

Technical Bulletin No.13 revision 2

MID-UPPER ARM CIRCUMFERENCE (MUAC) MEASURING TAPES

Background:

A range of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) Measuring Tapes are available through UNICEF Supply Division. MUAC tapes are predominately used to measure the upper arm circumference of children but also that of pregnant women, helping identify malnutrition.

There are different types of MUAC tape available. All are graduated in millimetres and some are colour coded (red, yellow and green) to indicate the nutritional status of a child or adult. The colour codes and gradations vary depending on the tape type.

In May 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF issued a joint statement on [WHO child growth standards and the identification of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children](#). To reflect this, a new standard MUAC tape (S0145620 MUAC, Child 11.5 Red/PAC-50) was made available.

Before ordering, you should check if the government in your country has implemented the new WHO standards, in which case order **S0145620**. If your government has not implemented the new standards, order **S0145600**.

The item description text below has been changed to reflect the adjusted tape cut-off points. MUAC tapes for adults are also now available through Supply Division warehouse. We have also included the beneficiary type (child, adult) into the item descriptions.

MUAC tapes available through Supply Division

S0145620 MUAC, Child 11.5 Red/PAC-50

This is a new item. It was created in order to support implementation of the new [standards](#) (see above).

Cut-off points of S0145620:

| | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Red: | 0 - 11.5 cm |
| Yellow: | 11.5 cm - 12.5 cm |
| Green: | from 12.5 cm |



S0145600 MUAC, Child 11.0 Red/PAC-50

Old description: MUAC 12.5 measuring tape/PAC-50

This is the previous standard MUAC tape used most often in the field. It has been given a new item description to reflect the type of beneficiary and red cut-off point. Following the publication of the new [standards](#) it is expected that the item will be slowly replaced by S0145620 (see above).

Cut-off points of S0145600:

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Red: | 0 - 11 cm |
| Yellow: | 11 cm - 12.5 cm |
| Green: | from 12.5 cm |



S0145630 MUAC, Adult, without colour code/PAC-50

This MUAC tape is to be used for adults. It is now a standard stock item. The tape is not colour coded, as there is no agreement as yet on a universal colour code. Graduation is in millimetres and can be used for taking measurements of MUAC up to 50 cm.

For more information contact, please contact:

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