

# STANDARDISATION OF FOOTWEAR SIZING (ISO/TC137)

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Why should shoe sizes be standardised?

Aim of standardisation is the safeness of customers. If you ask someone concerning their selected shoe size, you will get the answer „from ... to“, very often. It turns out. How can we achieve that a customer finds fitting shoes knowing his shoe size, wherever he is in the world.

Simultaneously, shoe and shoe component manufacturer will get uniform base for their co-operation. Misunderstandings and unnecessary corrections have to be reduced by this standard. The standard has to be an instrument for retailers, too. They will be able to check the ordered shoes concerning their size.

The shoe sizing systems, practised at the moment, have historically developed and only less based on the metrical system. This makes the conversion very difficult. The standard is intended to assist in this task, too.

What should this standard contain? Is only one shoe sizing system useful?

Shoe sizing systems differ from their increase from size to size. Therefore, different numbers of sizes per range are available. More sizes mean a better choice to consider individual foot differences. But more shoe sizes mean higher production and storage costs.

Aim of the standard is not the abolishment of the different sizing systems. It had been tried by Mondopoint system in the past. But it was not successful in Europe. Only army and safety shoes are marked with this system.

All special terms, necessary for the standard, had been defined at first. This was important to avoid misunderstandings. Furthermore, a testing method for last and shoe dimensions will be developed to use the same measuring procedure global. Finally, the metrical dimension of each shoe size has to be set, to allow the conversion in each other system.

Which difficulties appear during the standardisation of shoe sizing systems?

A lot of firms are afraid of bold changes, lost of knowledge, higher costs and so on. Nevertheless, the changes in the world require the creation of this new standard.

Most of the shoe sizing systems deliver the dimension of the last length. Other systems use the suggested foot length. This is the main problem, because last and foot length have to be different to produce fitting shoes. The TC 137 has to solve this very complicate task.