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**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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## Foreword

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International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 3950 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 106, *Dentistry*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Terminology*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 3950:1984), which has been technically revised.

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## 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 was originally drawn up by the FDI World Dental Federation 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.

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

## 1 Scope

This International Standard provides a system for designating teeth or areas of the oral cavity using two digits.

## 2 Principles

The anatomical arrangement of normal dental arches with respect to sagittal, medial, and occlusal planes allows for logical division of the oral cavity in quadrants and sextants.

A quadrant, in this context, means one of the fourths of the dental arches.

A sextant in this context means one of the sixths of the dental arches.

The areas of the oral cavity and teeth shall be designated by a two-digit code.

Codes containing at least one zero designate areas of the oral cavity.

Replacement of a zero by a nine identifies the presence of an anomaly in that specific area of the oral cavity.

Codes without a zero identify individual teeth. The first digit of the code designates the quadrant and differentiates between deciduous and permanent teeth, and the second identifies the tooth itself.

## 3 Designation of areas of the oral cavity

- 00 designates the entire oral cavity
- 01 designates the maxillary area
- 02 designates the mandibular area
- 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

#### 4 Designation of teeth

a) First digit

Digits 1 to 4 are used for the permanent dentition and digits 5 to 8 for the deciduous dentition. This designation starts clockwise from the upper right side.

- 1 designates permanent teeth in upper right quadrant
- 2 designates permanent teeth in upper left quadrant
- 3 designates permanent teeth in lower left quadrant
- 4 designates permanent teeth in lower right quadrant
- 5 designates deciduous teeth in upper right quadrant
- 6 designates deciduous teeth in upper left quadrant
- 7 designates deciduous teeth in lower left quadrant
- 8 designates deciduous teeth in lower right quadrant

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 starts from the sagittal medial plane in the distal direction.

— Permanent dentition:

- 1 designates the central incisor
- 2 designates the lateral incisor
- 3 designates the canine
- 4 designates the first premolar
- 5 designates the second premolar
- 6 designates the first molar
- 7 designates the second molar
- 8 designates the third molar

- Deciduous dentition:
- 1 designates the central incisor
- 2 designates the lateral incisor
- 3 designates the canine
- 4 designates the first molar
- 5 designates the second molar

Right										Left						
00																Oral cavity
01																Maxillary area
10								20								Quadrant
03				04				05				Sextant				
18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Permanent teeth
			55	54	53	52	51	61	62	63	64	65				Deciduous teeth
			85	84	83	82	81	71	72	73	74	75				Deciduous teeth
48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	Permanent teeth
08				07				06				Sextant				
40								30								Quadrant
02																Mandibular area

Figure 1 — Digital designation of teeth and areas of the oral cavity

## Bibliography

- [1] ISO 1942, *Dentistry — Vocabulary* <sup>1)</sup>

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1) To be published. (Cancels and replaces ISO 1942, Parts 1 to 5, published in 1989.)