
**Prosthetics and orthotics —
Vocabulary —**

**Part 3:
Terms relating to orthoses**

*Prothèses et orthèses — Vocabulaire —
Partie 3: Termes relatifs aux orthèses*

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Published in Switzerland

Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
3.1 General.....	1
3.2 Classes of lower limb orthoses.....	1
3.3 Classes of upper limb orthoses.....	2
3.4 Classes of spinal orthoses.....	3
3.5 Classes of head orthoses.....	4
Annex A (informative) Index of terms and alphabetical list of abbreviations	5
Bibliography	8

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).

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).

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 168, *Prosthetics and orthotics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 8549-3:1989), which has been technically revised.

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

- the list of terms, abbreviations and definitions of categories of orthoses (see [Clause 3](#)) has been augmented to include all currently recognized categories;
- subclauses have been added to [Clause A.1](#) to provide the abbreviations ordered by classes of orthoses.

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.

Introduction

Prior to the publication of the first edition of this document in 1989, no internationally accepted terminology to describe the classes of orthoses 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 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 the personnel involved in the supply process.

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^[3].

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Prosthetics and orthotics — Vocabulary —

Part 3: Terms relating to orthoses

1 Scope

This document defines terms relating to orthoses.

This document does not include terms for orthoses that only encompass limb segments, as these orthoses are limited mainly to use in the treatment of fractures and in sports medicine.

NOTE 1 The types of components used in the construction of orthoses are classified and described in ISO 13404.

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

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 1 An alphabetical index of terms is provided in [Clause A.2](#).

NOTE 2 The abbreviations of the following classes of orthoses are made up of the first letters (in upper case) of the names of the body segments and joints encompassed by the orthosis.

3.1 General

3.1.1

orthosis
orthotic device

externally applied device used to compensate for impairments of the structure and function of the neuro-muscular and skeletal systems

[SOURCE: ISO 8549-1:2020, 3.1.2]

3.2 Classes of lower limb orthoses

3.2.1

toe orthosis

TO

orthosis ([3.1.1](#)) that encompasses the toe

3.2.2

foot orthosis

FO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or part of the foot

3.2.3

ankle-foot orthosis

AFO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the ankle joint and the whole or part of the foot

3.2.4

knee orthosis

KO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the knee joint

3.2.5

knee-ankle-foot orthosis

KAFO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the knee and ankle joints and the foot

3.2.6

hip orthosis

HO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the hip joint

3.2.7

hip-knee orthosis

HKO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the hip and knee joints

3.2.8

hip-knee-ankle-foot orthosis

HKAFO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the hip, the knee and the ankle joints and the foot

3.3 Classes of upper limb orthoses

3.3.1

finger orthosis

FO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or part of a finger

3.3.2

thumb orthosis

TO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or part of the thumb

3.3.3

hand orthosis

HO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or part of the hand

3.3.4

wrist-hand orthosis

WHO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the wrist joint and hand

3.3.5**elbow orthosis****EO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the elbow joint

3.3.6**elbow-wrist-hand orthosis****EWHO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the elbow and the wrist joints and the hand

3.3.7**shoulder orthosis****SO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the shoulder joint

3.3.8**shoulder-elbow orthosis****SEO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the shoulder and the elbow joints

3.3.9**shoulder-elbow-wrist-hand orthosis****SEWHO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the shoulder, the elbow and the wrist joints and the hand

3.4 Classes of spinal orthoses**3.4.1****cervical orthosis****CO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or a part of the cervical region, including the atlantooccipital joint

3.4.2**cervico-thoracic orthosis****CTO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or a part of the cervical and the thoracic regions, including the atlantooccipital joint

3.4.3**cervico-thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthosis****CTLSO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or a part of the cervical, the thoracic, the lumbar and the sacroiliac regions, including the atlantooccipital joint

3.4.4**thoracic orthosis****TO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or a part of the thoracic region of the trunk

3.4.5**thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthosis****TLSO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or a part of the thoracic, the lumbar and the sacroiliac regions of the trunk

3.4.6**lumbo-sacral orthosis****LSO**

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or a part of the lumbar and sacroiliac regions of the trunk

3.4.7

sacro-iliac orthosis

SIO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or a part of the sacroiliac region of the trunk

3.5 Classes of head orthoses

3.5.1

facial orthosis

FO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or part of the face

3.5.2

cranial orthosis

CO

orthosis (3.1.1) that encompasses the whole or part of the cranium

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Annex A (informative)

Index of terms and alphabetical list of abbreviations

A.1 alphabetical list of abbreviations

A.1.1 General

Where the same combination of letters arises in the name of the class of orthoses, the description of the orthosis should refer to the specific anatomical region, e.g. lower limb, upper limb, spinal, cranial/facial.

A.1.2 Classes of lower limb orthoses

AFO	ankle-foot orthosis
FO	foot orthosis
HO	hip orthosis
HKAFO	hip-knee-ankle-foot orthosis
HKO	hip-knee orthosis
KAFO	knee-ankle-foot orthosis
KO	knee orthosis
TO	toe orthosis

A.1.3 Classes of upper limb orthosis

EO	elbow orthosis
EWHO	elbow-wrist- hand orthosis
FO	finger orthosis
HO	hand orthosis
SO	shoulder orthosis
SEO	shoulder-elbow orthosis
SEWHO	shoulder-elbow-wrist-hand orthosis
TO	thumb orthosis
WHO	wrist-hand orthosis

A.1.4 Classes of spinal orthosis

CO	cervical orthosis
CTO	cervico-thoracic orthosis
CTLS	cervico-thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthosis
LSO	lumbo-sacral orthosis
SIO	sacro-iliac orthosis
TO	thoracic orthosis
TLSO	thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthosis

A.1.5 Classes of head orthosis

CO	cranial orthosis
FO	facial orthosis

A.2 Index of terms

Term	Term number
ankle-foot orthosis	3.2.3
cervical orthosis	3.4.1
cervico-thoracic orthosis	3.4.2
cervico-thoracic-lumbo-sacral orthosis	3.4.3
cranial orthosis	3.5.2
elbow orthosis	3.3.5
elbow-wrist-hand orthosis	3.3.6
facial orthosis	3.5.1
finger orthosis	3.3.1
foot orthosis	3.2.2
hand orthosis	3.3.3
hip orthosis	3.2.6
hip-knee-ankle-foot orthosis	3.2.8
hip-knee orthosis	3.2.7
knee orthosis	3.2.4
knee-ankle-foot orthosis	3.2.5
lumbo-sacral orthosis	3.4.6
orthosis	3.1.1
orthotic device	3.1.1
sacro-iliac orthosis	3.4.7
shoulder-elbow orthosis	3.3.8
shoulder-elbow-wrist-hand orthosis	3.3.9
shoulder orthosis	3.3.7
thoracic orthosis	3.4.4
thoraco-lumbo-sacral orthosis	3.4.5
thumb orthosis	3.3.2