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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

ISO RECOMMENDATION R 271

TEXTILES
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEX SYSTEM
FOR DESIGNATING THE SIZE OF TEXTILE FIBRES,
YARNS AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES

1st EDITION

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BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R 271, *Implementation of the Tex System for Designating the Size of Textile Fibres, Yarns and Similar Structures*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, the Secretariat of which is held by the British Standards Institution (B.S.I.).

Work on this question by the Technical Committee began in 1948 and led, in 1957, to the adoption of a Draft ISO Recommendation.

In August 1958, this Draft ISO Recommendation (No. 391) was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry. It was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies:

Australia	India	Portugal
Austria	Iran	Republic of South Africa
Belgium	Ireland	Romania
Canada	Israel	Spain
Chile	Italy	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Japan	Turkey
Denmark	Netherlands	U.S.A.
France	New Zealand	U.S.S.R.
Germany	Norway	
Greece	Poland	

One Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft : United Kingdom.

The Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided, in September 1962, to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

FOREWORD

It has long been customary to designate the size (coarseness or fineness) of textile yarns by numbering or counting systems. Many branches of the textile industry employ systems of their own for this purpose, and those in current use may be classified in two groups:

- (a) *Direct systems*, in which the size of the yarn is expressed in terms of the mass of yarn per unit length (*linear density*, often called *yarn number*);
- (b) *Indirect systems*, in which the size of the yarn is expressed in terms of the length of yarn per unit mass (usually called *yarn count*).

With the growing use of yarns containing more than one kind of fibre, and of fabrics containing these yarns, it has become increasingly evident that the general adoption of a single system of numbering or counting would avoid confusion and save time.

In 1956, after detailed studies, Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, agreed unanimously to recommend the Tex System for international adoption in place of the various traditional methods of numbering or counting. That system is direct and based on metric units. This decision has since been embodied in ISO Recommendation R 138, *Universal Yarn Count System*.