

The history of paper is often attributed to the Han dynasty (25-220 AD) when Cai Lun, a Chinese court official made paper sheets using the bark of trees, remnants of hemp, rags of cloth, and fishing nets. However, archaeological evidence supports that the ancient Chinese military had used maps made of paper from early 2nd century BC. So, it appears that what Cai Lun accomplished was not an invention but an improvement in the papermaking.

Today, even with the presence of modern tools and machines for papermaking, most processes still involve the traditional steps namely the process of soaking felted fibre sheets in water, draining water, and then drying these into thin sheets.

With the development of civilization, different usages of paper were found which led paper makers to diversify and produce variety of papers. In 1690, the first paper mill in America was established by William Rittenhouse. The mill remained the largest manufacturer in America for over a hundred years until other paper mills sprang up.

Writing and printing papers are used for newspapers, magazines, catalogs, books, notebooks, commercial printing, business forms, stationeries, copying and digital printing.

IS 1848 'Writing and Printing Papers' was first published in 1961 and subsequently revised in 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2007. The standard was revised again in 2018 and splitted into two parts based on applications.

Part 1 covers account book, azure laid, bond, cream laid and cream wove/printing white/printing coloured/printing offset, printing maplitho, printing white super calendered and typewriting varieties of writing and printing papers.

In Part 2, Air mail/manifold, Cartridge drawing, Cartridge white, Duplicating absorbent and duplicating semiabsorbent and Poster machine glazed varieties of writing and printing papers are covered.

This standard prescribes requirements, methods of sampling, tests, packing and marking for the varieties covered in Part 2. In addition, optional requirements for labelling environment friendly products with ECO-Mark as per the instance of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Government of India have been specified.