

Presentation of numerical values —

(Fineness of expression; Rounding of
numbers)

UDC 389.16:511.16

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This British Standard, having been approved by the Units and Symbols Standards Committee and endorsed by the Chairman of the Engineering Divisional Council, was published under the authority of the General Council on 7 May 1953

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ISBN 0 580 35628 0

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

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Foreword

This standard makes reference to the following British Standard:

BS 308, *Engineering drawing practice*.

The purpose of this British Standard is to promote the adoption of a consistent procedure in the presentation and interpretation of numerical values, particularly in regard to the number of figures to be used and the procedure for rounding. It is desirable that values should be expressed appropriately without using too few or too many figures, and that a standard practice should be adopted for rounding the last figure. The values may represent technical data, experimental results, or requirements in specifications and drawings, or may take the form of tables. Many branches of science and industry are concerned with the subject, and it is not possible to deal fully with all aspects in this document; moreover difficulties which are not amenable to rigid treatment sometimes occur.

General principles and working rules relating to the different aspects of this subject are set out and illustrated with examples. These are, for the most part, matters of common sense. Fineness of expression is evidently associated with accuracy, achieved or required. Estimates of accuracy, where given, should follow a recognized convention but a detailed discussion of the meaning of the term accuracy and the conventions for expressing it is not regarded as falling within the scope of this standard which does not deal with statistical aspects of numerical data.

It is hoped that this standard will serve as a guide, so far as the subject is concerned, for the preparation of other British Standards, and that it will also be of general use in scientific work.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 7 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.