International Paper Sizes

International paper sizes are a standardized system of related sheet sizes, based on a series of three different sizes called A, B, or C – all of the same proportions. All sizes have the rectangular proportion of $1: \sqrt{2}$ (or $1:1.414$) which is mathematically unique – no other size allows paper to be cut or folded in half and yet retain the same proportion. Because these proportions always remain constant, artwork will enlarge or reduce photographically to fit any international size. It is also not necessary to give dimensions of paper – descriptions such as A4 or A3 are in use universally.

Definition of weight, or “substance” of paper is expressed in constant terms as “grams per square meter” (or gsm); if a sheet of A0 paper weighs 90 grams it is then described as “90gsm”, regardless of the actual size of the sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISO A Sizes</th>
<th>ISO B Sizes</th>
<th>ISO C Sizes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>size</td>
<td>millimetres</td>
<td>size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>1682 x 2378</td>
<td>4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>1189 x 1682</td>
<td>2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A0</td>
<td>841 x 1189</td>
<td>B0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>594 x 841</td>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>420 x 594</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>297 x 420</td>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>210 x 297</td>
<td>B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>148 x 210</td>
<td>B5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6</td>
<td>105 x 148</td>
<td>B6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7</td>
<td>74 x 105</td>
<td>B7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A8</td>
<td>52 x 74</td>
<td>B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A9</td>
<td>37 x 52</td>
<td>B9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A10</td>
<td>26 x 37</td>
<td>B10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The A Series

The A series is for general printed matter including stationary and publications. The basic standard sheet, A measures 841 x 1189mm which is the equivalent of a square meter in area. Each number after the series initial A - indicates a halving of the preceding larger area. Thus A1 is half of A0, A2 is one-quarter of A0, A3 is an eight of the A0 sheet area, etc. Sheet sizes larger than A0 retain the same proportions and a designated numeral is prefixed to the letter. This 2A0 indicates a sheet twice as large as A0.
The B Series

The B series is about half way between two A sizes. It is intended as an alternative to the A sizes, used primarily for books, posters, wall charts and similar pieces where the difference in size of the larger sheets in the A series represents too large a jump. The basic Size B, called B0, measures 1000 x 1414mm.

The C Series

The C series is used for folders, post cards, and envelopes. The C series of envelope sizes is suitable for insertion of A series sizes either flat or folded. A C6 envelope will take an A6 sheet flat, an A5 folded once, or an A4 sheet folded twice.

International Envelope Sizes

The full list of ISO envelope sizes is shown below. All are from the B or C sheet sizes, with the exception of one designated DL (DIN Lang).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Envelope Size</th>
<th>Required Fold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DL</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folded twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B6/C8</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folded twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folded once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B6/C4</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folded once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B6/C5</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folded once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4/C4</td>
<td>A4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>