

Glossary of

Terms used by the clothing industry

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- British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation
- British Man-made Fibres Federation*
- British Multiple Retailers Association*
- British Railways Board
- British Textile Employers' Association
- Clothing and Footwear Institute*
- Clothing Manufacturers' Federation of Great Britain
- Consumer Standards Advisory Committee of BSI*
- Consumers' Association
- Department of Industry, Chemicals and Textiles
- Drapers' Chamber of Trade
- Independent Footwear Retailers Association
- Industrial Safety (Protective Equipment) Manufacturers Association
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- Multiple Shoe Retailers Association
- National Children's Wear Association
- Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association
- Textile and Clothing Contractors Association
- Textile Research Council*

The organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the Technical Committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:

- British Interlining Manufacturers' Association
- British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association
- International Wool Secretariat
- Textile Institute

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Clothing Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Executive Board and comes into effect on 30 October 1981

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Foreword

This glossary has been prepared under the direction of the Clothing Standards Committee. The first edition of this standard, published in 1952, and which is now withdrawn, contained a glossary of technical terms used in the then current British Standards for women's and children's clothing.

When the present revision was undertaken it was agreed that a more comprehensive glossary was needed. Terms for inclusion were extracted and considered from a number of sources. The most notable source was the Clothing and Footwear Institute's publication "Clothing terms and definitions" which was used with the full cooperation of the Institute. Other sources were recently published British Standard specifications for clothing, discussions within BSI committees and discussions within the International Organization for Standardization, this last being the prime source for much of the sewing machine terminology. All definitions have been developed through the usual consultative procedures of BSI.

The glossary has been divided into nine sections and within each section the terms are, as far as possible, in alphabetical order. An index of all terms has been provided for ease of reference.

NOTE Terms and their synonyms are printed in bold type. Where reference to another term, also defined in the glossary, is necessary in the text that term is italicized and its number quoted. However, because of the repetition of many of the defined terms they have not been italicized every time they occur.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 18, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

0.1 Scope

This British Standard glossary lists terms and definitions as used by the clothing industry.

NOTE Further details of fabric descriptions may be found in BS 3257, of stitches and seams in BS 3870 and of sewing machine parts in BS 6131¹⁾.

0.2 References

The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

Section 1. General terms

No.	Term	Definition
101	allowance body tolerance	The extra dimensions allowed on garment measurements over body measurement (see also <i>seam allowance</i> , 132).
102	appliqué	A cutout design or shape attached to the face of a material for ornamentation, frequently of a different type and/or shade of material.
103	back rise	The distance on a garment from the crotch to the centre back of the waistline.
104	balance	The relation of one section of a garment to another, in harmony with the natural attitude of the figure, especially that of back and front lengths.
105	balance marks	Notches or threads in garment parts, which help to preserve the balance of the garment by serving as guides during assembly. They are generally put at side seams, in the scye, shoulder seams, hind arm and forearm seams and elsewhere as necessary.
106	bespoke	Clothes made to the order of an individual.
107	bias	Direction at an angle to warp and weft. True bias is at an angle of 45° to both warp and weft. Other usage includes bias cutting and cutting on the bias which is also known as cutting on the cross.
108	bight	The distance between the stitching line and the adjacent edge of the material (see also <i>seam allowance</i> , 132).
109	bluff edges bluffed edges	Edges finished without outside stitching (see also <i>bluffing</i> , 406).
110	break	The point where the lapel starts to roll over on a coat, usually at the top buttonhole.
111	button stand buttonhole stand	The distance from the finished edge of the garment to the centre of the button.
112	clem	A very small dart which is sewn and not cut.
113	dart	A wedge or diamond shape removed from the surface of a garment part by stitching or by cutting and stitching to contribute to the shape of the garment.
114	double breasted (D.B.)	A coat or other garment with wrap over fronts having buttons and buttonholes on each forepart.
115	draft	a) A constructed plan of a garment. b) The application of body or garment measurements to a flat plane.
116	drape	The way the material in a garment hangs when worn.
117	dress	a) Clothing, particularly outerwear. b) A type of adjustment made to one side of trousers to improve fit.

¹⁾ In course of preparation.

No.	Term	Definition
118	drop loop	A method of lowering the belt loop below the top of the trouser waistband (usually 1 cm to 2 cm) or dress waist. This method prevents the belt from riding above the waist.
119	eye of buttonhole	The rounded end of a buttonhole into which the shank or neck of the button will pull when the garment is fastened.
120	fashioned	<i>Of knitted garments.</i> A description of a knitted garment in which shaping by narrowing or widening has been achieved on the knitting machine.
121	fish	A dart cut at the waist of a garment to give a closer fit.
122	flyline	The line of the fly fastening from the centre of the fork to the top of the waistband on a pair of trousers.
123	fork quantity	The allowance of material in bifurcated garments provided for the thickness through the trunk from front to back at the crotch.
124	front rise	The distance from the crotch to the centre front of the waistline.
125	fullness	The additional amount of one of the materials joined at a seam which is allowed in order to create the desired shape in a part of a finished garment, e.g. a sleeve head (see also <i>easing-in</i> , 419).
126	grain	The direction of the warp of a fabric. Hence cutting straight grain means cutting with the grain; cross grain means across the grain.
127	impression	<i>Of pressing.</i> Surface unevenness after pressing, usually around areas of extra thickness, such as pockets and seams.
128	inlay	An extra seam allowance inside the garment for letting out if required or for strength at a given position.
129	model	a) The original sample garment. b) The original garment made up from a design.
130	needle damage	Damage caused to material by the needle during sewing.
131	openness	The provision for leg stance in the angle of the leg seams.
132	seam allowance seam margin	A pre-determined amount of material between the edge of component parts of the garment and the seam line.
133	<i>Unallocated</i>	
134	seam grin grinning	Gaping of a seam under stress usually due to inadequate thread tension at sewing.
135	seam pucker pucker	Generally unwanted material waviness along the line of stitching.
136	seam slippage	The movement of warp and weft threads away from a seam line under transverse stress.
137	single breasted	A style of coat or other garment with minimum overlap and a centre front fastening.
138	suppression shape	The creation of shape by removal of material from the surface area of the garment.
139	swelled edges	An effect achieved by a row of stitching sewn at a specific and regular distance from the finished edge of a garment.
140	flagging	The rising and falling of material caused by the needle movement on the sewing machine.

