment of a size designation system that indicates (in a simple, direct and meaningful manner) the body size of the woman that a garment is intended to fit. Provided that the shape of her body (as indicated by the appropriate dimensions) has been accurately determined, this system will facilitate the choice of garments that fit.

The size designation system is based on body and not garment measurements. Choice of garment measurements is normally left to the designer and the manufacturer, who are concerned with style, cut and other fashion elements, and who must make due allowance for garments normally worn beneath a specific garment.

Definitions and body measurement procedure are prescribed in BS 5511 which is applicable to all categories of clothing.

**1. Scope**

This British Standard specifies a system of designating the size of women's outerwear and underwear garments that are classified as:

- (a) covering the upper body, or
- (b) covering the whole body, or
- (c) covering the lower body only,

and it applies to civilian and uniform garments.\*

Both the control dimensions on which the size designation system is based, and the method of indicating the size designation on a garment label, are specified.

This British Standard also contains details of a size coding scheme, which is to be included on the garment label together with the control dimensions.

**2. References**

The titles of the standard publications referred to in this Standard are listed on page 5.

**3. Definitions**

For the purposes of this British Standard, the definitions given in BS 5511 together with the following, apply.  
woman. A female person whose growth in height is finished.

**4. Control dimensions**

**4.1 Outerwear (including knitwear and swimwear).** The control dimensions shall be as follows.

(a) Women's garments covering the upper or the whole body

Other than knitwear and swimwear	Knitwear	Swimwear
(1) Bust girth	Bust girth	Bust girth
(2) Hip girth		Hip girth
(3) Height		

(b) Women's garments covering the lower body only

- (1) Hip girth
- (2) Waist girth
- (3) Outside leg length

**4.2 Underwear (including nightwear, foundation garments and shirts).** The control dimensions shall be as follows.

(a) Women's garments covering the upper body only

Other than foundation garments	Foundation garments
(1) Bust girth	Underbust girth
(2) —	Bust girth

(b) Women's garments covering the whole body

Other than foundation garments	Foundation garments
(1) Bust girth	Underbust girth
(2) Height	Bust girth
(3) —	Hip girth

Nightwear, 1-piece garments	Nightwear, 2-piece garments
(1) Bust girth	Bust girth
(2) Height	Hip girth
(3) —	Height

(c) Women's garments covering the lower body only

Other than foundation garments	Foundation garments
(1) Hip girth	Waist girth
(2) —	Hip girth

**5. Size designation**

**5.1** The size designation of each garment shall comprise the control dimensions (see clause 4), in centimetres, of the intended wearer of that garment. Where practicable, the standard or the special pictogram, as given in BS 5511, should be used as a means of indicating the size designation. Where it is not practicable to use the pictogram, the control measurements shall be given, together with the descriptive

\*Examples of garments covered by this British Standard are given in appendix A.

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words such as bust girth, hip girth, etc. alongside, in the order in which they are given in clause 4.

NOTE. The above requirements do not preclude the use, in exceptional instances of:

- (a) size designations comprising only one or two of the applicable control dimensions;
- (b) size designations shown as a range by stating the minimum and maximum control measurements separated by an oblique stroke or a hyphen.

5.2 Garment measurements shall not be incorporated in the size designation but, where considered of value, garment measurements may be indicated separately (see 7.3).

6. Size code

The size code, as detailed in table 1, shall be incorporated in the garment label. Examples of how the size code number may be included in the label are given in figure 1.

Table 1. Size codes and associated body measurements

Size codes	Body measurements			
	Hips		Bust	
	from	to	from	to
	cm	cm	cm	cm
8	83	87	78	82
10	87	91	82	86
12	91	95	86	90
14	95	99	90	94
16	100	104	95	99
18	105	109	100	104
20	110	114	105	109
22	115	119	110	114
24	120	124	115	119
26	125	129	120	124
28	130	134	125	129
30	135	139	130	134
32	140	144	135	139

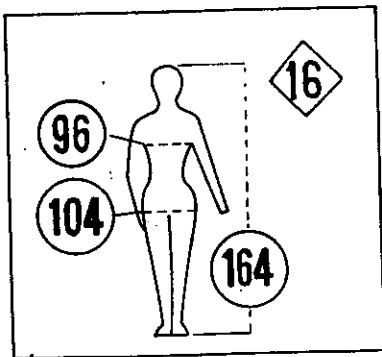
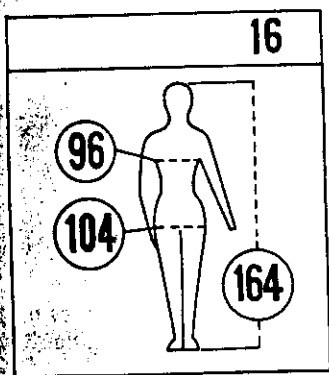
7. Labelling

7.1 Method. The size code and designation of each garment shall be indicated clearly, conspicuously and in a plainly legible form on a label, or on a swing ticket, or on both. Pictograms shall be large enough to ensure immediate understanding and numerals shall, in all cases, be readily discernible.

7.2 Attachment. The label or swing ticket shall be capable of being securely attached to the garment and so positioned as to be easily readable.

7.3 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.

7.4 Examples of labels. The examples of labels given in figures 2 and 3 illustrate methods of labelling that range from the simple indication on the standard pictogram of the relevant control dimensions to more elaborate forms that provide additional information such as a garment dimension or a size code number. Figure 1 gives examples of how to incorporate the size code number into the size label.

