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**Prosthetics and orthotics —  
Vocabulary —**

**Part 4:  
Terms relating to limb amputation**

*Prothèses et orthèses — Vocabulaire —*

*Partie 4: Termes relatifs à l'amputation de membres*



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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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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](http://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 8549-4:2014), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- The use of hyphens in anatomical terms, such as transpelvic, has been abandoned in line with other parts of the ISO 8549 series.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

At present, no internationally accepted terminology describes the complete range of surgical limb amputation levels, amputation procedures, and persons who have had an amputation. Members of clinic teams in different countries have developed their own terminology to meet their own needs.

There is a need for a standard international system of terminology which will allow practitioners to accurately describe the surgical history of persons who have had a limb amputation(s) and to facilitate comparisons with the experience of other practitioners.

The terminology will also be of value to epidemiologists and governmental health officials.



# Prosthetics and orthotics — Vocabulary —

## Part 4: Terms relating to limb amputation

### 1 Scope

This document specifies a vocabulary for the description of surgical limb amputations, amputation procedures, and persons who have had an amputation.

### 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/>

#### 3.1 General limb amputation

##### 3.1.1 limb amputation

surgical removal of the whole or part of a limb

##### 3.1.2 level of amputation

joint or segment at which amputation is performed

Note 1 to entry: For the upper limb, see [3.1.3](#), and for the lower limb, see [3.1.4](#).

##### 3.1.3 upper limb amputation

surgical removal of the whole or part of an upper limb

##### 3.1.3.1 partial hand

amputations of the upper limb distal to the wrist joint

Note 1 to entry: These include the following:

- **Thumb:** Amputation of the whole or part of the thumb;
- **Phalangeal:** Amputation of part of one or more fingers;
- **Metacarpophalangeal disarticulation:** Amputation of one or more fingers;
- **Metacarpal:** Amputation of a part of the hand through one or more metacarpals;
- **Carpometacarpal disarticulation:** Amputation of a part of the hand at one or more of the carpometacarpal joints;