

Prosthetics and orthotics —

Part 2: Method of describing limb deficiencies present at birth

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Health Care Standards Policy Committee (HCC/-) to Technical Committee HCC/9, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Institute of Surgical Technologists
- British Investment Casting Trade Association
- British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association
- British Medical Association
- British Narrow Fabrics Association
- British Orthopaedic Association
- British Retailers Association
- British Surgical Trades Association
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- College of Occupational Therapists
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Health
- Disablement Services Authority
- International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (United Kingdom National Society)
- Knitting Industries Federation Ltd.
- Malaysian Rubber Producers Research Association
- Man-made Fibres Producers Committee
- Ministry of Defence
- National Association of Medical and Surgical Appliance Officers
- National Centre for Training and Education in Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Opportunities for the Disabled
- Orthotic and Prosthetic Training and Education Council (OPTEC)
- Royal College of Nursing and National Council for Nurses of the United Kingdom
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- Royal College of Surgeons of England
- SATRA Footwear Technology Centre
- Scottish Home and Health Department
- Scottish Office
- Society of Chiroprapodists
- Surgical Appliance Manufacturers' Association
- Vascular Surgical Society of GB

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 29 June 1990

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference HCC/9
Draft for comment 86/55506 DC

ISBN 0 580 18504 4

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

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National foreword

This Part of BS 7313 has been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Policy Committee. It is identical with ISO 8548-1:1989 *“Prosthetics and orthotics — Limb deficiencies — Part 1: Method of describing limb deficiencies present at birth”*, published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Prior to 1961 there was little or no agreement over the terms used to describe congenital skeletal limb deficiencies. In that year Frantz and O’Rahilly published a classification in the USA which attempted to provide a comprehensive system of nomenclature. At the same time a different system was in use in Europe. Although both systems used terms derived from Greek roots there was little similarity. Since then a number of attempts have been made to prepare a unified system and in 1973 the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) formed an international working party whose task was to produce a single acceptable classification. Early agreement was reached that this classification should apply only to those deficiencies which result from a failure of formation of parts and, moreover, should describe them in simple anatomical terms avoiding words directly derived from Greek or Latin roots.

The ISPO working party produced such a classification which was tested in a number of centres. In brief, this classification described all such deficiencies as either “transverse” or “longitudinal”. Transverse deficiencies included all those in which the affected limb has developed proximodistally to a particular level beyond which no skeletal elements exist and, thus, the limb would resemble an amputation stump. Such deficiencies were described by the level at which the limb terminated. The longitudinal type of deficiency included all other deficiencies in which one or more bones might be partially or totally absent and, in this case, the absent bone(s) were individually named.

This Part of BS 7313 is closely based on the ISPO classification, but users of this standard should also be aware of the WHO International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps, published by the World Health Organization, Geneva, 1980. This latter, although it has similar objectives, is more complex because of its different approach.

Other Parts and Sections of BS 7313 include:

- Section 1.1: Glossary of general terms relating to external limb prostheses and external orthoses;
- Section 1.2: Glossary of terms relating to external limb prostheses and wearers of external limb prostheses;
- Section 1.3: Glossary of terms relating to external orthoses;
- Part 3: Method of describing lower limb amputation stumps¹⁾;
- Part 4: Method of describing upper limb amputation stumps¹⁾.

Cross-references

International Standard	Corresponding British Standard
	BS 7313 <i>Prosthetics and orthotics</i>
ISO 8549-1:1989	Section 1.1:1990 <i>Glossary of general terms relating to external limb prostheses and external orthoses</i> (Identical)
ISO 8549-2:1989	Section 1.2:1990 <i>Glossary of terms relating to external limb prostheses and wearers of external limb prostheses</i> (Identical)

¹⁾ In preparation.

Textual errors. When adopting the text of the International Standard, errors in Figure 4 and Figure 5 were discovered. These errors have been reported to ISO in a proposal to amend the text of the International Standard. The correct figures are reproduced in National appendix Z.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 6, 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.