

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

HARRY L. HOPKINS, Secretary

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

LYMAN J. BRIGGS, Director

Bureau of Standards  
FEB 17 1939

**DRESS PATTERNS**

(SECOND EDITION)

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COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS13-39

(Supersedes CS13-30)

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Effective Date, February 25, 1939



**A RECORDED STANDARD OF THE INDUSTRY**

UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
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PROMULGATION  
of  
COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS13-39  
for  
DRESS PATTERNS  
(Second Edition)

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On February 7, 1929, a joint conference of representative manufacturers, merchants, educators, and users adopted a commercial standard for dress patterns which was subsequently accepted by the industry and promulgated as Dress Patterns, Commercial Standard CS13-30.

On August 10, 1938, the standing committee recommended that the standard be revised to include juniors' size 11, misses' size 12, and two modified measurements for size 13 as adjusted for consistency. This recommendation was approved, and the standard as revised was accepted by the industry for promulgation by the United States Department of Commerce, through the National Bureau of Standards.

The standard is effective from February 25, 1939.

Promulgation recommended.

I. J. Fairchild,  
*Chief, Division of Trade Standards.*

Promulgated.

Lyman J. Briggs,  
*Director, National Bureau of Standards.*

Promulgation approved.

Harry L. Hopkins,  
*Secretary of Commerce.*

# DRESS PATTERNS

(Second Edition)

## COMMERCIAL STANDARD CS13-39

### PURPOSE

1. The purpose is to provide standard classifications and corresponding body measurements for the guidance of producers, distributors, and users, in order to eliminate confusion resulting from a diversity of classifications and measurements.

### CLASSIFICATIONS AND CORRESPONDING BODY MEASUREMENTS

2. The standard classifications and corresponding body measurements for dress patterns are given in the following tables:

#### LADIES

[All measurements in inches]

Bust.....	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50
Waist.....	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
Hip <sup>1</sup> .....	37	39	41	43	45	47½	50	53	56

#### MISSES

Size.....				12	14	16	18	20	-----
Bust.....				30	32	34	36	38	-----
Waist.....				26	27	28	30	32	-----
Hip <sup>1</sup> .....				33	35	37	39	41	-----
Socket bone to floor <sup>2</sup> .....				50½	52	54	-----	-----	-----

#### JUNIORS

Size.....					11	13	15	17	-----
Bust.....					29	31	33	35	-----
Waist.....					25½	26½	27½	29	-----
Hip <sup>1</sup> .....					32	34	36	38	-----
Socket bone to floor <sup>2</sup> .....					50	51	53	-----	-----

#### GIRLS

Size.....					6	8	10	12	14
Breast.....					24	26	28	30	32
Waist.....					24	25	26	26½	27
Socket bone to floor <sup>2</sup> .....					36	40	44	48	52

<sup>1</sup> Hip measurement taken 7 inches below natural waist line.

<sup>2</sup> Socket bone; uppermost thoracic vertebrae at back of neck. The individual is measured while wearing shoes.

## CHILDREN

Size.....					2	3	4	5	6
Breast.....					21	22	23	23½	24
Waist.....					21	22	23	23½	24
Socket bone to floor <sup>1</sup> .....					28	30	32	34	36

## INFANTS

Size.....						½	1	2	3
Breast.....						19	20	21	22
Waist.....						19	20	21	22
Socket bone to floor <sup>1</sup> .....						21	24	28	30

## BOYS

Size.....					6	8	10	12	14	16
Breast.....					24	26	28	30	32	34
Neck.....					11	11½	12	12½	13½	14
Waist.....					24	25	26	27	28	30
Socket bone to floor <sup>1</sup> .....					36	40	44	48	52	54

## LITTLE BOYS

Size.....					1	2	3	4	5	6
Breast.....					20	21	22	23	23½	24
Waist.....					20	21	22	23	23½	24
Socket bone to floor <sup>1</sup> .....					24	28	30	32	34	36

<sup>1</sup> Socket bone; uppermost thoracic vertebrae at back of neck. The individual is measured while wearing shoes.

## WIDTHS OF MATERIAL LISTED ON PATTERN

3. It is recommended that for purposes of uniformity, the following widths of material be recognized as standard for pattern layouts and for listing on dress patterns as a basis for yardage of material required: 27, 32, 35, 39, and 54 inches.

4. It is understood that other widths may be used to suit special materials or patterns.

## NOTE ON ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS

5. It is recognized that the above standard may not coincide with the average of anthropometric measurements from various sources, but is rather a practical compromise between such measurements and the experience of dress pattern manufacturers in their commercial practice. It is believed that the dimensions selected will meet average requirements with a minimum of adjustments to suit the individual.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

The standard is effective from February 25, 1939.

