

Useful Info - Paper Sizes

The most common system of paper sizes in Europe is the ISO standard.

Most people are familiar with the A series which includes A4 (highlighted on the chart) the usual letterhead size. The C series is for envelopes - A C4 envelope being ideal for holding an A4 sheet.

There is also a B series which provides intermediate sizes for the A series but this is rarely used. DL is a special size for envelopes designed to accept A4 paper folded in three.

A Series	B Series	C Series	RA Series	RSA Series
A0 - 841 x 1189mm	B0 - 1000 x 141mm	C0 - 917 x 1296mm	RA0 - 860 x 1220mm	SRA0 - 900 x 1280mm
A1 - 594 x 841mm	B1 - 707 x 1000mm	C1 - 648 x 917mm	RA1 - 610 x 860mm	SRA1 - 640 x 900mm
A2 - 594 x 420mm	B2 - 700 x 500mm	C2 - 458 x 648mm	RA2 - 430 x 610mm	SRA2 - 450 x 640mm
A3 - 420 x 297mm	B3 - 500 x 353mm	C3 - 324 x 548mm	RA3 - 305 x 430mm	SRA3 - 320 x 450mm
A4 - 297 x 210mm	B4 - 353 x 250mm	C4 - 229 x 324mm	RA4 - 215 x 305mm	SRA4 - 225 x 320mm
A5 - 210 x 148mm	B5 - 250 x 176mm	C5 - 162 x 229mm	RA5 - 152 x 215mm	SRA5 - 160 x 225mm
A6 - 148 x 105mm	B6 - 176 x 125mm	C6 - 114 x 162mm	RA6 - 107 x 152mm	SRA6 - 112 x 160mm
A7 - 105 x 74mm	B7 - 127 x 88mm	C7 - 88 x 114mm	RA7 - 76 x 107mm	SRA7 - 80 x 112mm
A8 - 52 x 74mm	B8 - 62 x 88mm	C8 - 57 x 81mm	RA8 - 53 x 76mm	SRA8 - 56 x 80mm

The aspect ratio of ISO paper sheets is 1 to 1.414 (The square root of 2).

This gives them a unique property: If you cut a sheet into two the resulting halves are the same proportion as the original. In other words a sheet of A4 when halved gives you two sheets of A5. All A size papers have the same proportions. The largest sheet in this series is A0 which is 841mm x 1189mm and just happens to be one square metre in area (ISO paper sizes are rounded to the nearest millimetre).

Two other series which you may come across are RA and SRA which are used by printers. They are slightly larger than the A series to provide for grip, trim and bleed. Of course you can use any size of paper you choose.

However, most paper merchants supply ISO sized stock so it is most cost effective to stay with A sizes.

