



American National Standard/  
American Dental Association  
**Standard No. 173**

# Designation System for Dental Implants

Identical adoption of ISO 19429:2015, *Dentistry — Designation system  
for dental implants*

**ADA** American  
Dental  
Association®

**Standards Committee on Dental Products**

**2019**



**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
STANDARD NO. 173 FOR DESIGNATION SYSTEM FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS**

The ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products (SCDP) has approved ANSI/ADA Standard No. 173 for Designation System for Dental Implants. This and other standards for dental materials, instruments and equipment are being formulated by working groups of the ADA SCDP. The Committee has representation from all interests in the United States in the standardization of materials, instruments and equipment in dentistry. The Committee has adopted the standards, showing professional recognition of their usefulness in dentistry, and has forwarded them to the American National Standards Institute with a recommendation that the standards be approved as American National Standards. The American National Standards Institute granted approval of ADA Standard No. 173 as an American National Standard on August 26, 2019.

The ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products thanks the members of SCDP Subcommittee 8 on Dental Implants and the organizations with which they were affiliated at the time the standard was developed:

Floyd Larson (chairman), PaxMed International, Carlsbad, CA;  
Jack Lemons (vice chairman), University of Alabama, Birmingham.

**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION STANDARD NO. 173 FOR  
DESIGNATION SYSTEM FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS**

**FOREWORD**

(This Foreword does not form a part of ANSI/ADA Standard No. 173 for Designation System for Dental Implants).

This standard is an identical adoption of ISO 19429:2015, Dentistry — Designation system for dental implants. ADA SCDP Subcommittee 8 on Dental Implants examined the international standard and found it acceptable for identical adoption as ANSI/ADA Standard No. 173.

This is a preview of "ANSI/ADA 173-2019". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## **NO. 173 FOR DESIGNATION SYSTEM FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS**

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## 173 FOR DESIGNATION SYSTEM FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS

### Introduction

The emergence of dental implant treatment as a viable and widely utilized procedure has created a requirement for a system for indicating the presence and location of such devices within the jaws which is compatible with existing schemes. Dental implant bodies do not have the characteristics of an individual tooth other than those which are acquired by virtue of the restoration(s) which they support. They can, thus, be described as having a location with an implied crown form. In contrast, a designated tooth has a defined form and an implied location. In both cases, this information may be supplemented with additional comments.

A wide range of devices may be implanted in and around the jaws therapeutically, accidentally or for social reasons, many of which are not endosseous dental implants. Given that these form the majority of implants in the oro-facial region and that the over-riding current need of the professions is a standard method of designating their presence and location, a scheme has been developed to meet this requirement. The inclusion of infrequently used implants of other types and in alternative locations would make the system more complex for the potential benefit currently obtained. The possibility of doing so in the future is not however excluded.

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## NO. 173 FOR DESIGNATION SYSTEM FOR DENTAL IMPLANTS

### 1 Scope

This standard provides a system for designating the location of an implant body within a jaw, and is intended for use with the scheme described in ISO 3950. It does not in itself indicate whether the device is visible within the oral cavity or the presence of transmucosal components or implant restorations. Since the system describes location but not restoration form, it is not necessary to use the quadrant designation numbers 5 to 8 which are employed when indicating a primary tooth.

This information should be recorded by the responsible clinician in the patient's file and made available to the patient by the clinician(s) who provided the care.

### 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 1942, *Dentistry — Vocabulary*

ISO 3950, *Dentistry — Designation system for teeth and areas of the oral cavity*

ISO 16443, *Dentistry — Vocabulary for dental implants systems and related procedure*

(ISO standards are available from the American National Standards Institute, 25 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St., New York, NY 10036, [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)).

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 1942 and ISO 16443 apply.

### 4 Classification, designation and coding

The scheme uses three characters to indicate the location of each implant body with the first two employing a system corresponding to that described in ISO 3950.

In all cases, the following sequence shall be employed.

- Character 1: This is a digit in the range 1 to 4, and indicates implant bodies in the upper right quadrant, upper left quadrant, lower left quadrant or lower right quadrant respectively.

NOTE Since the system describes location but not restoration form, it is not necessary to use the quadrant designation numbers 5 to 8 which are employed when indicating a primary tooth.

- Character 2: This is a digit in the range 1 to 8, and indicates the location of an implant body in the defined quadrant in a position analogous to that of a natural tooth.
- Character 3: This is always the character '!' which is used to indicate the presence of an implant body, as opposed to a tooth, at the location indicated by characters 1 and 2.

The characters shall be written without any intervening spaces or punctuation. For example, 36! indicates the presence of a dental implant body in the left mandibular first molar region.