## STANDING COMMITTEE

The following comprises the membership of the standing committee, which is to review, prior to circulation for acceptance, revisions proposed to keep the standard abreast of progress. Each association nominated its own representatives. Comment concerning the standard and suggestions for revision, may be addressed to



any member of the committee or to the Division of Trade Standards, National Bureau of Standards, which acts as secretary for the committee.

LOUIS DEMPSEY (chairman), Butterick Co., Inc., Butterick Bldg., 161 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

M. ROHR, McCall Corporation, 230 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

MAX HERZBERG, Advance Pattern Co., 635 Greenwich Street, New York, N. Y.

RUTH O'BRIEN, Division of Textiles and Clothing, Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

MARY BROOKS PICKEN, Mary Brooks Picken Studio, 285 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

HELEN W. HAZEN, New Jersey College for Women, New Brunswick, N. J.

T. L. BLANKE, National Retail Dry Goods Association, 101 West Thirty-first Street, Greely Square Bldg., New York, N. Y.

GENEVIEVE HUSS, B. Altman & Co., Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, New York, N. Y.

P. C. Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh Form Co., Inc., 9-11 University Place, New York, N. Y.

H. H. BENNINGTON, L. Bamberger & Co., Newark, N. J.

JOSEPH ECKHOUSE, Bloomingdale Bros., Fifty-ninth Street and Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

MURRAY GRAHAM, R. H. Macy & Co., Thirty-fourth and Broadway, New York, N. Y.

MRS. HARRIET HOWE, American Home Economics Association, 620 Mills Bldg., Washington, D. C.

## HISTORY OF PROJECT

The manufacturers of dress patterns in a series of three preliminary conferences, beginning June 22, 1928, and ending October 23, 1928, prepared recommendations covering pattern classifications, grading, body measurements, and widths of materials to be recognized for pattern layouts. A study was also made of the various reports covering anthropometric measurements, checking these data with the general experience of each manufacturer.

It was the general opinion that producers, distributors, and consumers would receive many benefits from the establishment of a commercial standard for dress patterns. Such a standard would furnish a basis for laying out dress patterns and would also provide for uniform sizes and size classifications through the recognition of one fundamental basis.

Accordingly, in response to a joint request from the leading producers of commercial dress patterns, a general conference of producers, distributors, users, and educators was held on February 7, 1929, at the Pennsylvania Hotel, New York, N. Y., to consider the recommendations of the manufacturers with a view to the establishment of a commercial standard for dress patterns.

After discussion, the conference voted to adopt the proposed commercial standard and recommended its acceptance. This recommendation which was later approved and accepted by the industry became effective on January 1, 1930, as Commercial Standard CS13-30.

*First revision.*—On August 10, 1938, the standing committee recommended that the standard be revised to include juniors' size 11 and misses' size 12, and that two other measurements, waist and socket bone to floor for size 13, be adjusted for consistency.

These recommendations were later approved and accepted by the industry and the revised standard is effective from February 25, 1939.



## ACCEPTANCE OF COMMERCIAL STANDARD

This sheet properly filled in, signed, and returned will provide for the recording of your organization as an acceptor of this commercial standard.

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Division of Trade Standards,  
National Bureau of Standards,  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Having considered the statements on the reverse side of this sheet,  
we accept the Commercial Standard CS13-39 as our standard of  
practice in the

Production<sup>1</sup>                  Distribution<sup>1</sup>                  Use<sup>1</sup>

of dress patterns.

We will assist in securing its general recognition and use, and will cooperate with the standing committee to effect revisions of the standard when necessary.

Signature of individual officer \_\_\_\_\_ (In ink)

(Kindly typewrite or print the following lines)

Name and title of above officer\_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_  
(Fill in exactly as it should be listed in pamphlet)

Street address\_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Please designate which group you represent by drawing lines through the other two. Please file separate acceptances for all subsidiary companies and affiliates which should be listed separately as acceptors. In the case of related interests, trade papers, colleges, etc., desiring to record their general approval, the words "in principle" should be added after the signature.

## TO THE ACCEPTOR

The following statements answer the usual questions arising in connection with the acceptance and its significance:

1. *Enforcement.*—Commercial standards are commodity specifications voluntarily established by mutual consent of the industry. They present a common basis of understanding between the producer, distributor, and consumer and should not be confused with any plan of governmental regulation or control. The United States Department of Commerce has no regulatory power in the enforcement of their provisions, but since they represent the will of the industry as a whole, their provisions through usage soon become established as trade customs, and are made effective through incorporation into sales contracts by means of labels, invoices, and the like.

2. *The acceptor's responsibility.*—The purpose of commercial standards is to establish for specific commodities nationally recognized grades or consumer criteria and the benefits therefrom will be measurable in direct proportion to their general recognition and actual use. Instances will occur when it may be necessary to deviate from the standard and the signing of an acceptance does not preclude such departures; however, such signature indicates an intention to follow the commercial standard where practicable, in the production, distribution, or consumption of the article in question.