Section 2. Materials

No.	Term	Definition
201	bonded-fibre fabric	A non-woven fabric consisting of one or more webs or masses of fibres, held together with a bonding material, frequently used for interlinings.
202	cloth	The principal or outside fabric of a garment. NOTE This is the normal usage in the tailoring trade although any fabric may be described as a cloth.
203	core spun thread	A thread made from yarns which are a combination of continuous filaments, providing the core, and staple fibres, providing the sheath.
204	face side	The side of a material intended to be shown whilst in wear.
205	faced cloths	Cloths which have a different surface texture, pile or nap on front and back.
206	fusible interlining	An interlining which has been treated so that it adheres to other materials by the application of heat and pressure.
207	gimp	A special thread used to support and raise the buttonhole stitching.
208	ligne	A standard measure, equal to 0.635 mm (i.e. 1/40 in) by which buttons and ribbons are measured.
209	monofilament thread	A thread comprising one continuous filament.
210	multifilament thread	A thread comprising a number of individual, continuous filaments.
211	nap	A fibrous surface produced on a fabric or felt in which part of the fibre is raised from the basic structure. Such surfaces often show directional effects.
212	non-woven fabric	A manufactured laminar structure consisting of fibres and/or filaments held together by mechanical, chemical or physical means or by a combination of these. The term does not include paper or fabrics which are woven, knitted, tufted, stitch-bonded by a process incorporating yarns or felted by a process incorporating wet milling.
213	pad	Any form of wadding, felt, foam or rubber inserted into a garment for the purpose of shape or fit.
214	piping	a) A strip of material with or without a filling, applied folded, normally to the edge of a garment. b) A narrow fabric having a cord on one edge. c) The operation of applying piping.
215	ply	<i>Of fabric.</i> A single thickness of material in a lay or seam. The number of plies in an assembly is the number of material thicknesses. <i>Of thread.</i> An individual yarn in a thread. The number of plies in a thread is the number of yarns which are twisted together to form the thread.
216	selvedge	The longitudinal edges of a textile fabric, which are formed during manufacture in such a way that the component threads are interlaced to prevent them from unravelling or fraying.
217	sewing thread	A folded yarn made by twisting together two or more single yarns, or a multifilament yarn, or a monofilament yarn suitable for sewing.
218	slide fastener zip fastener	A fastening device consisting of two flexible, interlocking stringers (with or without end stops) and a slider so arranged that by moving the slider along the stringers in one direction, an opening is formed and by moving it in the other, the opening is closed. The end which is adjacent to the slider when the device is fully opened is designated the bottom end. The other end is designated the top end. NOTE Details of slide fastener types are given in BS 3084.

No.	Term	Definition
219	trimmings	Garment components other than the main material(s) and sewing threads.
220	wadding	A loose, cohering mass of fibre, usually in the form of a sheet or roll used as padding in the making up of garments.

Section 3. Garments and garment parts

NOTE Definitions are given only for certain garment types which appear in British Standards.

301	anorak	A lined and hooded hip length jacket designed to give a degree of protection from inclement weather.
302	back strap	A strap across the back of a garment usually fitted with a buckle, or other method of adjustable fastening, and used to adjust the fit of the garment, within limits, to the wearer's requirements.
303	backing	A strip of material placed on the under side of part of a garment to act as a reinforcement.
304	bearers	<i>Of trousers.</i> Sections fastened to the side seams to take the weight of the trousers when the fronts are opened. Bearers for whole fall trousers contain the pockets.
305	belt loop	A loop of material or thread which is sewn into the waist of a garment to receive a belt.
306	bodice	The section of a woman's garment covering the body from neck to waist.
307	bridle	A narrow strip of material which is attached to the interlining along the roll of the lapel to hold and control it.
308	buggy	A lining from the neck down across the back of an otherwise unlined coat.
309	button	A knob or disc which is attached to garments as a means of fastening or ornamentation. (For button sizes see <i>lign</i> , 208.)
310	buttonhole	The hole through which a button is passed to hold the garment in the correct position.
311	canvas	A made-up interlining for a garment.
312	catch	An underlap of material providing a backing to an opening to take buttons or a zip tape for fastening, e.g. fly-catch, button-catch.
313	channel	A narrow passage formed between plies of material in a garment or by attachment of an additional ply of material, usually to house a draw cord.
314	chestpiece	An additional layer or layers of interlining in the front shoulder area.
315	coat	A sleeved outer garment capable of opening completely down the front and often, as in workwear, described further by length, e.g. $\frac{3}{4}$ or full length.
316	collar	a) Neck band, upright or turned over on a coat, dress, shirt, etc. b) Band of lining, lace or other material, which completes the upper part of a garment around the neck.
317	collar stand	That part of a collar which joins the neck edge of the garment and terminates at the crease of the collar where the fall commences.
318	coverall	A one piece type of legged workwear often capable of being fastened at wrists and ankles.
319	cross pocket	A <i>pocket</i> (350) which lies horizontally. In the case of trousers the pocket mouth can run from the waistband on the front to a point approximately 10 cm down the side seam from the waistband.