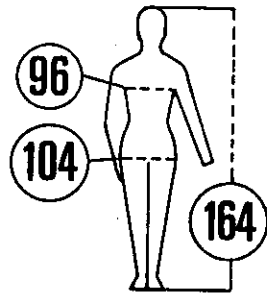


SIZE	16
BUST GIRTH	96
HIP GIRTH	104
HEIGHT	164

Figure 1. Examples of inclusion of size code number into label

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a) Woman's jacket

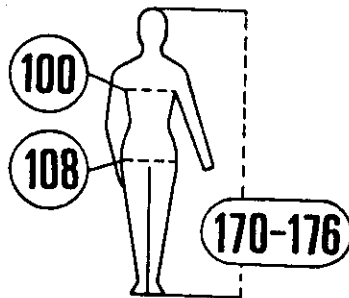


or

BUST GIRTH	96
HIP GIRTH	104
HEIGHT	164

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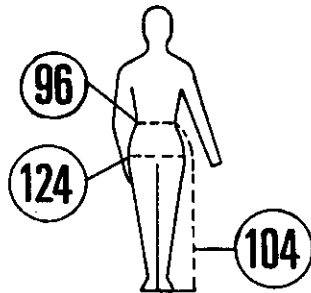
b) Woman's coat or dress



or

BUST GIRTH	100
HIP GIRTH	108
HEIGHT	170 - 176

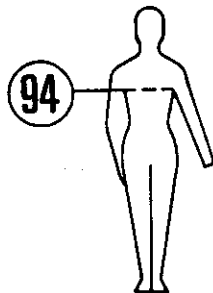
c) Woman's slacks



or

HIP GIRTH	124
WAIST GIRTH	96
OUTSIDE LEG LENGTH	104

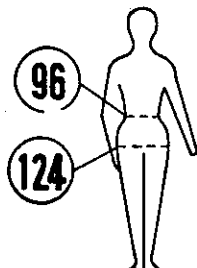
d) Woman's cardigan



or

BUST GIRTH	94
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e) Woman's skirt



or

HIP GIRTH	124
WAIST GIRTH	96
SKIRT LENGTH	66*

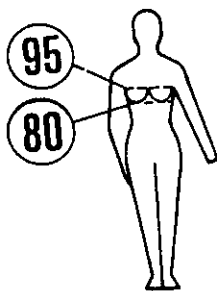
NOTE. Examples of how to incorporate the national size code number are given in figure 1.

Figure 2. Examples of labels for women's outerwear

\* Example of additional information included in accordance with 7.3.

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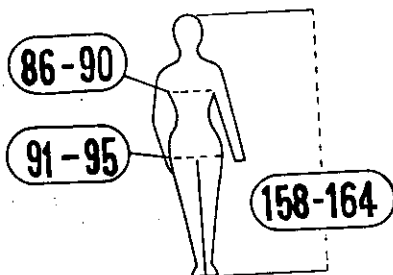
a) Woman's brassiere



or

UNDERBUST GIRTH	80
BUST GIRTH	95

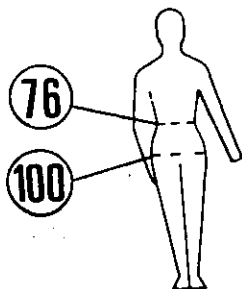
b) Woman's pyjamas



or

BUST GIRTH	86-90
HIP GIRTH	91-95
HEIGHT	158-164

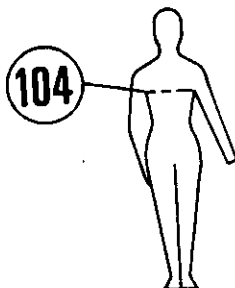
c) Woman's girdle



or

WAIST GIRTH	76
HIP GIRTH	100

d) Woman's sports shirt



or

BUST GIRTH	104
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NOTE. Examples of how to incorporate the national size code number are given in figure 1.

Figure 3. Examples of labels for women's underwear

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## Appendix A

## Examples of garments

## A.1 Outerwear

## A.1.1 Garments covering the upper or the whole body

- (a) coats, topcoats, raincoats
- (b) jackets, blazers, tunics, anoraks
- (c) dresses
- (d) suits and costumes (2-and 3-Piece)
- (e) dressing gowns and housecoats
- (f) overalls, dustcoats
- (g) knitwear (pullovers, cardigans, sweaters)
- (h) swimwear
- (i) catsuits.

## A.1.2 Garments covering the lower body only

- (a) skirts
- (b) trousers, slacks, riding breeches, sallopettes
- (c) shorts.

## A.2 Underwear

## A.2.1 Garments covering the upper body only

- (a) shirts, blouses
- (b) vests
- (c) foundation garments (brassieres).

## A.2.2 Garments covering the whole body

- (a) body suits, gym suits
- (b) slips
- (c) foundation garments (corselets)
- (d) nightwear (nightdresses, sleepsuits, pyjamas).

## A.2.3 Garments covering the lower body only

- (a) knickers, panties, briefs
- (b) half slips
- (c) foundation garments (corsets, girdles, pantie girdles)

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## Standards publications referred to

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| BS 3728*  | Specification for size designation of children's and infants' wear                                    |
| BS 5511   | Size designation of clothes — Definitions and body measurement procedure                              |
| ISO 3637* | Size designation of clothes — Women's and girls' outerwear garments                                   |
| ISO 4416* | Size designation of clothes — Women's and girls' underwear, nightwear, foundation garments and shirts |

\*Referred to in foreword only.

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