

ASME Y14.38-2007
[Revision of ASME Y14.38-1999 (R2006)]

Abbreviations and Acronyms for Use on Drawings and Related Documents

Engineering Drawing and Related Documentation Practices

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD



**The American Society of
Mechanical Engineers**

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**The American Society of
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Three Park Avenue • New York, NY 10016

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FOREWORD

Subcommittee 38, Abbreviations, was formed in May 1995, and is a Subcommittee of the ASME Standards Committee Y14, Engineering Drawing and Related Documentation Practices. The Subcommittee is charged with the responsibility of compiling and maintaining a listing of abbreviations and acronyms for use on engineering drawings and related documents.

ASME Y1.1 was revised and redesignated as ASME Y14.38. This Standard is based on ASME Y1.1 and MIL-STD-12.

This revision of ASME Y14.38 incorporates the ASME Y14.38a-2002 addenda and comments received since the release of the ASME Y14.38-1999 revision. No abbreviations or acronyms were eliminated; however, one abbreviation was changed: SME was "standard military drawing," and it has changed to "standard microcircuit drawing."

The successful completion of this Standard is attributed to the subcommittee members, contributing guests, and the departments and agencies of the U.S. Government.

Suggestions for the improvement of this Standard are welcome. They should be sent to The American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Attn.: Secretary, Y14 Main Committee, Three Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990.

This revision was approved as an American National Standard on September 12, 2007.

ASME Y14 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Engineering Drawing and Related Documentation Practices

(The following is the roster of the Committee at the time of approval of this Standard.)

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Secretary, Y14 Standards Committee
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Three Park Avenue
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Proposing Revisions. Revisions are made periodically to the Standard to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by the experience gained from the application of the Standard. Approved revisions will be published periodically.

The Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this Standard. Such proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the paragraph number(s), the proposed wording, and a detailed description of the reasons for the proposal, including any pertinent documentation.

Attending Committee Meetings. The Y14 Standards Committee regularly holds meetings or telephone conferences, which are open to the public. Persons wishing to attend any meeting or telephone conference should contact the Secretary of the Y14 Standards Committee or check the Web site at <http://www.asme.org/codes/>.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS FOR USE ON DRAWINGS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1.1 Scope

The abbreviations and acronyms, hereinafter referred to as “abbreviations,” listed in this Standard are used on engineering drawings and related documentation.

1.2 Purpose

The intent of this Standard is to allow the use of approved abbreviations in lieu of the use of complete words or terminology. Abbreviations defined by this Standard need not be additionally defined by the using drawing or related document. It is not the intent of this Standard to include abbreviations defined or established in other standards such as those for scientific terms and notations. However, an exception is made for those abbreviations that have widespread use and recognition, for example, AM for amplitude modulation, and FM for frequency modulation (radio).

1.3 Abbreviations and Letter Symbols

Since abbreviations are conventional representations of words or names in a particular language, they may be different in different languages. A symbol, on the other hand, represents a quantity or a unit (not its name) and is therefore independent of language. Because of this, the use of letter symbols is preferred over abbreviations for unit or quantity terms. While letter symbols may be used wherever abbreviations were formerly used, abbreviations are never to be used whenever a mathematical operation sign is involved, such as the equality sign (=) or the division sign (/).

1.4 Abbreviation Lists Format

Abbreviations shown in the “Drawings” column provide the form for use on drawings and documents produced with upper case characters. Abbreviations in the “Text” column provide the form for documents produced with lower case characters. Where upper case abbreviations are shown in the “Text” column, they are a continuation of prior usage and are generally for major systems or are recognized as having significant applications when used in text. Bracketed modifiers may appear with certain terms indicating alternate technology-specific applications for that term.

2 WHERE AND HOW ABBREVIATIONS SHOULD BE USED

2.1 Where to Use Abbreviations

Abbreviations are to be used only where necessary to save time and space. Even though this Standard establishes abbreviations for many terms, extreme care should be exercised in their use. Since they may have to be interpreted by people of varying backgrounds, abbreviations should be used only where their meaning is unquestionably clear to the intended reader. Where there is doubt that the reader will understand the meaning, spell out the word or complete phrase where first used, followed by the abbreviation or acronym in parentheses. When in doubt, spell it out.

2.2 Duplicate Abbreviations

The same abbreviation is included in this Standard for several different terms due to established practice. Care should be exercised to assure that the proper meaning will be interpreted when using such abbreviations.

3 BASIC PRINCIPLES

3.1 Abbreviations for Acronyms

Sections 5 and 6 include some acronyms for compound terms as well as abbreviations for the acronyms. Some examples are: “radar” for “radio detection and ranging” and “rdr” for “radar”; “selsyn” for “self-synchronous” and “sels” for “selsyn.”

3.2 Punctuation

An abbreviation spelling a whole word should include a period if the abbreviation could be misinterpreted.

3.3 Spacing

Spaces shall not be inserted within an abbreviation.

3.4 Capitalization

Abbreviations included in the “Drawings” column of section 5, provide the form for use on drawings and documents produced in upper case characters. The abbreviations in the “Text” column provide the form required for lower case characters. However, these abbreviations may be capitalized when required for