

Office furniture — Office work chair —

Part 1: Dimensions — Determination of dimensions

The European Standard EN 1335-1:2000 has the status of a
British Standard

ICS 97.140

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National foreword

This British Standard is the official English language version of EN 1335-1:2000. It partially supersedes BS 5940-1:1980 which has already been withdrawn.

This Standard includes a National Informative Annex which gives guidance for users to assist in identifying the type of chair which will comply with the European Display Screen Equipment Directive.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee FW/3, Office furniture, which has the responsibility to:

- aid enquirers to understand the text;
- present to the responsible European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
- monitor related international and European developments and promulgate them in the UK.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the EN title page, pages 2 to 23 and a back cover.

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Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart, 36 B-1050 Brussels

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Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 207, Furniture, the Secretariat of which is held by IBN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2000, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2000.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

This series consists of the following parts:

- prEN 1335-1:1999 Office furniture - Office work chair - Part 1: Dimensions, determination of dimensions
- prEN 1335-2:1999 Office furniture - Office work chair - Part 2: Safety requirements
- prEN 1335-3:1999 Office furniture - Office work chair - Part 3: Safety test methods

Introduction

This standard is part of a series of product standards for office chairs including the following types:

- Office work chair
- Visitors chair

General

The working conditions and the protection of office workers with respect to safety and health necessitates - when necessary - that these standards take ergonomic principles and minimum requirements into account. This applies in particular to the design of Visual Display Equipment (VDU) work stations where a EU Directive (90/270/EEC) has been implemented. These work stations should be designed to allow different users to carry out a variety of work tasks. The design of furniture and the work station should, therefore, take into account both the variety of work tasks and the needs of the users.

The design of work procedures, work stations and furniture should ensure that the user can move his or her body and limbs frequently in order to avoid muscle stress.

Basis of dimensions and reference seating posture

The dimensions in this standard are based on the conflicting requirements of anthropometric measurements, mechanical design, subjective preference and other factors. In general, they should be suitable for people between 1 510 mm and 1 920 mm in body height. People with body height outside this range may need furniture of different dimensions or a footrest. Due to the variation in population heights in different countries, there will be a variation in the percentage of the office population which the dimensions will accommodate in each country.

In order to be able to specify acceptable dimensional requirements, a theoretical reference seating posture has been adopted. This posture does, however, not automatically correspond to the ideal or optimum seating posture.

The reference seating posture is as follows:

- The sole of the foot placed on the floor.
- The foot forms an angle of approximately 90° with the lower leg.
- The lower leg is approximately vertical.
- The lower leg forms an angle of approximately 90° with the thigh.
- The thigh is almost horizontal.
- The thigh forms an angle of approximately 90° with the trunk.
- The trunk is erect.

1 Scope

This part of the prEN 1335:1999 applies to office work chairs. It specifies dimensions of three types of chairs as well as test methods for their determination.

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provision from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

prEN 1335-3:1999 Office furniture - Office work chair - Part 3: Safety test methods

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following terms and definitions apply:

3.1 Office work chair: a piece of seating furniture for one person, with a back rest, with or without arm rests. The upper part of the chair, which includes the seat, can rotate in the horizontal plane and can be adjusted in height. There are three types A, B and C.

3.2 Axes of rotation: the vertical axis around which the upper part of the chair rotates (see figure 1).

3.3 Point "A": the point in which the chair's axes of rotation intersects with the seat surface loaded by a 64 kg dummy (see figures 1 and 2).

3.4 Median plane: the vertical plane passing through point "A" and dividing the chair into two generally symmetrical parts (see figure 1).

3.5 Transverse plane: the vertical plane passing through point "A" perpendicular to the median plane (see figure 1).

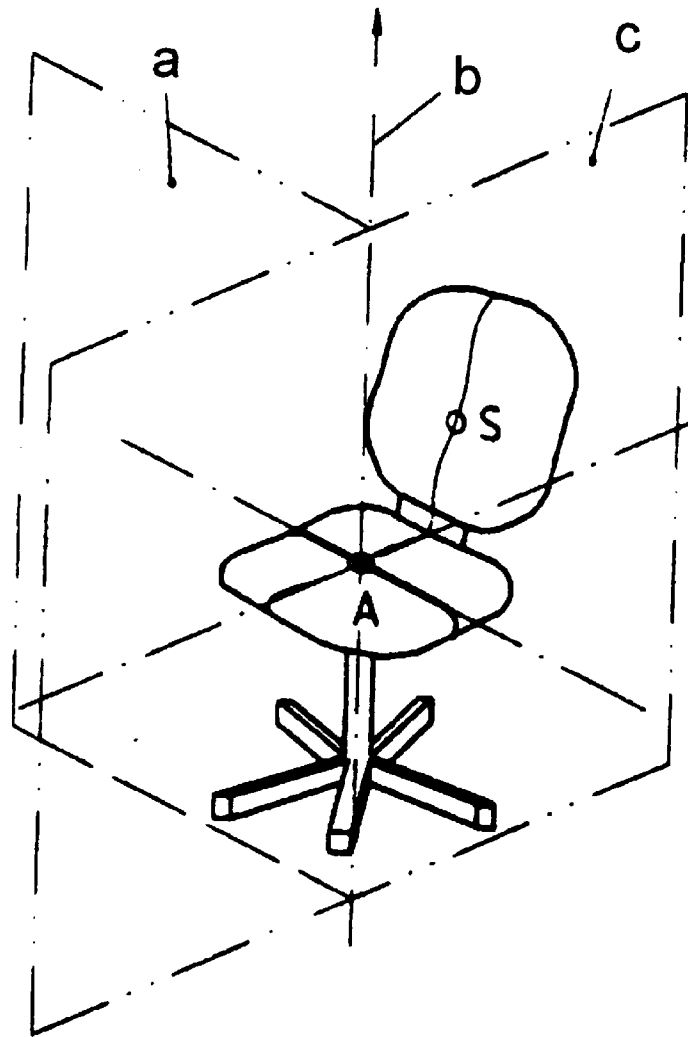
3.6 Back supporting point "S":

non tiltable back rest:

The foremost point on the back rest in the median plane between 170 mm and 220 mm above point "A" (see figure 3 a).

