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**Dentistry — Classification of tooth  
restorations preparation**

*Médecine bucco-dentaire — Classification de la préparation des  
restaurations dentaires*

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## Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 106, *Dentistry*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Terminology*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 55, *Dentistry*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

A classification of the location and depth of preparations made prior to the placement of tooth restorations supports the development of a consistent basis for the comparison of restorative materials and of decision support tools for the selection of restorative materials.

The traditional classification of carious lesions based on tooth type and lesion site was proposed by GV Black when restorative materials were limited to materials such as amalgam and gold.

While there is a widely recognized classification of cavities, that of GV Black, that classification dates back to a time when metallic materials were the only restorative options available. While attempts have been made to apply that classification to restoration, currently, there is no agreement on a classification of tooth preparations made for the placement of restorations.

Newer adhesive restorative materials and contemporary operative instrumentation better preserve sound tooth structure and offer new treatment possibilities concerning the restoration's location and depth. Standardizing the terminology used to describe these two parameters will provide a consistent basis for considering modern restorative materials' clinical use.

That development has been widely discussed in dental sciences. Various articles have been published on that topic without bringing up a standardized solution for a classification of lesions in relation to restorative needs and usage of materials. The correct diagnosis of hard tissue defects in human teeth plays an essential role in preserving remaining natural tooth structure and in optimising the longevity of the restoration.

The standardization of the terminology used to describe these two variables, depth and location, will provide a consistent basis for considering modern restorative materials' clinical use. This internationally accepted classification of restoration used to treat hard tissue defects in teeth may be used to specify restorative materials' intended use when documented in product instructions.

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# Dentistry — Classification of tooth restorations preparation

## 1 Scope

This document establishes a system for classifying the location and depth of human tooth restorations preparations.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1942, *Dentistry — Vocabulary*

ISO 3950, *Dentistry — Designation system for teeth and areas of the oral cavity*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 1942, ISO 3950 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1 preparation

result of the procedure used to render the human tooth in a form suitable for receiving and retaining a restoration

Note 1 to entry: This does not always require an operative restoration and preventive treatment such as resin infiltration is included.

### 3.2 core

main, central structure of the tooth, originally covered by enamel

Note 1 to entry: Core build-up is the restoration made to provide a retentive base for a prosthetic crown.

## 4 Classification

### 4.1 Location of preparation

For the purposes of this document, tooth preparations made prior to the placement of a restoration are classified as follows according to the location of the preparation on the tooth:

- Class 1: single surface occlusal, facial or lingual/palatal and posterior proximal sites without occlusal extension;
- Class 2: posterior proximal sites with occlusal extension;

- Class 3: anterior proximal sites without incisal involvement;
- Class 4: anterior proximal sites including an incisal edge;
- Class 5: gingival sites on the facial or lingual/palatal surface;
- Class 6: cusp tips;
- Class 7: core.

## **4.2 Depth of tooth restoration preparations**

For the purposes of this document, a restoration preparation in a human tooth is classified into seven depths according to the portion of specific structures that are penetrated at its deepest extension:

- E 1: outer half of enamel;
- E 2: inner half of enamel;
- D 1: outer third of dentine;
- D 2: middle third of dentine;
- D 3: inner third of dentine;
- P 1: pulp chamber;
- P 2: pulp chamber and coronal access section(s) of root canal(s).

## **5 Recommendations**

The classification specified in this document should be used in the following cases:

- a) manufacturer's instructions for use, in order to specify a restorative material's intended application,
- b) manufacturer's catalogue,
- c) other applications.