

**ASME Y14.2-2014**  
**(Revision of ASME Y14.2-2008)**

# **Line Conventions and Lettering**

**Engineering Drawing and Related  
Documentation Practices**

**AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD**



**The American Society of  
Mechanical Engineers**

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**The American Society of  
Mechanical Engineers**

Two Park Avenue • New York, NY • 10016 USA

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## FOREWORD

This Standard is a revision of ASME Y14.2-2008, Line Conventions and Lettering. The successful revision of this Standard is attributed to the Subcommittee members and their respective companies who participated in the review process.

The more substantial changes are as follows:

(a) Due to the addition of the Y14 Policy 3 statements, all the paragraphs and figures were renumbered.

(b) Examples for leaders for datum targets were added to Fig. 4-9.

(c) A datum target line was added as an example of a phantom line.

(d) The width of a dimensional arrow is constrained to the width of the dimension line.

(e) Letter height has changed from specific heights to proportions of the letter height.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome, and should be sent to The American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Attention: Secretary, Y14 Standards Committee; Two Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5990.

This Standard was approved as an American National Standard on December 8, 2014.

# ASME Y14 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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## CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE Y14 COMMITTEE

**General.** ASME Standards are developed and maintained with the intent to represent the consensus of concerned interests. As such, users of this Standard may interact with the Committee by requesting interpretations, proposing revisions or a Case, and attending Committee meetings. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Secretary, Y14 Standards Committee  
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
Two Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-5990  
<http://go.asme.org/Inquiry>

**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.

**Proposing a Case.** Cases may be issued for the purpose of providing alternative rules when justified, to permit early implementation of an approved revision when the need is urgent, or to provide rules not covered by existing provisions. Cases are effective immediately upon ASME approval and shall be posted on the ASME Committee web page.

Requests for Cases shall provide a Statement of Need and Background Information. The request should identify the Standard and the paragraph, figure, or table number(s), and be written as a Question and Reply in the same format as existing Cases. Requests for Cases should also indicate the applicable edition(s) of the Standard to which the proposed Case applies.

**Attending Committee Meetings.** The Y14 Standards Committee regularly holds meetings and/or telephone conferences that are open to the public. Persons wishing to attend any meeting and/or telephone conference should contact the Secretary of the Y14 Standards Committee. Future Committee meeting dates and locations can be found on the Committee Page at [go.asme.org/Y14committee](http://go.asme.org/Y14committee).

# LINE CONVENTIONS AND LETTERING

## 1 GENERAL

### 1.1 Scope

This Standard establishes the line and lettering practices for use in the preparation of drawings, including the recognition of the requirements for computer aided design (CAD) and manually prepared drawings. When no exception or additional requirements are stated, existing ASME standards shall apply.

### 1.2 ASME Y14 Series Conventions

The conventions in paras. 1.2.1 through 1.2.10 are used in this and other ASME Y14 standards.

#### 1.2.1 Mandatory, Recommended, Guidance, and Optional Words

- (a) The words "shall" and "will" establish a mandatory requirement.
- (b) The word "should" establishes a recommended practice.
- (c) The word "may" establishes an optional practice.
- (d) The words "typical," "example," "for reference," or the Latin abbreviation "e.g." indicate suggestions given for guidance only.
- (e) The word "or" used in conjunction with a mandatory requirement or a recommended practice indicates that there are two or more options for complying with the stated requirement or practice.

**1.2.2 Cross-Reference of Standards.** Cross-reference of standards in text with or without a date following the standard designator shall be interpreted as follows:

- (a) Reference to other ASME Y14 standards in the text without a date following the standard designator indicates that the issue of the standard identified in the References section (section 2) shall be used to meet the requirement.
- (b) Reference to other ASME Y14 standards in the text with a date following the standard designator indicates that only that issue of the standard shall be used to meet the requirement.

**1.2.3 Invocation of Referenced Standards.** The following examples define the invocation of a standard when specified in the References section (section 2) and referenced in the text of this Standard:

- (a) When a referenced standard is cited in the text with no limitations to a specific subject or paragraph(s) of the standard, the entire standard is invoked. For example, "Dimensioning and tolerancing shall be in accordance with ASME Y14.5" is invoking the complete standard because the subject of the standard is dimensioning and tolerancing and no specific subject or paragraph(s) within the standard are invoked.
- (b) When a referenced standard is cited in the text with limitations to a specific subject or paragraph(s) of the standard, only the paragraph(s) on that subject is invoked. For example, "Assign part or identifying numbers in accordance with ASME Y14.100" is invoking only the paragraph(s) on part or identifying numbers because the subject of the standard is engineering drawing practices and part or identifying numbers is a specific subject within the standard.
- (c) When a referenced standard is cited in the text without an invoking statement such as "in accordance with," the standard is for guidance only. For example, "For gaging principles see ASME Y14.43" is only for guidance and no portion of the standard is invoked.

**1.2.4 Parentheses Following a Definition.** When a definition is followed by a standard referenced in parentheses, the standard referenced in parentheses is the source for the definition.

**1.2.5 Notes.** Notes depicted in this Standard in ALL UPPERCASE letters are intended to reflect actual drawing entries. Notes depicted in initial uppercase or lowercase letters are to be considered supporting data to the contents of this Standard and are not intended for literal entry on drawings. A statement requiring the addition of a note with the qualifier "such as" is a requirement to add a note, and the content of the note is allowed to vary to suit the application.