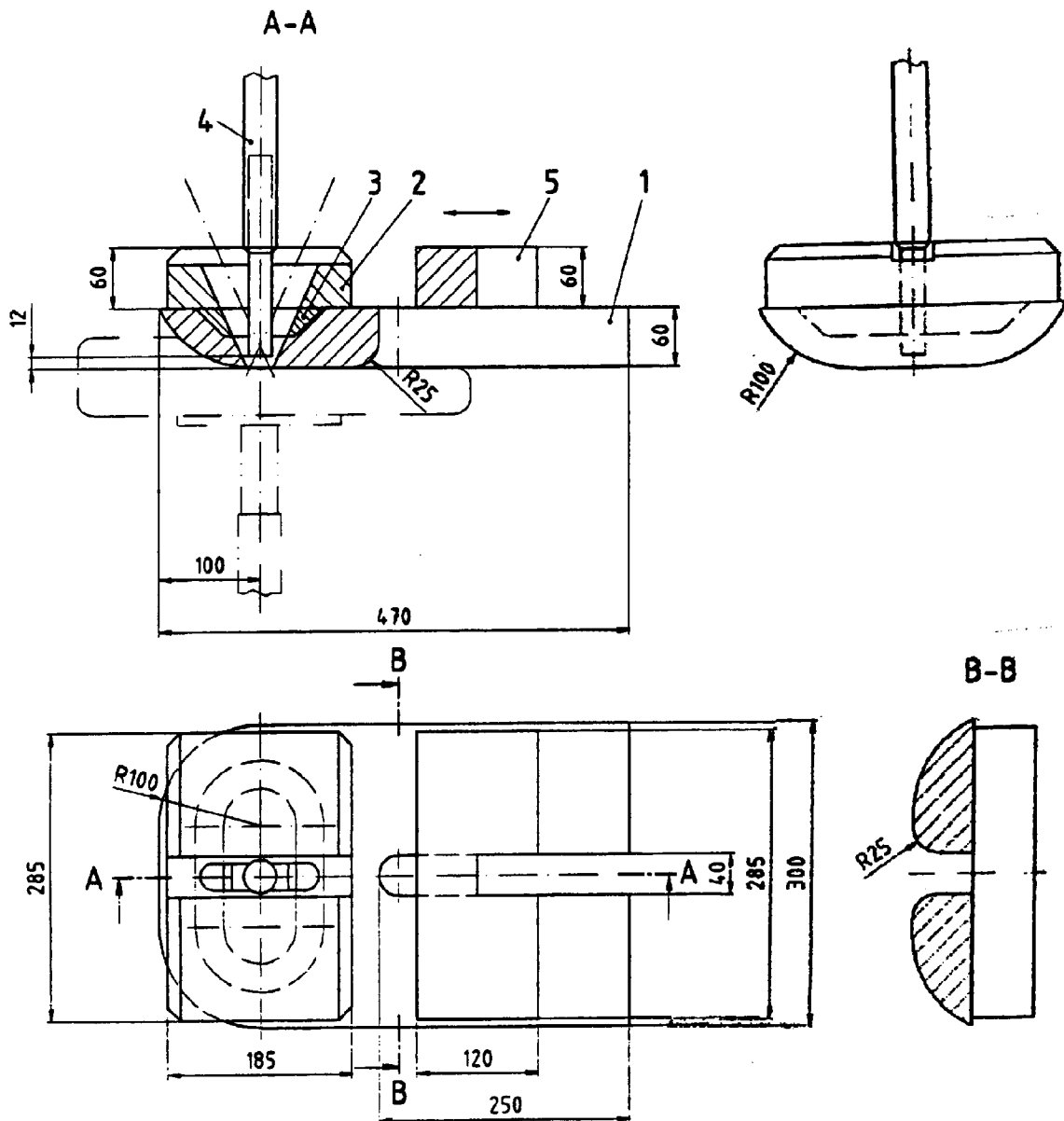
tiltable back rest:

The foremost point on the back rest in the median plane which intersects the vertical line 400 mm from the front edge of the seat when the back rest is tilted forward from the rearwards position (see figure 3 b).



- a Transverse Plane
- b Axis of Rotation
- c Median Plane

Figure 1 - Diagram of reference points, axes and planes



- Components:
- 1 Wooden component (or similar material)
 - 2, 3 Main mass (e.g. lead or force)
 - 4 Guide shaft
 - 5 Movable mass (e.g. steel)

- Mass of components:
- 1 = 4 kg
 - 5 = 15 kg
 - 2 + 3 + 4 = 45 kg (centre of gravity in the axes of the guide shaft)
 - 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 = 64 kg

