L.N. 14 of 1988

QUALITY CONTROL (EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND LOCAL GOODS) ACT, 1971

(ACT NO. XIII OF 1971)

Exercise Books for Schools Order, 1988
(Order No. M21 of 1988)

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Quality Control (Exports, Imports and Local Goods) Act, 1971, the Malta Board of Standards has made the following order:

Citation and commencement.

1.1 This order may be cited as the Exercise Books for Schools Order, 1988, and may be referred to as Order No. M21 of 1988.

1.2. This order shall become operative on a date after the lapse of 20 days from the day on which it is laid on the Table of the House of Representatives, which date shall be notified by the Board in the Gazette.

Scope.

2.1 This order applies to exercise books intended mainly for use in schools, suitable for use with pencil and ink.

Construction.

3.1 The exercise books shall consist of a number of pages of writing paper bound within a cover.

3.2 Exercise books shall be bound with a minimum of two wire staples or any other method which gives at least the same durability in service.

Workmanship.

4.1 The exercise books shall have clean cut edges and shall be free from defects that may impair their serviceability.

Sizes.

5.1 Exercise books shall have the following dimensions:

164mm x 203mm subject to the tolerances laid down in paragraph 5.1.1.

5.1.1 The length of the book shall be subject to a tolerance of ± 3mm. The tolerance on the width of a book of up to, and including, 64 pages shall be ± 4mm, and above 64 pages shall be ± 6mm.

Squareness.

6.1 The periphery of exercise books shall fall entirely within the zone bounded by two symmetrically disposed rectangles (having a common centre point) drawn to the upper and lower limits of the size as laid down in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.1.1.

Number of pages.

7.1 The number of pages in an exercise book shall be as shown in Table 1.

Ruling.

8.1 Ruling shall be perpendicular to the bound edge of the exercise book, and where applicable shall be in accordance with Table 4.

Finish and grammage.

9.1 The writing paper shall be wood free, and when determined by the method referred to in paragraph 15.1 shall have a grammage as shown in Table 2.

9.2 When determined by the method laid down in paragraph 15.1, the cover material shall have a grammage as shown in Table 3.

Breaking length.

10.1 When tested by the method referred to in paragraph 15.2 the average breaking length of the machine direction and cross direction of the writing paper shall be not less than 3000m.

Light reflection.

11.1 When tested by the method laid down in paragraph 15.3 the light reflection from either side of the paper shall be not less than 85% relative to the light reflection of magnesium carbonate.

Opacity.

12.1 When tested by the method referred to in paragraph 15.5 the writing paper shall have an ISO opacity (paper backing) of not less than 86% for grade A, 84% for grade B and 82% for grade C.

Writing suitability.

13.1 When each side of the writing paper is tested by the method referred to in paragraph 15.4 the ink shall not spread on the face of the writing paper, nor shall it penetrate through to the other side of the writing paper.

Labelling.

14.1 Every exercise book shall have the following information shown in clear and easily readable print of a minimum point size of 8 on its cover:

14.1.1 The brand name or trade mark; or

14.1.2 The name and address of the manufacturer;

14.1.3 Where the brand name is not entered in a list kept by the Director of Industry, nor is the trade mark registered with the Comptroller of Industrial Property, the inclusion of the name and address of the manufacturer shall be compulsory;

14.1.4 The number of pages;

14.1.5 The grade of the exercise book according to Table 2.

Methods of testing.

15.1 The grammage of the writing paper as well as that of the cover shall be determined by the method described in British Standard 3432.

15.2 The breaking length shall be determined by the method described in British Standard 4415 Part 1.

15.3 The light reflection shall be determined as follows:—

15.3.1 *Apparatus:* A reflectometer containing an annular photo-electric cell positioned with the sensitive surface parallel to and facing the surface under test. The reflectometer shall incorporate a

source of diffused white light. The light shall pass through an aperture in the centre of the photo-electric cell of a diameter of about 9mm.

A galvanometer fitted with a potentiometer.
A block of magnesium carbonate.

15.3.2 *Procedure:* The reflectometer is connected to the galvanometer, placed on the block of magnesium carbonate and the potentiometer adjusted to give a galvanometer reading of 100. The reflectometer is then placed on a pile of the paper under test and the galvanometer reading taken as the percentage light reflection of the paper. The pile of paper under test should be sufficiently thick to eliminate the effect of the colour of the base on which the pile is placed.

15.4 On the paper under test using normal fountain pen ink draw four lines about 140mm long and of a thickness in mm equal to 1/100 of the grammage of the paper in g/m^2, subject to a maximum thickness of 0.8mm. The lines shall be drawn at a speed of about 100 mm/s and the pressure used shall not be such as to cause damage to the paper.

15.4.1 Twenty-four hours after drawing the lines, examine the paper to ascertain whether the ink has spread or whether the ink has penetrated to the other side of the paper.

15.5 The ISO opacity (paper backing) shall be measured by the method given in International Standard ISO 2471.

TABLE 1

Number of Pages

24, 32, 48, 64, 80, 128, 160, 192

TABLE 2

Grammage of Writing Paper

Grade of Exercise Book	Grammage (g/m^2)
A	over 75 up to 85
B	over 65 up to 75
C	over 55 up to 65

TABLE 3

Grammage of Covers

No. of Pages	Minimum Grammage (g/m²)
24	90
32	100
48	100
64	110
80	110
128	120
160	120
192	150

TABLE 4

Ruling

Designation	Spacing between lines (mm)
Wide lined	6 or 8
Narrow lined	alternately 4 and 11

In preparing this standard, reference was made to the following:

British Standard	3432
British Standard	4415 Part 1
British Standard	4448
International Standard	2471
International Standard	4046
Israel Standard	410
Israel Standard	648
Israel Standard	667

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