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Standard Terminology for Geometry of Alpine Skis¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers the terms required to describe the geometry of Alpine skis and does not cover special purpose skis.

1.2 The terms are presented in a sequence considered to be the most logical, with definitions presented later calling upon those presented earlier.

2. Significance and Use

2.1 A standard set of definitions is needed to allow manufacturers, consumers, retailers, and scientists to use a common language in describing Alpine skis.

3. Definitions (Refer to Figs. 1 and 2)

ski tail, T—the extreme rear edge of the ski.

ski tip, S—the extreme forward point or edge of the ski.

ski size—see the following:

developed length, L_N —bottom contour length as measured from the ski tip to the ski tail, commonly called the material length.

chord length, L_{TS} —straight line distance measured between the ski tail and ski tip with the ski pressed against a plane surface.

DISCUSSION—Either method at the manufacturer's discretion may be used to indicate nominal ski length or ski size when rounded to common increment.

projected length, L_P —length of the projection of the ski, measured between the ski tip and the ski tail parallel to the ski body pressed against a plane surface.

tail turn-up length, l_T —the projected length of the tail turn-up, measured from the ski tail to the contact point where a 0.5-mm feeler gauge intersects the running surface with the ski body pressed against a plane surface.

shovel length, l_S —the projected length of the forward turn-up, measured from the tip to the contact point where a 0.5-mm feeler gauge intersects the running surface with the ski body pressed against a plane surface.

contact length, l_C —the difference between the projected length, L_P and the sum of l_T plus l_S or $l_C = L_P - (l_T + l_S)$.

tail height, h_T —the height of the underside of the tail from a plane surface with the center of the ski body pressed against that surface.

tip height, h_S —the height of the underside of the tip from a plane surface with the center of the ski body pressed against that surface.

thickness, t —thickness, measured perpendicular to the running surface. X_A indicates the location of thickness measurement from the tail of the ski.

width, b —total distance measured perpendicular to the center line on the running surface. X_b indicates the location of ski width from the tail of the ski.

heel, b_H —the widest part of the ski in the tail section of the ski.

waist, b_M —the narrowest point of the ski body between the heel and shoulder.

shoulder, b_V —the widest point, of the ski in the shovel section of the ski.

X_{bH} , X_{bM} , X_{bV} —the x coordinates for the location of these respective widths of the ski measured from the tail of the ski.

contact surface area—the product of the average width times the contact length expressed quantitatively as follows:

$$A_c = \left[\frac{(b_H + 2b_M + b_V)}{4} \right] [l_c] \quad (1)$$

tail surface area—that surface from the tail contact point aft. The tail contact point is located l_T from the tail.

shovel surface area—that surface forward of the shovel contact point. The shovel contact point is located at l_S from the tip.

running surface—the entire bottom surface of the ski bordered by the side geometry.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F27 on Snow Skiing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F27.30 on Skiing and Snowboarding Equipment.

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