Figure 2 - Dummy

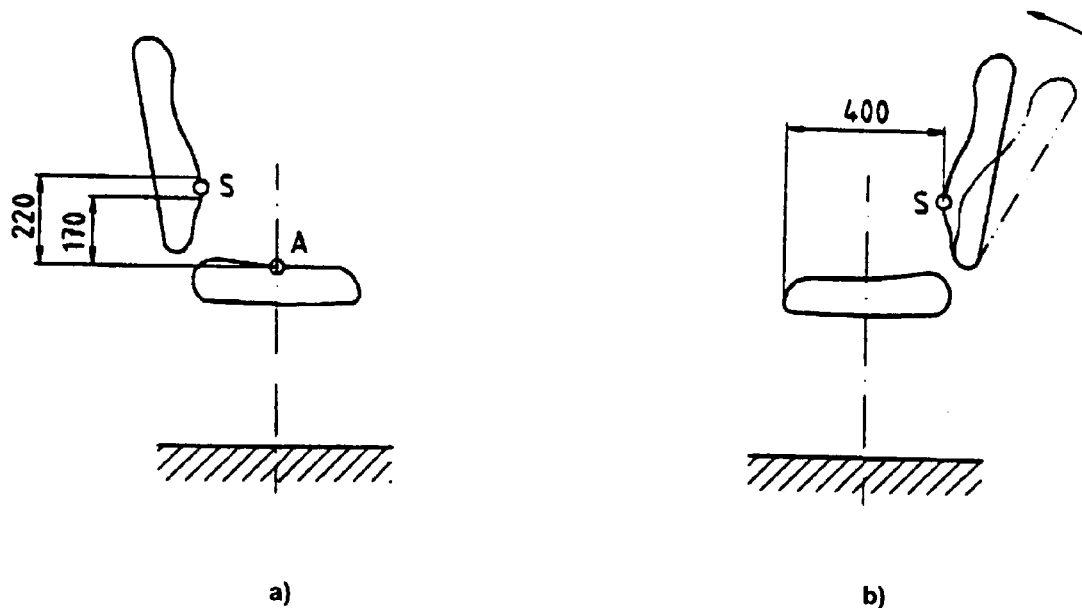


Figure 3 - Back supporting point "S"

4 Dimensions

The chair shall provide support to the thighs and the lumbar region with sufficient depth and height to provide all users with a sitting position suited to their activity and their height.

The dimension of the chair shall comply with one of the types of annex A. An exception is made in the case of the stability dimension t , provided that the chair passes the rearwards stability tests according to 5.4.2 and 5.4.3 of prEN 1335-3:1999.

5 Determination of reference points

The chair shall be positioned on a flat, rigid and horizontal test surface.

5.1 Point "A"

The dummy (see figure 2) shall be placed on the seat surface symmetrically to the median plane in such a way that the centre of gravity of the main mass coincides with the axis of rotation. The seat shall be set as close as possible to the horizontal and the back rest shall be set as close as possible to the vertical. The movable mass shall be positioned so that the lower edge of the groove coincides with the vertical line tangential to the front edge of the seat. Before measuring, the seat shall be loaded and unloaded five times for a short period.

5.2 Back supporting point "S"

In the case of chairs with a back rest rotatable around a horizontal axes the upper and lower edges of the back rest shall be positioned vertically one above the other midway in the median plane before measurements are made. If this is not possible the closest possible position to it shall be chosen.

6 Determination of dimensions

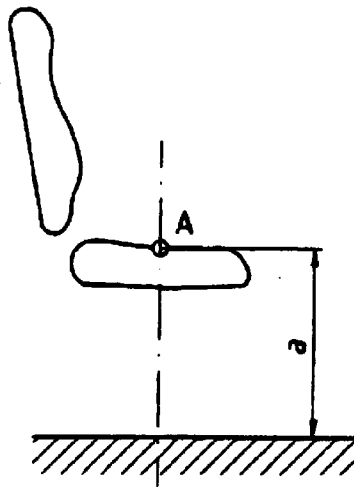
The chair shall be positioned on a flat, rigid and horizontal test surface. The seat shall be set as close as possible to the horizontal and the back rest shall be set as close as possible to the vertical. Linear dimensions shall have an accuracy of ± 2 mm and all angles an accuracy of $\pm 1^\circ$.

Unless otherwise specified, all dimensions shall be measured without loading at the measurement point. Where point "A" is used as reference point the seat shall be loaded by the dummy in accordance with 5.1.

All adjustable dimensions and angles shall be measured both in the smallest and largest position.

6.1 Seat height *a*

The seat height *a* is the vertical distance between the floor and the point "A" (see figure 4).



NOTE: The height is determined by measurement, either at the front edge of the seat in combination with the slope of the dummy or directly at point "A".

Figure 4 - Determination of the seat height *a*

6.2 Seat depth b

The seat depth b is the horizontal distance from the front edge of the seat to the vertical projection of the back supporting point "S", measured in the median plane (see figure 5).

Before determining the seat depth of chairs with height adjustable back rests, the back supporting point "S" shall be set at a height of 220 mm above point "A" (see figure 9). If the seat depth and back rest are adjusted simultaneously, i.e. when the seat depth is increased, the back rest height is automatically increased, the minimum seat depth shall be measured with back rest in its lowest position, and the maximum seat depth with the back rest in its highest position.

