
**Prosthetics and orthotics —
Vocabulary —**

**Part 3:
Terms relating to orthoses**

*Prothèses et orthèses — Vocabulaire —
Partie 3: Termes relatifs aux orthèses*



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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).

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).

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.

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

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 8549-3:1989), which has been technically revised.

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

- the list of terms, abbreviations and definitions of categories of orthoses (see [Clause 3](#)) has been augmented to include all currently recognized categories;
- subclauses have been added to [Clause A.1](#) to provide the abbreviations ordered by classes of orthoses.

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 classes of orthoses 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 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 the personnel involved in the supply process.

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^[3].

Prosthetics and orthotics — Vocabulary —

Part 3: Terms relating to orthoses

1 Scope

This document defines terms relating to orthoses.

This document does not include terms for orthoses that only encompass limb segments, as these orthoses are limited mainly to use in the treatment of fractures and in sports medicine.

NOTE 1 The types of components used in the construction of orthoses are classified and described in ISO 13404.

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

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 1 An alphabetical index of terms is provided in [Clause A.2](#).

NOTE 2 The abbreviations of the following classes of orthoses are made up of the first letters (in upper case) of the names of the body segments and joints encompassed by the orthosis.

3.1 General

3.1.1

orthosis

orthotic device

externally applied device used to compensate for impairments of the structure and function of the neuro-muscular and skeletal systems

[SOURCE: ISO 8549-1:2020, 3.1.2]

3.2 Classes of lower limb orthoses

3.2.1

toe orthosis

TO

orthosis ([3.1.1](#)) that encompasses the toe