

AS 1344—1997

Australian Standard[®]

**Size coding scheme for women's
clothing—Underwear, outerwear
and foundation garments**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/92, Sizing Systems for Clothing. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 15 November 1996 and published on 5 March 1997.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/92:

A.C.T. Consumer Affairs Bureau
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Apparel Importers Association of Australia
Australia Post
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Council of State School Organisations
Australian Pre-School Association
Canberra Institute of Technology
Consumers Federation of Australia
Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia
Ergonomics Society of Australia
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 96318.

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Originated as AS L9—1959.
Previous edition AS 1344—1975.
Third edition AS 1344—1997.

PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)
1 THE CRESCENT, HOMEBUSH, NSW 2140

ISBN 0 7337 0876 5

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS/92 on Sizing Systems for Clothing at the request of manufacturers, retailers and consumers to supersede AS 1344—1975 *Size coding scheme for women's clothing—Underwear, outerwear and foundation garments*.

This Standard is the result of a consensus among representatives on the Joint Committee to produce it as an Australian Standard.

The first edition was prepared in 1959 as Standard L9 at the request of the Apparel Manufacturers Association of NSW, with strong support from the manufacturing and retail industry. It was based on a US Department of Commerce Standard (CS 215-58) and its preparation was assisted by Berlei and Dr H. O. Lancaster. The document has since undergone several revisions, the last of which was AS 1344—1975. Revisions since 1970 were accomplished with the assistance of the *Australian Women's Weekly* in a survey which included information from 11,455 Australian women on bust, waist, hip and height measurements as well as age groups. In 1972 there was a conversion to metric. The size coding scheme included only bust, waist and hip measurements. The last edition in 1975 also included foundation garments.

This edition confirms the data in the previous edition, due to the absence of a more up-to-date survey. With this in mind the committee wishes to mention the increasing trend of labelling size codes by transposing the size code one or more positions to the right of its correct measurements currently shown in Table A1. This trend is to be discouraged as it merely creates uncertainty of fit in the minds of consumers, and detracts from the usefulness of a size code system. An anthropometric survey if undertaken would not correct this trend which is occurring irrespective of the data that currently exists or that would be obtained. The committee believes that the relationship of bust-waist-hip has changed, therefore the inclusion of this information on the label is encouraged whenever applicable as well as the size code.

It is envisaged that the size code scheme in this Standard will be used by all sections of the clothing industry as an acceptable and simple scheme for designating the size of women's clothing, both underwear and outerwear, to fit the three basic body measurements of bust, waist and hip measured over foundation garments. Any garment bearing the designated size should be a reasonable fit for a person whose measurements are close to the basic measurements for that size code given in the relevant table in this Standard.

In the preparation of this Standard ISO 3635, *Size designation of clothing—Definitions and body measurement procedure*; ISO 3637, *Size designation of clothes—Women's and girls' outerwear garments*; ISO 8559 *Garment construction and anthropometric surveys—Body dimensions* and ISO 4416, *Size designation of clothes—Women's and girls' underwear*, were consulted.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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