

# International Standard



3950

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION • МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ • ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

## Dentistry — Designation system for teeth and areas of the oral cavity

*Art dentaire — Code de désignation des dents et des régions de la cavité buccale*

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**Descriptors:** dentistry, dental system, teeth (anatomy), designation, numeric representations, numeric codes, abbreviations.

## **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. Every 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

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International Standard ISO 3950 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 106, *Dentistry*, in collaboration with the following international organization: FDI (International Dental Federation).

ISO 3950 was first published in 1977. This second edition cancels and replaces the first

edition, of which it constitutes a technical revision.  
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# Dentistry – Designation system for teeth and areas of the oral cavity

## 0 Introduction

The increasing use of computers to store information, together with the increasing necessity for the communication of dental information by wire, printed documents and orally, has required that new basic elements be taken into consideration for drawing up a designation system for teeth. The system described in this International Standard has been drawn up by the International Dental Federation (FDI) and approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Technical Committee ISO/TC 106, *Dentistry*, to satisfy the following requirements:

- a) simple to understand and teach;
- b) easy to pronounce in conversation and dictation;
- c) readily communicable in print and by wire;
- d) easy to translate into computer "input";
- e) easily adaptable to standard charts used in general dental practice.

- 10 designates the upper right quadrant  
20 designates the upper left quadrant  
30 designates the lower left quadrant  
40 designates the lower right quadrant  
03 designates the upper right sextant  
04 designates the upper anterior sextant  
05 designates the upper left sextant  
06 designates the lower left sextant  
07 designates the lower anterior sextant  
08 designates the lower right sextant  
09 signifies an area specified in an annexed document (or further explanation available).

NOTE — A sextant, in this context, means one of the sixths of the dental arches (03 to 08) such as illustrated in figure 1.

## 1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard provides a system for designating teeth or areas of the oral cavity using two digits. It also provides a system for designating surfaces of the teeth using letters of the alphabet.

## 2 Designation of areas of the oral cavity

The areas of the oral cavity shall be designated by a two digit code, where at least one of the two digits is zero, as follows:

- 00 designates the whole of the oral cavity
- 01 designates the maxillary area
- 02 designates the mandibular area

## 3 Designation of teeth

Teeth shall be designated by a two digit code. The first digit of the code indicates the quadrant and the second indicates the tooth in this quadrant.

### a) First digit (quadrant)

Digits 1 to 4 are used for quadrants in the permanent dentition and digits 5 to 8 for those of deciduous dentition, clockwise from the upper right side.

### b) Second digit (tooth)

Teeth in the same quadrant are designated by the second digit 1 to 8 (1 to 5 in the deciduous dentition), this designation is from the median line in a distal direction.

The designation system is shown in figure 1, with the codes for deciduous teeth in italics.

**Figure 1 – Digital designation of teeth and areas of the oral cavity**

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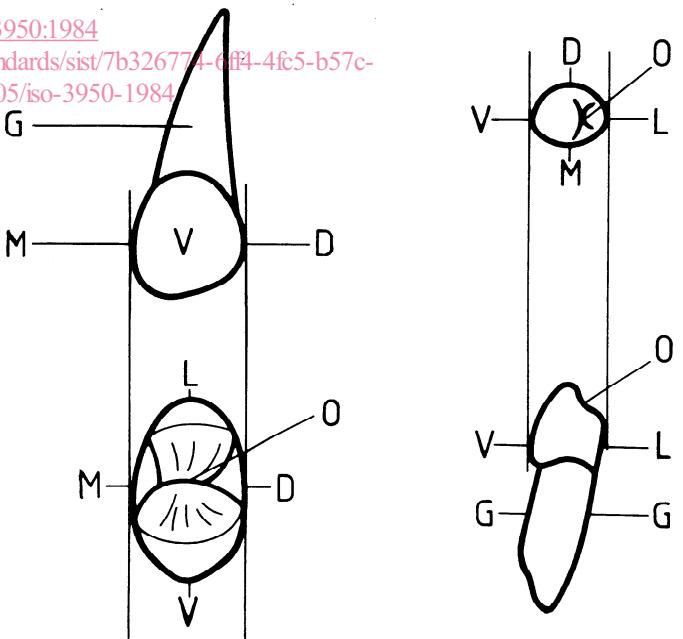
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## 4 Abbreviations for designation of surfaces ISO 3950:1984

For the designation of surfaces, the following letters shall be used : <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/7b326774-6ff4-4fc5-b57c-608172b67005/iso-3950-1984>

- O designates an occlusal surface
  - M designates a mesial surface
  - D designates a distal surface
  - V designates a vestibular surface (labial-buccal)
  - L designates a lingual surface
  - G designates a radicular surface

**NOTE** – This list of abbreviations will be completed later.



**Figure 2 – Designation of surfaces**