

British Standard Specification for Page sizes for books

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Format des pages de livres — Spécifications

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Seitenformat für Bücher

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Paper and Printing Standards Policy Committee. BS 1413 was first published in 1947, revised in 1966 and further revised in 1970 to specify metric dimensions and reduce the number of sizes from eight to five. The present edition supersedes BS 1413 : 1970, which is withdrawn. It aligns the quad sizes in tables 1 and 2 with those specified in BS 4000 and specifies page sizes for three of the common sizes of paperbacks.

For the purposes of this British Standard, a paperback is a book which is printed separately from a case-bound edition, in a large print number. There are technical factors which limit the sizes that are manufactured. It has been considered desirable to include three common sizes for paperbacks, but because there is a variety of economic methods available for printing and binding of paperbacks, slight variations from these sizes may be found. Further, since for specialized purposes it is sometimes appropriate to issue paperbacks in other sizes, it is suggested that the sizes given in table 1 for case-bound books should be utilized.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies a series of trimmed and untrimmed page sizes for case-bound books and three common page sizes for paperbacks.

It applies to books of portrait shape only.

NOTE. The title of the publication referred to in this standard is given on page 3.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the following definitions apply.

2.1 untrimmed page size. The size of a sheet after folding to page size and before trimming.

2.2 trimmed page size. The size of a sheet after folding to page size and after trimming 3 mm from three edges of the page (head, tail and fore-edge).

NOTE. For books other than paperbacks covered by clause 5, which are bound by an unsewn method, allowance should be made for spine 'trim', which reduces the width of the page by approximately 3 mm.

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3 Page sizes for case-bound books

The trimmed and untrimmed page sizes shall be as given in table 1.

NOTE. This table also gives the quad paper sizes from which the untrimmed sizes are usually obtained.

Designation	Trimmed sizes	Untrimmed sizes	Quad paper sizes
	mm	mm	mm
(1) Metric crown octavo	186 × 123	192 × 126	770 × 1010
(2) Metric large crown octavo	198 × 129	204 × 132	820 × 1060
(3) Metric demy octavo	216 × 138	222 × 141	890 × 1130
(4) Metric royal octavo	234 × 156	240 × 159	960 × 1270
(5) ISO A5	210 × 148	215 × 152.5	RAO 860 × 1220

NOTE 1. The A5 size is not derived from a normal bookbinder's trim of 3 mm on three edges (as are the measurements for the other sizes) and is therefore shown here as a size which should be used in conformity with agreed international standards, even though the trimmed size may be difficult to maintain in practice.

NOTE 2. Quarto derivatives of the page sizes given in this table are shown in appendix A.

4 Trim allowance

The nominal trim shall be 3 mm.

NOTE 1. This figure is subject to slight variations, which may be caused by the following:

- (a) maximum accepted tolerances in the size of the paper;
- (b) tolerances which may be necessary, for other reasons, for the printing or binding processes;
- (c) the practical limitations of guillotines.

NOTE 2. It is possible that the normal trim of 3 mm on three edges will be insufficient on some quarto, and larger, books.

NOTE 3. It is not considered practicable to specify in this British Standard tolerances for books which require non-standard methods of manufacture, such as 'bled' work, books produced on web-fed printing machines, or special multicolour work.

5 Page sizes for paperback books

The trimmed page size for paperback books shall be 178 mm × 111 mm or 181 mm × 111 mm from the 'A' series, or 198 mm × 129 mm from the 'B' series.

NOTE 1. The 'A' and 'B' series of paperback book sizes have no relationship to the ISO-A and ISO-B series of trimmed sizes and should not be interpreted as belonging to the ISO series of sizes.

NOTE 2. For other page sizes, it is recommended that the trimmed sizes given in table 1 for case-bound books should be utilized.