

Dimensioning Rules

Mechanical Engineering

The rules that make a drawing measurable, inspectable and unambiguous.

A drawing is an inspection instruction, not a picture of the part.

Always

Dimension from a functional datum

Place dimensions outside the outline

Dimension a feature where it shows best

Give diameter, not radius, for holes

Keep one decimal convention per sheet

Never

Never dimension to a hidden line

Never close a chain of dimensions

Never repeat a dimension in two views

Never dimension across section hatching

Never cross extension and dimension lines

A closed chain over-defines the part: three dimensions and an overall length cannot all be met at once.