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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)).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 168, *Prosthetics and orthotics*.

ISO 8549 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Prosthetics and orthotics — Vocabulary*:

- *Part 1: General terms for external limb prostheses and external orthoses*
- *Part 2: Terms relating to external limb prostheses and wearers of these prostheses*
- *Part 3: Terms relating to external orthoses*
- *Part 4: Terms relating to limb amputation*

## 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 part of ISO 8549 specifies a vocabulary for the description of surgical limb amputations, amputation procedures, and persons who have had an amputation.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 8549-2, *Prosthetics and orthotics — Vocabulary — Part 2: Terms relating to external limb prostheses and wearers of these prostheses*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 8549-2 and the following apply.

#### 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:

- **Thumb:** Amputation of the whole or part of the thumb;
- **Phalangeal:** Amputation of part of one or more fingers;
- **Metacarpo-phalangeal disarticulation:** Amputation of one or more fingers;
- **Metacarpal:** Amputation of a part of the hand through one or more metacarpals;
- **Carpo-metacarpal disarticulation:** Amputation of a part of the hand at one or more of the carpo-metacarpal joints;