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Second edition
2020-09

Prosthetics and orthotics — Vocabulary —

Part 2: Terms relating to external limb protheses and wearers of these protheses

Prothèses et orthèses — Vocabulaire —

Partie 2: Termes relatifs aux prothèses de membre et aux porteurs de ces prothèses



Reference number
ISO 8549-2:2020(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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).

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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 8549-2:1989), which has been technically revised.

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

- the list of terms and definitions of amputation levels (see [3.1](#)) has been augmented to include the full range of commonly performed partial foot and partial hand amputations.

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.

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Introduction

Prior to the publication of the first edition of this document in 1989, no internationally accepted terminology to describe the categories of external limb prostheses and their users 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 prosthetics and 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 their users.

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^[2].