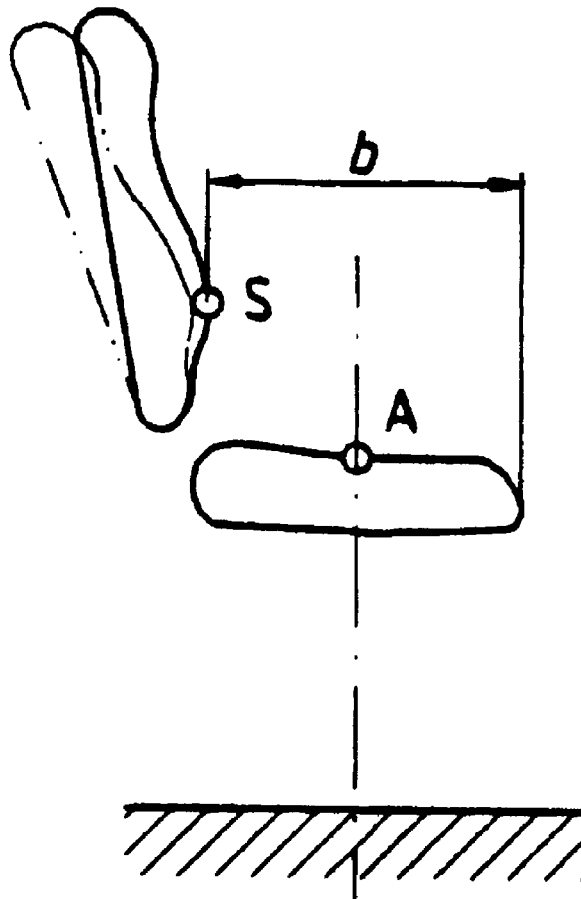
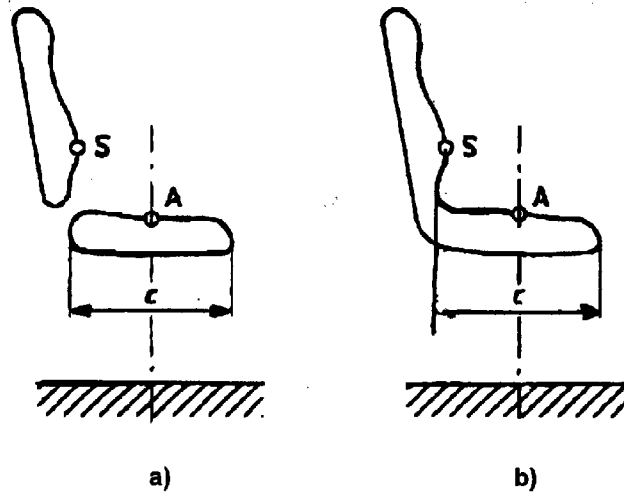


Figure 5 - Determination of the seat depth b

6.3 Depth c of seat surface

The depth c of seat surface is the maximum horizontal distance between vertical lines through the front and rear edges of the seat surface (see figure 6 a).

If the shape of the seat makes it impossible to define a rear edge, the maximum horizontal distance shall be measured from the rear of the seat surface below the back supporting point "S" (see 3.6) to the front edge of the seat surface (see figure 6 b). The measurement shall be carried out with the back rest set to the forward tilt.



Figures 6 - Determination of the depth c of seat surface

6.4 Seat width d

The seat width d is the horizontal distance between vertical lines through the side edges of the seat surface measured in the transverse plane (see figure 7).

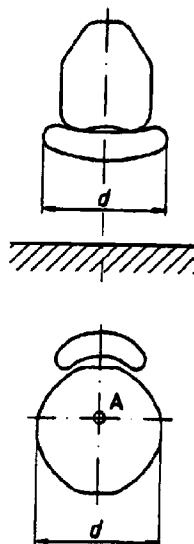


Figure 7 - Determination of the seat width d

6.5 Inclination e of seat surface

The inclination e of the seat surface is the angle in the median plane between the lower edge of the dummy and a horizontal line. Rearwards slope is designated "-" otherwise "+" (see figure 8).

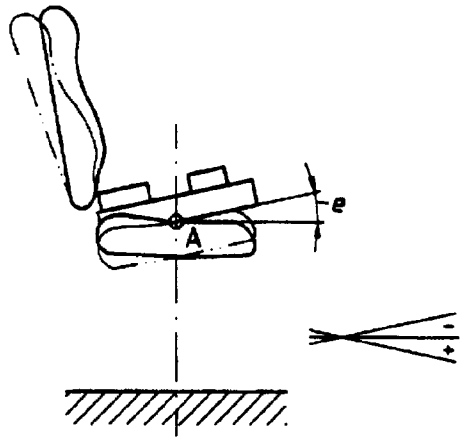


Figure 8 - Determination of the inclination e of the seat surface

6.6 Height f of the back supporting point "S" above the seat surface

The height f of the back supporting point "S" above the seat surface is the vertical distance between the point "S" and point "A" (see figure 9).

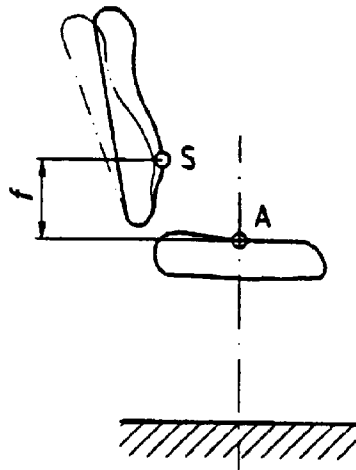


Figure 9 - Determination of the height f of the back supporting point "S" above the seat surface

6.7 Height g of the back pad

The height g of the back pad is the vertical distance between the upper and lower edges of the back pad, measured in the median plane (see figure 10).

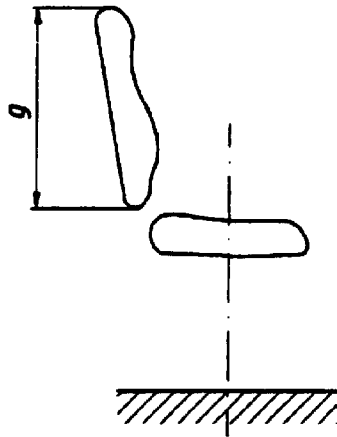


Figure 10 - Determination of the height g of the back pad

6.8 Height h of the upper edge of the back rest above the seat surface

The height h of the upper edge of the back rest above the seat surface is the vertical distance between the upper edge of the back rest and the point "A" measured in the median plane (see figure 11).

