
**Prosthetics and orthotics —
Vocabulary —**

**Part 2:
Terms relating to external limb
protheses and wearers of these
protheses**

Prothèses et orthèses — Vocabulaire —

*Partie 2: Termes relatifs aux prothèses de membre et aux porteurs de
ces prothèses*



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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 168, *Prosthetics and orthotics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 8549-2:1989), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the list of terms and definitions of amputation levels (see 3.1) has been augmented to include the full range of commonly performed partial foot and partial hand amputations.

A list of all parts in the ISO 8549 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Prior to the publication of the first edition of this document in 1989, no internationally accepted terminology to describe the categories of external limb prostheses and their users existed. Consequently, the members of the clinic teams in different countries and working in different facilities had developed their own terminology to meet their own needs.

The terms and definitions provided in this document reflect the changes in the field of prosthetics and orthotics since the publication of the first edition of this document.

They will allow practitioners to describe, in a standardized manner, the devices they supply and their users.

This document will also be of value to epidemiologists and national health officials.

Users of this document are also advised of the WHO International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps^[2].

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Prosthetics and orthotics — Vocabulary —

Part 2:

Terms relating to external limb prostheses and wearers of these prostheses

1 Scope

This document defines terms used to describe external limb prostheses and the wearers of external limb prostheses.

NOTE 1 The types of component used in the construction of prostheses are classified and described in the ISO 13405 series.

NOTE 2 For the purposes of this document, the abbreviated term 'prosthetics' and its derivatives only apply to external limb prosthetics.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

NOTE An alphabetical index of terms is provided in [Annex A](#).

3.1 Levels of limb amputations

3.1.1 Lower limb

3.1.1.1

partial foot amputation

amputation of the lower limb distal to the ankle joint

Note 1 to entry: The complete description of a partial foot amputation requires the identification of the amputated bones and their levels of amputation.

3.1.1.2

toe phalangeal amputation

amputation of one or more toe phalanges

3.1.1.3

metatarsophalangeal disarticulation

amputation of one or more toes

3.1.1.4

metatarsal amputation

amputation of a part of the foot through one or more metatarsals

3.1.1.5

tarsometatarsal disarticulation

amputation of part of the foot at one or more of the tarsometatarsal joints

3.1.1.6

tarsal amputation

amputation of a part of the foot through any of the tarsal bones and/or joints

3.1.1.7

ankle disarticulation

amputation of the lower limb at the ankle joint

3.1.1.8

transtibial amputation

below knee amputation

amputation of the lower limb between the knee joint and the ankle joint

3.1.1.9

knee disarticulation

amputation of the lower limb at the knee joint

3.1.1.10

transfemoral amputation

above knee amputation

amputation of the lower limb between the hip joint and the knee joint

3.1.1.11

hip disarticulation

amputation of the lower limb at the hip joint

3.1.1.12

transpelvic amputation

hindquarter amputation

DEPRECATED: hemipelvectomy

amputation of the whole lower limb together with all or part of the hemipelvis

3.1.2 Upper limb

3.1.2.1

partial hand amputation

amputation of the upper limb distal to the wrist joint

Note 1 to entry: The complete description of a partial hand amputation requires the identification of the amputated bones and their levels of amputation.

3.1.2.2

thumb amputation

amputation of the whole or part of the thumb

3.1.2.3

finger phalangeal amputation

amputation of part of one or more fingers

3.1.2.4

metacarpophalangeal disarticulation

amputation of one or more fingers

3.1.2.5

metacarpal amputation

amputation of a part of the hand through one or more metacarpals

3.1.2.6**carpometacarpal disarticulation**

amputation of a part of the hand at one or more of the carpometacarpal joints

3.1.2.7**carpal amputation**

amputation of a part of the hand through any of the carpal bones and/or joints

3.1.2.8**wrist disarticulation**

amputation of the upper limb at the elbow joint

3.1.2.9**transradial amputation****below elbow amputation**

amputation of the upper limb between the elbow joint and the wrist joint

3.1.2.10**elbow disarticulation**

amputation of the upper limb at the elbow joint

3.1.2.11**transhumeral amputation****above elbow amputation**

amputation of the upper limb between the shoulder joint and the elbow joint

3.1.2.12**shoulder disarticulation**

amputation of the upper limb at the elbow joint

3.1.2.13**forequarter amputation**

amputation of the upper limb at the scapula-thoracic and the sternoclavicular joints

3.2 Limb deficiencies present at birth**3.2.1****deficiency**

state in which one or more bones of a limb are totally absent, partially absent or *hypoplastic* (3.2.4)

3.2.2**transverse deficiency**

deficiency (3.2.1) in which all bones distal to a transverse plane of the limb are totally absent

3.2.3**longitudinal deficiency**

aberration of the formation at parts in the long axis of the limb so that some bones can be partially or totally absent, while others situated more distally are present

3.2.4**hypoplastic**

pertaining to a bone that is present, significantly diminished in size, but not severely changed in shape

Note 1 to entry: The noun form is "hypoplasia".

3.2.5**ray**

metatarsal bone, or a metacarpal bone, and its corresponding phalanges