

Specification for

Spinal and abdominal fabric supports

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- British Medical Association*
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The 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:

- British Investment Casters, Technical Association
- British Orthopaedic Association
- Central Council for the Care of Cripples

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Surgical Instruments and Medical Equipment Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Executive Board on 29 July 1977

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared at the request of the Department of Health and Social Security, and under the direction of the Surgical Instruments and Medical Equipment Standards Committee of BSI.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 12, 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.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies basic requirements for spinal and abdominal fabric supports as commonly prescribed and with a hip circumference not exceeding 115 cm, together with such dimensions and design features as are independent of individual clinical requirements. Provision is made for various types of fabrics and for the use of alternative types of fastening and other components.

NOTE This British Standard is not intended to be generally applicable to garments of over 115 cm hip circumference or for high dorsal or thoracic regions of the spine for which special requirements may be needed for each individual patient.

2 References

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

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard the following definitions apply.

Term	Definition
3.1 spinal and abdominal support (general)	An appliance which encircles the lumbo-sacral region. It is made from specific fabrics reinforced with metal strips (bone stays) and incorporates a fulcrum band and one or more fastenings. To be effective these supports must fit well and may be varied in depth to provide adequate support and cosmetic acceptance. Suspenders and/or understraps are provided if required.
3.2 spinal fabric support	A support having the main function of diminishing movement in the lumbo-sacral or lumbo-dorsal regions relieving the lumbar curve from strain. Good fitting over the iliac crests is important. The support should give a comfortable fit and closely follow the curves of the back with the patient in the standing and/or seated position. Correctly shaped rigid steels are provided in the back, if required. A fastening at centre front and a fulcrum band attached at centre back are usual. The typical minimum depth at centre back is the distance between the mid sacrum and the thoraco-lumbar junction. Gluteal and/or costal gussets may be added if required. A diagram of a typical spinal fabric support is illustrated in Figure 1.
3.3 abdominal fabric support	A support having the main function of supporting a weak or prominent abdomen. A fastening to one side of the centre front and a fulcrum band attached at centre front are usual. The typical minimum depth at centre front is 230 mm upwards from the symphysis pubis. Elastic gussets or panels may be added laterally if required. A diagram of a typical abdominal support is illustrated in Figure 2.
3.4 panel	A main component of the garment, extending from top to bottom, a number of which when seamed together make up the full circumference. With the exception of those containing elasticated fabric, panels are made from the basically specified fabric.
3.5 seam	The junction of two or more panels, butted, folded or inserted and sewn to secure.
3.6 shaping	The curvature of the vertical lines of the seams, designed to provide an anatomical configuration.
3.7 lining	A layer of fabric assembled together with a panel and situated on the body surface between a panel and the body.

	Term	Definition
3.8	interlining	A material placed between a piece of fabric and a rigid component in order to protect the fabric.
3.9	flap, tongue, lapel, flange	A piece of fabric, often an extension of a panel, extending behind a fastening to protect the body and bridge a fastening gap.
3.10	elastic gusset, elastic inset, elastic insert	A piece of elastic fabric, usually triangular in shape, fitted in the hip area and/or top costal margin to permit flexing of these regions.
3.11	elastic panel, full side elastic panel	A panel of elastic fabric extending from top to bottom of the garment, often produced by overlapping a number of varying depths of the elastic fabric.
3.12	bone casing, strapping, stripping	A piece of material used to cover and protect a bone or spiral steel. The bone or spiral steel may be excluded should the need arise.
3.13	steel casing, steel piece, steel pocket, steel slot	A cover or pocket for a rigid steel.
3.14	bone, bone stay	A narrow, thin steel strip, flexing in one plane and usually coated with plastics material. Used to provide additional vertical support at intervals around the circumference.
3.15	spiral steel, spiral bone, spiral stay	A steel wire, coiled and flattened to form a narrow thin, supporting strip, permitting flexion in more than one plane. Used as a bone, but in conditions requiring less support and more flexibility.
3.16	rigid steel, back steel, semi-rigid steel	A broad, thick, hardened and tempered steel strip used in the spinal area of garments to restrict or limit spinal flexion.
3.17	back frame, rectangular frame, frame	Used as rigid steels (see 3.16), comprising two vertical steels linked at the top and/or bottom, usually approximating to rectangular form and made of steel of suitable stiffness.
3.18	seam tape	A tape, webbing binding or ribbon sewn over a seam and not designed to accommodate a bone or spiral steel.
3.19	fulcrum band, taper strap, sacral band	A shaped piece of material superimposed upon the basic garment to allow a localized supporting or lifting pressure to be applied to the body, when used in conjunction with a fulcrum strap or straps.
3.20	fulcrum strap	A length of webbing which is linked by a buckle or by stitching to each end of the fulcrum band and which then fully encircles the body (see Figure 1 and Figure 2 for typical applications). It affords an assistance to the application of pressure by the fulcrum band. The buckle adjustment allows that pressure to be maintained.
3.21	lacing piece, lacing strip, lacing section	A narrow panel having eyelets down its length and forming part of a lace fastening.
3.22	cording	A sewn-in cord used to stiffen or strengthen a selected area of fabric.
3.23	chape, buckle loop, buckle piece	A piece of material which passes through a buckle to secure the buckle to the garment
3.24	keeper, runner loop, bracket	A loop designed to retain a strap end or other band.
3.25	understrap, perineal strap, leg strap, groin strap	A strap passing between the patient's legs to prevent the garment from riding upwards.