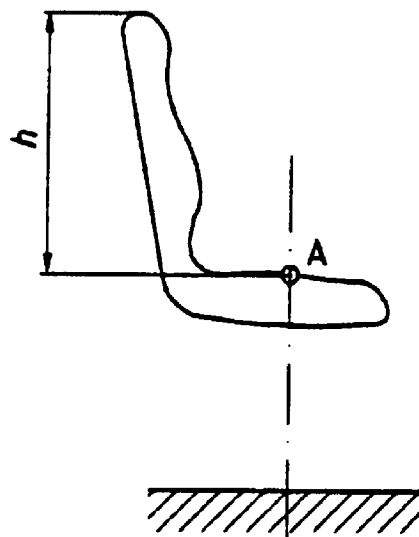


Figure 11 - Determination of the height h of the upper edge of the back rest above the seat surface

6.9 Back rest width i

The back rest width i is the maximum horizontal distance between its side edges (see figure 12).

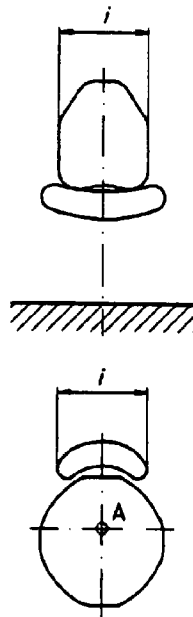


Figure 12 - Determination of the back rest width i

6.10 Horizontal radius k of back rest

The horizontal radius k of the back rest is the radius measured at the height of the back supporting point "S" (see figure 13).



Figure 13 - Determination of the horizontal radius k of the back rest

6.11 Back rest inclination adjustment range / ("tilt")

The back rest inclination is the angle between the transverse plane and the back rest determined at point "S". Rearwards slope is designated "-" otherwise "+".

The back rest inclination adjustment range / is the angle between the foremost and the rearmost position of the inclined back rest (see figure 14).

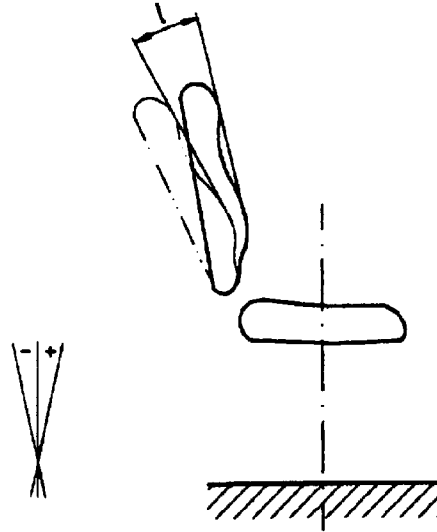


Figure 14 - Determination of the back rest inclination adjustment range /

6.12 Length *n* of the useful area of the arm rest

The length *n* of the useful area of the arm rest is the horizontal distance between vertical lines through its front and rear edges (see figure 15 b).

In the case of an arm rest which is not horizontal or which is rounded at the ends or is of non-rigid material, the dimension *n* shall be measured in a plane 20 mm below the highest point of the useful area of the arm rest (see figure 15 a).



Figures 15 - Determination of the length *n* of the useful area of the arm rest

6.13 Width o of the useful area of the arm rest

The width o of the useful area of the arm rest is the horizontal distance between vertical lines through the inner and outer edges of the arm rest, (see figure 16).

If the shape of the arm rest does not allow for an exact measurement of this width, it shall be measured 20 mm below the top edge.

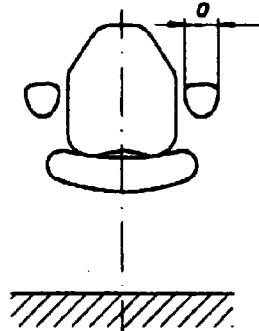
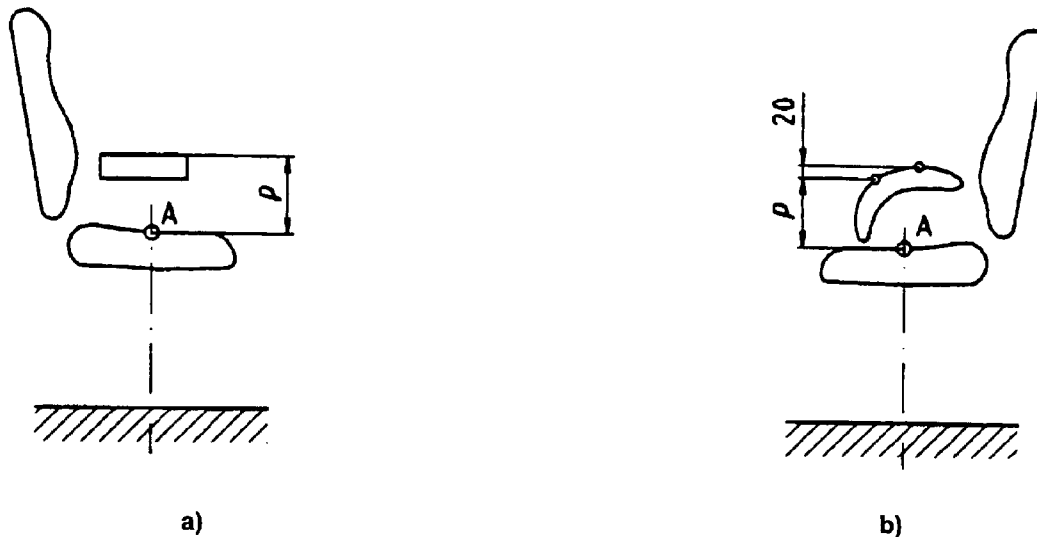


Figure 16 - Determination of the width o of the useful area of arm rests

6.14 Height p of the useful area of the arm rest above the seat

The height p of the useful area of the arm rest above the seat is for horizontal arm rests the vertical distance between the upper surface of the arm rest and point "A" (see figure 17 a).

