

UPDATE OF THE ROMANIAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIGHT INDUSTRY AREA

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The anthropometrical dimensions of a population displays a time-related variability along many generations. This variability is due both to the changes of the same individual during his life (ontogenetic changes) and to the microevolution process from a generation to another. The ontogenetic changes involve the decrease of the individual vertical body dimensions (stature, leg length), after the age of 40, due to the subsidence of the vertebral column and collapse of the foot vault. The microevolutionary changes are generated by the acceleration phenomenon reflected in the increase of the vertical dimensions from one generation to another and produce changes in the individual, hence populational dimensional ratios. These changes lead to alterations of the constitution typology, which are reflected in the clothes sizes, a fact that requires periodical reviews of the measures that constitute their basis.

INTRODUCTION

The luxury of not resorting to clothes is lost in the human prehistory; nowadays only some thousands out of the six billion of Terra's inhabitants keep this "privilege" due to the environmental conditions and the type of culture that characterizes them.

As the second skin, clothes must fit human measures in order to fulfill their protective role against the environment conditions and to assure optimal body function as well.

By means of ergonomic measurements, the huge variability of body dimensions is grouped in sizes that permit, for a group of individuals with certain dimensional traits, a comfort state as high as possible, while maintaining the product's reliability.

The anthropometrical dimensions have the tendency to be altered from one generation to another, as a result of the genetic patrimony and the specific socio-economic and cultural conditions of the individual within a given population, too. The specificity of the dimensional variability and the ratio between them during the ontogenetic evolution must be also taken into consideration.

Each population has a dominant tendency regarding its main changes in the body dimensions and the ratios between them. In this context, knowledge of the