

Australian Standard[®]

**Size coding scheme for women's
clothing—Underwear, outerwear
and foundation garments**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/92, Sizing Systems for Clothing. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 15 November 1996 and published on 5 March 1997.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/92:

A.C.T. Consumer Affairs Bureau
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Apparel Importers Association of Australia
Australia Post
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Council of State School Organisations
Australian Pre-School Association
Canberra Institute of Technology
Consumers Federation of Australia
Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia
Ergonomics Society of Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS/92 on Sizing Systems for Clothing at the request of manufacturers, retailers and consumers to supersede AS 1344—1975 *Size coding scheme for women's clothing—Underwear, outerwear and foundation garments*.

This Standard is the result of a consensus among representatives on the Joint Committee to produce it as an Australian Standard.

The first edition was prepared in 1959 as Standard L9 at the request of the Apparel Manufacturers Association of NSW, with strong support from the manufacturing and retail industry. It was based on a US Department of Commerce Standard (CS 215-58) and its preparation was assisted by Berlei and Dr H. O. Lancaster. The document has since undergone several revisions, the last of which was AS 1344—1975. Revisions since 1970 were accomplished with the assistance of the *Australian Women's Weekly* in a survey which included information from 11,455 Australian women on bust, waist, hip and height measurements as well as age groups. In 1972 there was a conversion to metric. The size coding scheme included only bust, waist and hip measurements. The last edition in 1975 also included foundation garments.

This edition confirms the data in the previous edition, due to the absence of a more up-to-date survey. With this in mind the committee wishes to mention the increasing trend of labelling size codes by transposing the size code one or more positions to the right of its correct measurements currently shown in Table A1. This trend is to be discouraged as it merely creates uncertainty of fit in the minds of consumers, and detracts from the usefulness of a size code system. An anthropometric survey if undertaken would not correct this trend which is occurring irrespective of the data that currently exists or that would be obtained. The committee believes that the relationship of bust-waist-hip has changed, therefore the inclusion of this information on the label is encouraged whenever applicable as well as the size code.

It is envisaged that the size code scheme in this Standard will be used by all sections of the clothing industry as an acceptable and simple scheme for designating the size of women's clothing, both underwear and outerwear, to fit the three basic body measurements of bust, waist and hip measured over foundation garments. Any garment bearing the designated size should be a reasonable fit for a person whose measurements are close to the basic measurements for that size code given in the relevant table in this Standard.

In the preparation of this Standard ISO 3635, *Size designation of clothing—Definitions and body measurement procedure*; ISO 3637, *Size designation of clothes—Women's and girls' outerwear garments*; ISO 8559 *Garment construction and anthropometric surveys—Body dimensions* and ISO 4416, *Size designation of clothes—Women's and girls' underwear*, were consulted.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

This Standard deals with the size designation of underwear and outerwear as well as foundation garments.

The sizing scheme is based on the control dimensions of the body, i.e. bust, waist and hip measurements which are critical to the fit of the garment.

The tables in Appendix A and B relate the size code to body measurement as a guide to the manufacturers.

To eliminate confusion it is stressed that the measurements listed in Tables A1, A2, A3 and A4 are body measurements taken over foundation garments, not garment measurements. The measurements listed for brassieres in Table B1, however, are actual body measurements.

Foundation garments for the lower part of the body are based on Tables A1, A2, A3 and A4. Girdles of lightweight flexible material are manufactured to fit a waist which is 2 cm below and 2 cm above the measurement in the code, and a hip which is up to 4 cm above the hip measurement shown in the code.

The choice of finished garment dimensions is the prerogative of the designer and the manufacturer who are concerned with fabric, style, cut and other fashion elements, together with the due amount of ease or tolerance which is the extra number of centimetres added to the body measurement to ensure wearing comfort. However, a garment bearing the designated size should be a reasonable fit for a person whose measurements are close to the basic measurements for that size code given in the relevant table in this Standard.

Reference should be made to AS 2392 for positioning of labels on a garment.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Size coding scheme for women's clothing—Underwear, outerwear and foundation garments

1 SCOPE The primary aim of this Standard is the establishment of a size coding scheme which indicates in a simple, direct and meaningful manner the body size of the person for whom all ready-made garments and foundation garments, with the exception of surgical or specialized foundation garments, are intended to fit and meet the needs of a very high proportion of Australian women.

A size code number is linked with the control dimensions on the label and is a means of quickly identifying individual sizes.

2 OBJECTIVE The objective of this Standard is to provide manufacturers, educational institutions, retailers and consumers with information on the control dimensions of the body, their relationship to the size coding scheme given as well as ways of including this information on a garment label in order to indicate the body size of the person that the garment is intended to fit.

3 APPLICATION The Standard applies to underwear, outerwear and foundation garments. It does not apply to hosiery.

4 REFERENCED DOCUMENT The following document is referred to in this Standard:

AS 2392 Labelling of clothing, household textiles and furnishings.

5 SIZE DESIGNATION—INFORMATION TO BE GIVEN ON THE LABEL The size of a garment shall be designated by the size code number together with the relevant control dimensions the garment has been designed to fit as specified in Clauses 6.2 and 6.3.

6 LABELLING

6.1 Label The size designation shall be given on a permanent label complying with the following requirements:

- (a) The label shall carry the appropriate size designation in accordance with the requirements of Clauses 6.2 and 6.3.
- (b) The wording and numerals on the label shall be clearly legible, and of medium width letter with no individual letter less than 1.5 mm high (see Note).
- (c) The label shall be attached to the garment in accordance with the requirements of AS 2392, The labelling of clothing, household textiles and furnishings.

NOTE: By 'medium width' is meant the width which the manufacturer (of the type) puts forward under the name of the family (i.e. the group of type faces which are derived from one basic design) as representing the design in the normal width from which variants in the family have been or may be derived.

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