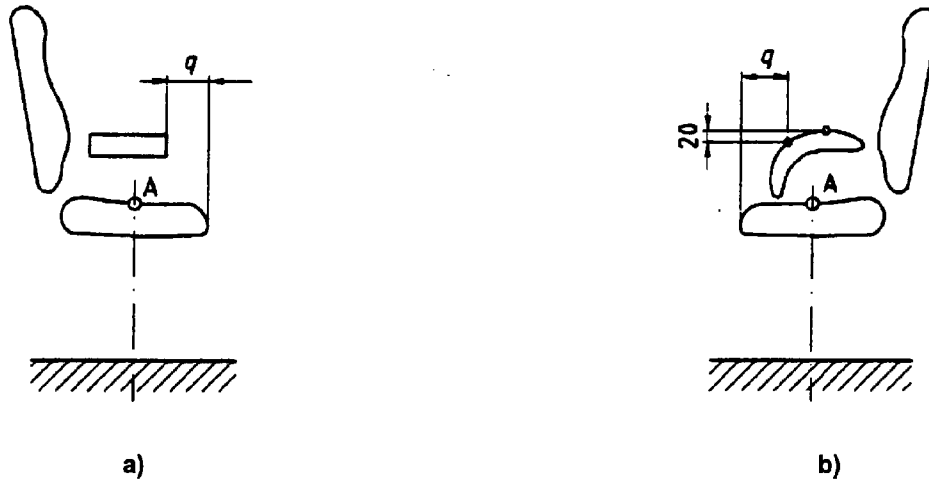
In the case of an arm rest which is not horizontal or which is rounded at the ends or is of non-rigid material, the dimension p is the vertical distance between the horizontal plane 20 mm below the highest point of the arm rest and point "A" (see figure 17 b).



Figures 17 - Determination of the height p of the useful area of the arm rest above the seat surface

6.15 Distance q from the front of the useful area of the arm rests to the front edge of the seat

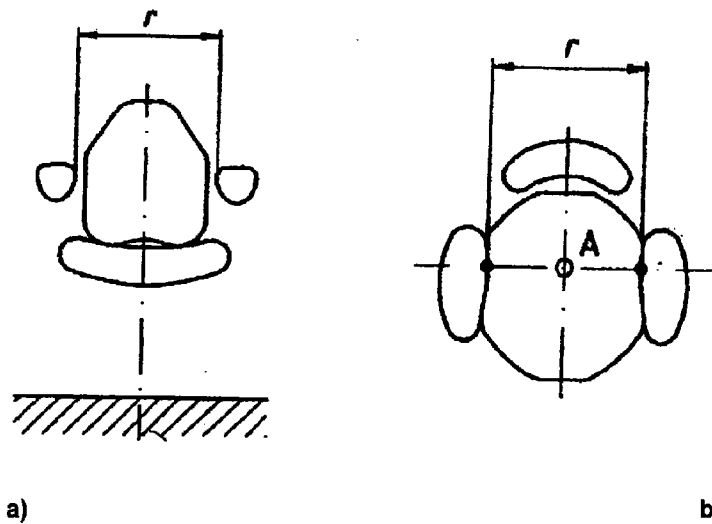
The distance q from the front of the useful area of the arm rests to the front edge of the seat surface is the horizontal distance between the front edge of the arm rests (see 6.12) and a line extended vertically above the front edge of the seat surface in the median plane (see figures 18 a and 18 b).



Figures 18 - Determination of the distance q from the front of the useful area of the arm rests to the front edge of the seat surface

6.16 Clear width r between the useful area of the arm rests

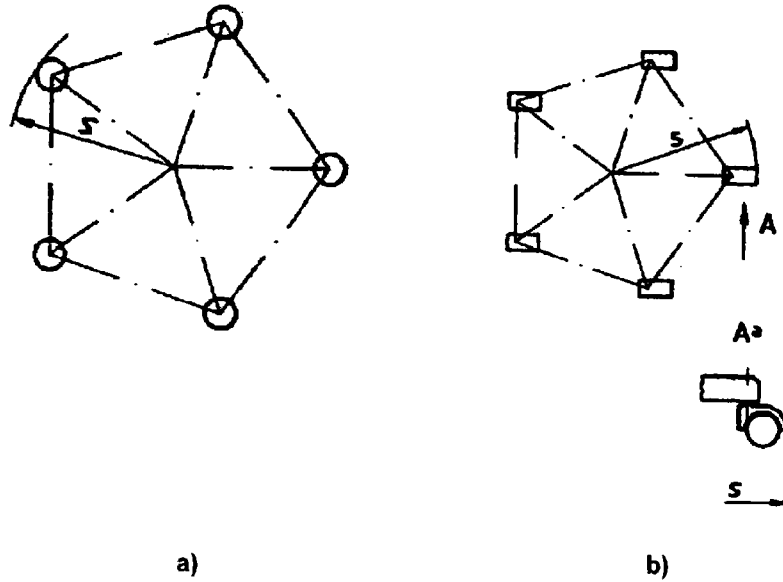
The clear width r between the useful area of the arm rests is the horizontal distance between vertical lines through the inner edges of the arm rests, measured in the transverse plane (see figures 19 a and 19 b).



