



National Standards Authority of Ireland

IRISH STANDARD

**I.S. 144:1965**

ICS 97.140

## OFFICE DESKS, TABLES AND CHAIRS

National Standards  
Authority of Ireland  
Glasnevin, Dublin 9  
Ireland

Tel: +353 1 807 3800  
Fax: +353 1 807 3838  
<http://www.nsai.ie>

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# **IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION**

## **OFFICE DESKS, TABLES AND CHAIRS**

**I.S. 144: 1965**

**INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND STANDARDS**

**The Industrial Research Centre, Ballymun Road, Dublin 9**

**Telegrams: Research, Dublin**

**Telephone 375181/5**

**DECLARATION**  
**OF**  
**SPECIFICATION**  
**ENTITLED**  
**OFFICE DESKS, TABLES AND CHAIRS**  
**AS**  
**THE IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR**  
**OFFICE DESKS, TABLES AND CHAIRS**

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The Institute for Industrial Research and Standards in exercise of the power conferred by subsection (3) of section 20 of the Industrial Research and Standards Act, 1961 (No. 20 of 1961), and with the consent of the Minister for Industry and Commerce (signified by his Official Seal affixed hereto), hereby declares as follows:

1. This instrument may be cited as the Standard Specification (Office Desks, Tables and Chairs) Declaration 1965.

2. (1) The specification set forth in the Schedule to this declaration is hereby declared to be the standard specification for Office Desks, Tables and Chairs.

(2) The said standard specification may be cited as Irish Standard 144 : 1965 or as I.S. 144 : 1965.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Office Desks, Tables and Chairs**

#### **SCOPE**

1. This specification sets forth dimensions and other requirements for office chairs, desks and tables. It does not specify requirements for lounge chairs and low tables and seating units, or for stands and tables for machines operated in a standing position.

*Note.*—Users of the specifications are advised to consult the Explanatory Notes (see page 17).

PART ONE deals with general requirements for office chairs, desks and tables.

PART TWO deals with non-adjustable and adjustable chairs for office use, and with footrests and footstools.

PART THREE deals with desks and arrangements of drawers in pedestals.

PART FOUR deals with office tables.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

2. For the purposes of this specification the following definitions apply:

*a. Width.* A measurement from side to side on a line parallel to the front of a desk or a chair or the longer side of a table.

*b. Depth.* A measurement from front to back across a desk or chair or the shorter side of a table.

*c. Backpad.* A padded or upholstered support for the chair user's back.

*d. Backrest.* An assembly including the backpad, its support and fixing.

## **PART ONE, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICE CHAIRS, DESKS AND TABLES**

### **TOLERANCES ON DIMENSIONS**

3. The tolerances on the dimensions shall be:

Internal dimensions  $\pm \frac{1}{8}$  in. ( $\pm 3$  mm)

External dimensions  $\pm \frac{1}{4}$  in. ( $\pm 6$  mm)

In the case of upholstered parts, the tolerance on the dimensions shall be based on the size of the frame or former.

### **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

4. Edges, corners or protrusions shall be smoothed or rounded so as to avoid personal injury or damage to clothes.

Controls of moving or adjustable parts shall be so designed that they can be operated without risk of trapping the fingers and so that they cannot be inadvertently removed.

The spread of the legs of a chair shall be adequate to support the user in any normal position he may assume in the course of his work.

A stop or other device shall be fitted so as to prevent the seat assembly of an adjustable chair being inadvertently detached.

A stop or other device shall be fitted to the mechanism of an adjustable backrest so that the angle between the seat and the backpad in relation to the spread of the legs is safe.

### **COLOUR**

5. The colour of desk and table tops shall have a reflection factor of between 56 and 20 per cent or, in the case of wood surfaces of between 56 and 15 per cent. Desk and table tops shall not be highly polished but shall have a smooth and non-absorbent matt or semi-gloss finish. Harsh visual contrasts shall be avoided.

General advice on choice of colours is given on page 20.

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