

Technical Bulletin No.13

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 used to measure the upper arm circumference of children but also that of pregnant women. They are graduated in millimetres and are also colour coded (red, yellow and green). The colour codes and gradations vary; therefore different types of MUAC tape are available.

In May 2009, 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) is now 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 or S0145610 depending on your local requirements.

The item description text has been changed to reflect the red cut-off point instead of the green cut-off point. MUAC tapes for adults are also available. To make this clearer, we have now included the beneficiary type (child, adult) into the item description.

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 WHO and UNICEF joint statement on [WHO child growth standards and the identification of severe acute malnutrition in infants and children](#) published in May 2009.

Cut-off points

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 [WHO 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

S0145610 MUAC 12 measuring tape/PAC-50

This item was created in order to accommodate those countries which use a tighter range of yellow code (just 1cm as opposed to 1.5 cm in standard MUAC tapes). The old description for this item has been retained to distinguish the green cut-off point at 12.0 cm. It is also anticipated that this item will be slowly replaced by S0145620 (see above).

Cut-off points of S0145610

Red:	0 - 11 cm
Yellow:	11 cm - 12.0 cm
Green:	from 12.0 cm

S0000249 MUAC, Adult 21.0 Red/PAC-50

This is the MUAC tape to be used for adults. It is now a standard stock item.

Cut-off points

Red:	0 – 21 cm
Yellow:	21 cm - 23 cm
Green:	from 23 cm

For more information, contact UNICEF Supply Division:

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HIV/AIDS and Health Centre
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