Figures 19 - Determination of the clear width r between the useful area of the arm rests

6.17 Maximum offset s of the underframe

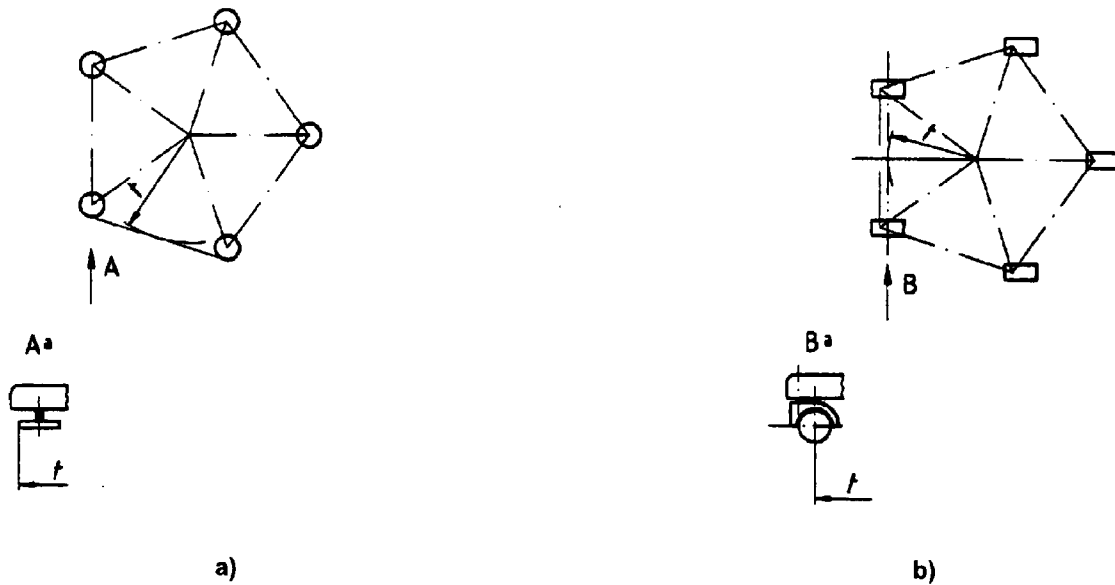
The maximum offset s of the underframe is the maximum distance between the outermost point of the underframe including castors (see figure 20 b) or glides (see figure 20 a) and the axis of rotation.



Figures 20 - Determination of the maximum offset s of the underframe

6.18 Stability dimension t

The stability dimension t is the smallest distance between the overbalancing axes on the floor and the axes of rotation of the chair (see figure 21 a). Where castors are used, the most unfavourable castor position shall be used for the measurement (see figure 21 b).



Figures 21 - Determination of the stability dimension t

Annex A (normative) Dimensional requirements

Table A.1 - Dimensions of an office work chair

Dimension[symbol]	Adjustability	Dimensions in millimetres					
		Type A		Type B		Type C	
		(-) allow.	(+) allow.	(-) allow.	(+) allow.	(-) allow.	(+) allow.
SEAT							
seat height ^{b)}	a	yes	510	yes	420	yes	480
		no	120	yes	100	no	80
seat depth	b	yes	no	yes	380	no	380
		no	400	yes	400	yes	400
depth of seat surface	c	no	50	yes	50	no	400
seat width	d	no	380	yes	380	no	380
		no	400	yes	400	no	400
inclination of seat surface	e	yes	no	yes	-2°	no	-2°
		no	6°	yes	-2°	yes	-2°
		no	400	yes	400	no	400
		no	no	yes	-7°	no	-7°
		no	-7°	yes	-7°	yes	-7°
		no	400	yes	400	no	400
BACK REST							
Height of the back supporting point "S" above the seat surface	f	yes	no	yes	170	no	170
		no	170	yes	170	yes	220
height of the back pad - adjustable in height	g	no	50	yes	50	no	220
- non-adjustable in height		no	220	yes	220	no	220
height of the upper edge of the back rest above the seat surface	h	no	260	yes	260	no	260
back rest width	i	no	360	yes	360	no	360
horizontal radius of the back rest	k	no	360	yes	360	no	360
back rest inclination	l	no	15°	yes	15°	no	15°

Table A.1 - Dimensions of an office work chair (concluded)

Dimension[symbol]	Adjustability	Type A			Type B			Type C				
		(-) allow.	Min. ^{a)}	Max. ^{a)}	(+) allow.	Min. ^{a)}	Max. ^{a)}	(-) allow.	Min. ^{a)}	Max. ^{a)}	(+) allow.	
ARM REST												
length of arm rest	<i>n</i>	no	200	⊕	yes	no	200	⊕	no	200	⊕	yes
width of arm rest ^{c)}	<i>o</i>	no	40	⊕	yes	no	40	⊕	no	40	⊕	yes
height of arm rest above the seat	<i>p</i>	no	200	250	no	no	200	250	no	200	250	no
distance from the front of the arm rests to the front edge of the seat surface ^{d)}	<i>q</i>	yes	200	250	yes	yes	200	250	yes	200	250	yes
		no	100	⊕	yes	no	100	⊕	no	100	⊕	yes
clear width between the arm rests ^{e)}	<i>r</i>	no	460	510	no	no	460	510	no	460	⊕	yes
UNDERFRAME												
maximum offset of the underframe (anti-stumbling-dimension)	<i>s</i>	yes	⊕	365 ^{f)}	no	yes	⊕	365 ^{f)}	no	yes	⊕	x ^{g)} +50
stability dimension ^{h)}	<i>t</i>	no	195	⊕	yes	no	195	⊕	no	195	⊕	yes