3. *The Department's responsibility.*—The major function performed by the Department of Commerce in the voluntary establishment of commercial standards on a Nation-wide basis is fourfold: first, to act as an unbiased coordinator to bring all branches of the industry together for the mutually satisfactory adjustment of trade standards; second, to supply such assistance and advice as past experience with similar programs may suggest; third, to canvass and record the extent of acceptance and adherence to the standard on the part of producers, distributors, and users; and fourth, after acceptance, to publish and promulgate the standard for the information and guidance of buyers and sellers of the commodity.

4. *Announcement and promulgation.*—When the standard has been endorsed by companies representing a satisfactory majority of production, the success of the project is announced. If, however, in the opinion of the standing committee of the industry or the Department of Commerce, the support of any standard is inadequate, the right is reserved to withhold promulgation and publication.



## ACCEPTORS

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The organizations and individuals listed below have accepted these classifications and body measurements as their standard of practice in the production, distribution, and use of dress patterns. Such endorsement does not signify that they may not find it necessary to deviate from the standard nor that producers so listed guarantee all of their products to conform with the requirements of this standard. Therefore, specific evidence of quality certification should be obtained where required.

### ASSOCIATIONS

National Council of Women, Boston, Mass.  
National Retail Dry Goods Association, New York, N. Y. (In principle.)  
North Dakota Retail Merchants Association, Fargo, N. Dak.

### FIRMS

Addison-Baltz Co., Grand Haven, Mich.  
Advance Pattern Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.  
Alabama, University of, University, Ala. (In principle.)  
Altman & Co., B., New York, N. Y.  
Arizona, University of, Tucson, Ariz. (In principle.)  
Atwood Co., J. J., Upland, Calif.  
Ayres & Co., L. S., Indianapolis, Ind.  
B. & B. Stores, Inc., Logansport, Ind.  
Bamberger & Co., L., Newark, N. J.  
Beauty Pattern Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Berkeley Evening High School, Berkeley, Calif.  
Betty Wales Shops, New York, N. Y.  
Blass Co., Gus, Little Rock, Ark.  
Bloomingdale Bros., Inc., New York, N. Y.  
Bon Marche, The, Seattle, Wash.  
Boston Store, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Boston Store of Chicago, Inc., Chicago, Ill.  
Bowen & Co., C. O., Pomona, Calif.  
Bradley, Harry B., Franklin, Pa.  
Bradley & Co., W. W., Delavan, Wis.  
Brown Co., John A., Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Bry Block Mercantile Corporation, Memphis, Tenn.  
Bryson Co., A., Ware, Mass.  
Butterick Co., Inc., The, New York, N. Y.  
California, University of, Agricultural Extension Service, Berkeley, Calif.

Chapman & Co., G. C., Upper Montclair, N. J.  
Choate & Co., H., Winona, Minn.  
Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Fort Collins, Colo. (In principle.)  
Connecticut State College, Storrs, Conn.  
Consolidated Laundries Corporation, Linen Manufacturing Department, Jersey City, N. J.  
Consumers Testing Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa. (In principle.)  
Cowan & Hunt, Inc., Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.  
Delaware, University of, Women's College, Newark, Del. (In principle.)  
Draper, Inc., W. E., Yakima, Wash.  
Du Barry Pattern Co., New York, N. Y.  
Emery-Bird Thayer Co., Kansas City, Mo.  
Enid Frocks, Chicago, Ill.  
Erie Dry Goods Co., Erie, Pa.  
Fallis Bros., Ontario, Calif.  
Fandel Co., St. Cloud, Minn.  
Farmer's Wife Magazine, The, St. Paul, Minn.  
Fashion Academy, New York, N. Y.  
Feldt Garment Manufacturing Co., Houston, Tex.  
Frohlich's Style Shop, Ponca City, Okla.  
Futurist Garment Co., Fairfield, Ill.  
Gable Co., The Wm. F., Altoona, Pa.  
Gamble-Desmond Co., The, New Haven, Conn.  
Giddings, Inc., Colorado Springs, Colo.  
Greenstein Fur Modes, New York, N. Y.  
Hager & Bro., Inc., Lancaster, Pa.  
Halle Bros. Co., The, Cleveland, Ohio.  
Hatch Textile Research, Inc., New York, N. Y. (In principle.)  
Hendrickson, Blanche W., Bronxville, N. Y. (In principle.)  
Higginbotham Bailey Logan Co., Dallas, Tex.  
Hollywood Pattern Co., The, Greenwich, Conn.

- Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. (In principle.)  
 Kaufmann Manufacturing Co., Malden, Mass.  
 Keller's Department Store, Liberty, N. Y.  
 Lansburgh & Bro., Washington, D. C.  
 Leeds College of Technology, Leeds, Yorkshire, England. (In principle.)  
 Lees & Sons Co., James, Bridgeport, Pa.  
 Lincoln Stores, Inc., Quincy, Mass.  
 Long Beach, Better Business Bureau of, Long Beach, Calif. (In principle.)  
 Loring, F. W., Sac City, Iowa.  
 Lyons & Co., Hugh, Lansing, Mich.  
 MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill. (In principle.)  
 Macy & Co., Inc., R. H., New York, N. Y.  
 Maine, University of, Extension Service, Orono, Maine.  
 MaKoff, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
 Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Mass. (In principle.)  
 May Co., The, Cleveland, Ohio.  
 McCall Corporation, New York, N. Y.  
 McKem, Inc., New York, N. Y.  
 Meyers-Arnold Co., Greenville, S. C.  
 Michigan State College, E. Lansing, Mich. (In principle.)  
 Minnesota, University of, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn. (In principle.)  
 Montana State University, Missoula, Mont. (In principle.)  
 Moore Co., Harry C., Nevada, Mo.  
 Moorhead State Teachers College, Moorhead, Minn.  
 Munger & Co., Inc., H. G., Herkimer, N. Y.  
 New Hampshire, University of, Durham, N. H.  
 New Orleans, Inc., Better Business Bureau of, New Orleans, La. (In principle.)  
 New York Pattern Co., Inc., The, New York, N. Y.  
 North Dakota State Teachers College, Valley City, N. Dak. (In principle.)  
 Nusbaum, Knitters, Inc., Ozone Park, N. Y.  
 Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. (In principle.)  
 Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, Okla.  
 Oklahoma East Central State Teachers College, Ada, Okla.  
 Oregon Worsted Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.  
 Paragon Uniform Co., Alton, Ill.  
 Parke Snow, Inc., Waltham, Mass.  
 Pattern Fashion Synd., Inc., New York, N. Y.  
 Peck & Peck, New York, N. Y.  
 Peerless Fashion Service, Inc., New York, N. Y.  
 Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa. (In principle.)  
 Pictorial Review Pattern Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.  
 Powers Dry Goods Co., Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Provol's Hudson Bay Fur Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.  
 Pullar, Robert Taft, New York, N. Y.  
 Read Co., The D. M., Bridgeport, Conn.  
 Rhodes Department Store, Seattle, Wash.  
 Robinson Co., J. W., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Rogers, T. M. & B. A., Florence, Ala.  
 Rorabaugh-Buck Dry Goods Co., Wichita, Kans.  
 Rosenbaum Co. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Rosenblatt Sons & Co., Inc., A., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Rubber Products, Inc., Chicago, Ill.  
 Rudge & Guenzel Co., Lincoln, Nebr.  
 San Souci Co., J. O., Providence, R. I.  
 Sanger Bros., Inc., Dallas, Tex.  
 Sardeson's, Erie, Pa.  
 Scarbrough & Sons, E. M., Austin, Tex.  
 Schunemans & Mannheimers, St. Paul, Minn.  
 Schweser's Sons, George, David City, Nebr.  
 Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, Ill.  
 Sexton Manufacturing Co., Fairfield, Ill.  
 Sherer Co., Inc., C. T., Worcester, Mass.  
 Silk & Rayon Weekly, New York, N. Y. (In principle.)  
 Simplicity Pattern Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.  
 Smith Bros. Co., Ridgway, Pa.  
 Snell, Inc., Foster D., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga. (In principle.)  
 Spiess Co., Joseph C., Elgin, Ill.  
 Stearns Co., R. H., Boston, Mass.  
 Stern Bros., New York, N. Y.  
 Strauss & Co., Levi, Frankfort, Ind.  
 Texas State College for Women, Denton, Tex.  
 Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.  
 Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va. (In principle.)  
 Vogue Pattern Service, Greenwich, Conn.  
 Warren Chamber of Commerce, Warren, Ohio. (In principle.)  
 Wasson & Co., H. P., Indianapolis, Ind.  
 Wayne University, Detroit, Mich.  
 West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va. (In principle.)  
 Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. (In principle.)  
 Whitney & Co., W. M., Albany, N. Y.  
 Wilson & Son, Inc., W. B., Cape Charles, Va.  
 Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S. C.  
 Younker Bros., Inc., Des Moines, Iowa.  
 Ziesel Brothers Co., Elkhart, Ind.

## U. S. GOVERNMENT

War Department, Washington, D. C.

## COMMERCIAL STANDARDS

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NOTICE.—Those interested in commercial standards with a view toward accepting them as a basis of every day practice in their industry, may secure copies of the above standards, while the supply lasts, by addressing the Division of Trade Standards, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.



