

Dimensions

- ✗ No centralised scan archives
- ✗ Rarely featured in catalogues with images
- ✓ Mainly found in auctions and private collections

1. Overview of MV formats in Belgium (practical guide)

⚠ Important note:

There is no complete, official, standardised list (even bpost does not publish one systematically), so this is based on philatelic practice and catalogues.

■ Period 1 — Classic ministerial sheets (c. 1930–1965)

- 📏 Standard: 150 × 150 mm
- 📏 155 × 155(160) mm (slight variations): expo 1958?
- ✓ Very consistent
- ✓ Almost all early MVs follow this format
- 👉 This is the “reference standard”

■ Period 2 — Transition period (approx. 1965–1980)

- 📏 150 × 150 mm (continues to exist)
- 📏 155 × 155 mm (slight variations)
- 📏 160 × 160 mm (first larger versions)
- 👉 Reason: different printing techniques, wider graphic margins

■ Period 3 — Diversification (± 1980–2000)

This is where the real variation begins:

◇ Square

- 150 × 150 mm
- 160 × 160 mm
- 170 × 170 mm

◇ Rectangular

- 150 × 170 mm
- 160 × 180 mm
- 140 × 170 mm

👉 Often seen in: thematic issues, commemorations

■ Period 4 — Modern period (2000–present)

- 👉 No longer a standard
- 📏 150 × 150 mm (still in use)
- 📏 165 × 165 mm
- 📏 170 × 170 mm
- 📏 180 × 180 mm (occurs)
- 📏 variable rectangular
- 👉 Additional features: wider margins, design plays a greater role, sometimes almost a “mini-poster”

📌 Summary (important for your system)

| Period | Standard | Variation |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1930–1965 | ✓ 150×150 | ✗ virtually none |
| 1965–1980 | 150×150 | 155–160 |
| 1980–2000 | 150×150 | 140–180 |
| 2000–present | ✗ none | 150–180+ |

MS blocks and booklets are usually roughly the same size as the actual sizes of the issues. These are therefore indicated in the albums by a note at the top of the MS (±)

From around 2002 (?) onwards, stamps from the same series are sometimes grouped on a single sheet, which makes compiling an album difficult if one does not know the correct dimensions (or scans).

Separate sheets may also have been issued for these series (???)

That is why only those with dry stamps are shown here and regarded as MV