a) For adjustable functions the Min. and Max. values must be obtained.
 b) The minimum range of adjustment is suitable for working surface heights between at least 680 mm and 780 mm. For some part of the user group a foot rest is required.
 c) The requirement applies over the minimum value *n* (see clause 6.13).
 d) The requirement applies from a height of 170 mm above point "A" (see clause 6.15).
 e) The requirement applies to 3/4 of the seat depth *b* (measured from the front edge of the seat) with the back rest in its foremost position (see clause 6.16).
 f) If swivel castors are fitted the requirement is 415 mm.
 g) *x* is the maximum horizontal distance between parts of the upper part of the chair and the axis of rotation (see clause 6).
 h) See clause 4.
 ⊕ No requirement specified.

Annex B (informative)

A-deviations

A-deviation: National deviation due to regulations, the alteration of which is for the time being outside the competence of the CEN/CENELEC member.

This European Standard does not fall under any Directive of the EU. In the relevant CEN/CENELEC countries these A-deviations are valid instead of the provisions of the European Standard until they have been removed.

B.1 Denmark

The following A-deviation has to be required: "Only type A office work chairs fulfil the following Danish legislation:

- Arbejdstilsynets bekendtgøelse nr. 1017 af 17. December 1997 om arbejdets udførelse;
- Arbejdstilsynets bekendtgøelse nr. 1108 af 15. December 1992 om arbejde ved skærmterminaler;
- Arbejdstilsynets bekendtgøelse nr. 1163 af 16. December 1992 om faste arbejdssteders indretning;
- At-anvisning nr. 4.0.1.1, december 1996: Arbejde ved skærmterminaler;
- At-meddelelse 1.01.14 af august 1996: Arbejdspladsens indretning og krav til inventar på faste arbejdssteder.

B.2 Netherlands

The Dutch law refers to NEN 1812.

The seat height, the seat depth, back rest and the height of arm rest above seat shall be determined in accordance with NEN 1812.

Note: The definitions of these dimensions in NEN 1812 are different from EN 1335-1.
The measurement load in NEN 1812 is different from EN 1335-1.

The dimensions of the chair type A shall comply with table A.1 except for the amendments specified in table B.1.

Table B.1 – Amendments of the Netherlands

Dimension [symbol]		Type A			
		(-) allow.	Min.	Max.	(+) allow.
SEAT					
seat depth: adjustment range	<i>b</i>	>380	400	440	<470
depth of seat surface	<i>c</i>	no	440		yes
inclination of seat surface	on-adjustable adjustable adjustment range	<i>e</i>	no	no	
			yes	+3°	-7°
			no	6°	⊕
			no		yes
BACK REST					
The shape dimension of the back rest must be according to NEN 1812 figure 1	<i>h</i>				
ARM REST					
length of arm rest	<i>n</i>	no	150		yes
width of arm rest	<i>o</i>	no	50		yes
height of arm rest above seat: adjustable	<i>p</i>	yes	200	270	yes
distance from the front of the arm rests to the front edge of the seat surface	<i>q</i>	no	200	240	no

B.3 Germany

In Germany the following national regulations exists:

The "Arbeitsstättenverordnung" and the "Gesetz über technische Arbeitsmittel (Gerätesicherheitsgesetz) in der Fassung der Bekanntmachung vom 23. Oktober 1992, Bundesgesetzblatt III 8053-4" lays down that office work chairs shall conform to the German standard DIN 4551.

Annex NA (informative)

National Guidance

NA.1 General

The European Display Screen Equipment Directive (90/270/EEC) has minimum requirements for adjustability of chairs. The HSE Guidance Document on the Regulations (L26) includes the following statement in annex A, clause 17:

“The schedule requires the seat to be adjustable in height (i.e. relative to the ground) and the seat back to be adjustable in height (also relative to the ground) and tilt. Provided the chair design meets these requirements and allows the user to achieve a comfortable posture, it is not necessary for the height or tilt of the seat back to be adjustable independently of the seat.”

This European Standard specifies three types of office chairs but does not state which type of chairs will comply with the European Display Screen Equipment Directive.

Since it does not give precise descriptions of each chair, this informative annex summarizes the main differences between them.

NA.2 All three types of office work chair

Type A, B and C are all required to have adjustable seat height and backrest inclination. They may also have any other adjustment features listed in Table A.1.

NA.3 Type A office work chair

In addition to the above, a type A chair is required adjustable seat depth, seat surface inclination, (at least 6°), and a height of backrest supporting point (“S” in Table A.1) above the seat surface.

The minimum seat height is required to be 400 mm with a minimum adjustment range of 120 mm.

NA.4 Type B office work chair

A type B chair has specified dimensions which are the same as those specified for a type A chair except that it is required to have a minimum seat height of 420 mm with a minimum adjustment range of 100 mm.

NA.4 Type C office work chair

A type C chair has specified dimensions which are similar to type A and B chairs except that limits to adjustment range and maximum dimensions are not frequently specified.

The minimum seat height is 420 mm with a minimum adjustment range of 80 mm. This is to accommodate chairs with bulky upholstery.

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BSI
389 Chiswick High Road
London
W4 4AL