

Specification for

Hypodermic surgical mounted needles (Luer fitting)

Co-operating organizations

The Surgical Instruments and Medical Appliances Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following Government departments and professional and industrial organizations:

- Admiralty*
- Air Ministry*
- Association of Hospital Matrons*
- British Dental Association*
- British Medical Association*
- British Paediatric Association
- British Surgical Trades Association, Inc.*
- Federation of British Rubber and Allied Manufacturers
- Institute of British Surgical Technicians
- Medical Defence Union*
- Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland
- Medical Protection Society
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Ministry of Health*
- Queen's Institute of District Nursing
- Royal College of Midwives
- Royal College of Nursing*
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Royal College of Physicians of London
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- Royal College of Surgeons of England*
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
- Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
- War Office*

The Government departments and professional and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard.

- Association of Clinical Pathologists
- British Dental Manufacturers' Association
- British Diabetic Association
- British Iron and Steel Federation
- British Veterinary Association
- Faculty of Anaesthetists
- Glass Manufacturers' Federation
- High Commission of India
- National Federation of Hospital Officers
- Surgical Needle Manufacturers Association

This British Standard, having been approved by the Surgical Instruments and Medical Appliances Industry Standards Committee and endorsed by the Chairman of the Chemical Divisional Council, was published under the authority of the General Council on 2 July 1962

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Foreword

This standard makes reference to the following British Standards:

BS 970, *Wrought steels. En series.*

BS 2045, *Preferred numbers.*

BS . . . , *Conical fitting with 6 per cent taper (Luer) for hypodermic and other surgical equipment*¹⁾.

This British Standard forms one of a series of specifications for hypodermic equipment, the preparation of which was authorized by the Surgical Instruments and Medical Appliances Industry Standards Committee.

In this standard provision is made for a range of stainless steel hypodermic needles having the Luer conical fitting and suitable for general requirements in medical and surgical practice. The Luer conical fitting is specified in uniformity with other British Standards for hypodermic equipment. After careful consideration of other types of conical fittings, the technical committee responsible for the preparation of this specification is unanimous in its opinion that the Luer conical fitting be recommended for general adoption as the type of conical fitting to be used for hypodermic equipment in the United Kingdom on the grounds of the greater strength of the syringe nozzle and the better grip attained between the syringe nozzle and the needle mount as compared with other fittings. The dimensions specified for the conical socket of the hub of the needle are specified to fit the syringe tip (Luer conical fitting) specified in British Standards BS 1263 and BS 1619 and in the American Federal Specification GG-S-921a, "Syringes; all-glass Luer". Pending publication of a new British Standard for the Luer conical fitting, reference may be made to BS 1263:1946 for details on the Luer fitting.

A feature of the standard which, it is believed, is of particular interest is the system of identification of needles. No generally accepted method of designating the size of hypodermic needles outside certain established ranges has been widely used in the past. In some cases, both purchaser and manufacturer have been forced to resort to cumbersome descriptions to avoid misinterpretation. To satisfy the existing demand for a short, flexible, explicit and standard form of identification of each size of needle, it is hoped that the method of size designation described in this standard will be generally adopted to ensure the maximum advantages to manufacturers, purchasers and users of hypodermic needles.

The sizes, diameters and lengths of the hypodermic needles specified are in accordance with the proposals concerning hypodermic equipment considered by Technical Committee TC84 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) at the meeting held in Paris in November, 1961.

Other standards for hypodermic equipment include:

BS 1263, *Hypodermic syringes for general medical use (Luer fitting)* (under revision).

BS 1619, *Hypodermic syringes for insulin injection (Luer fitting)* (under revision).

BS 2983, *Hypodermic dental needles.*

BS . . . , *Conical fitting with 6 per cent taper (Luer) for hypodermic and other surgical equipment* (in course of preparation).

BS . . . , *Fine dosage hypodermic syringes (tuberculin type)* (in course of preparation).

NOTE Where metric equivalents are stated the figures in British units are to be regarded as the standard. The metric conversions are approximate. More accurate conversions should be based on the tables in BS 350, "Conversion factors and tables", or in BS 2856, "Precise conversion of inch and metric sizes on engineering drawings".

¹⁾ In course of preparation.