

---

---

**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*





**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2020

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

<b>Contents</b>		Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....		<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....		<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....		<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....		<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....		<b>1</b>
3.1 Levels of limb amputations.....		1
3.1.1 Lower limb.....		1
3.1.2 Upper limb.....		2
3.2 Limb deficiencies present at birth.....		3
<b>Annex A (informative) Index of terms</b> .....		<b>4</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....		<b>5</b>

## 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)).

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](http://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](http://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](http://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 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<sup>[2]</sup>.



# Prosthetics and orthotics — Vocabulary —

## Part 2:

# Terms relating to external limb prostheses and wearers of these prostheses

## 1 Scope

This document defines terms used to describe external limb prostheses and the wearers of external limb prostheses.

NOTE 1 The types of component used in the construction of prostheses are classified and described in the ISO 13405 series.

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

## 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 An alphabetical index of terms is provided in [Annex A](#).

### 3.1 Levels of limb amputations

#### 3.1.1 Lower limb

##### 3.1.1.1

##### **partial foot amputation**

amputation of the lower limb distal to the ankle joint

Note 1 to entry: The complete description of a partial foot amputation requires the identification of the amputated bones and their levels of amputation.

##### 3.1.1.2

##### **toe phalangeal amputation**

amputation of one or more toe phalanges

##### 3.1.1.3

##### **metatarsophalangeal disarticulation**

amputation of one or more toes

##### 3.1.1.4

##### **metatarsal amputation**

amputation of a part of the foot through one or more metatarsals