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Graphical symbols — Vocabulary

Symboles graphiques — Vocabulaire

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee, ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17724:2003), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— addition of an introduction;

— deleted terms which are not core or which are covered in other ISO TC 145 standards;

— renumbered definitions;

— updated Bibliography.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document provides a consolidated vocabulary for the graphical symbol sector. Graphical symbols can be viewed on the ISO Online Browsing Platform at https://www.iso.org/obp/ui, which contains all the terms and definitions in all ISO deliverables, including those contained in this document. Users of this document should refer to the ISO OBP as the first source for current terms and definitions.

Further terms and definitions for graphical symbols are given in the following documents:

— ISO 3864 series and ISO 17398 (safety colours and safety signs);

— ISO 9186 series (test methods);

— ISO 16069 and ISO 22578 series (safety way guidance systems);

— ISO 20560 series (safety information for the content of piping systems and tanks);

— ISO 20712 series (water safety signs and beach safety flags);

— ISO 22727 (public information symbols);

— ISO 23601 (escape and evacuation plan signs);

— ISO 28564 series (public information guidance systems).

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Graphical symbols — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This document defines terms related to graphical symbols, principally symbols for public information safety signs and use on equipment. This document does not include terms related to graphical symbols for diagrams (technical product documentation (TPD) symbols).

The definitions are intended to serve as a basis for consideration by those concerned with producing new standards or revising existing ones.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
basic graphical symbol
graphical symbol (3.9) from which a family of graphical symbols can be derived

3.2
border
band that defines the edge of a *sign* (3.19) or *graphical symbol* (3.9)

3.3
caution
signal word used to indicate a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, can result in minor or moderate injury

3.4
character
single letter, numeral, punctuation mark or *graphical symbol* (3.9)

3.5
chevron
graphical symbol (3.9) that serves a similar purpose to an arrow and is similar to an arrowhead in appearance

3.6
conspicuity
property of an entity within the visual field which permits it to be more easily detected than the surrounding information

3.7
corner marks
part of a *graphical symbol* (3.9) original, four of which define its corners

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3.8
displacement
distance between the centre of a *graphical symbol* (3.9) and the central line of the normal direction of vision of the user, measured at a right angle to that central line of vision

3.9
graphical symbol
visually perceptible figure with a particular meaning used to transmit information independently of language

3.10
graphical symbol original
graphical symbol (3.9) with which a referent, a graphical representation and a description of the application are associated

Note 1 to entry: "application" may be understood to be "intended function".

3.11
legibility
property of characters or graphical symbol elements which enables one to be discriminated from another

Note 1 to entry: Legibility can also be expressed as "visual clarity", i.e. the, measure of how effectively visual design prioritizes and conveys information (Dimitrou, 2020). The visual clarity of a screen or page is a result of the graphics, text, white space and layout that are used.

3.12
negation element
DEPRECATED: negation stroke
graphical symbol (3.14) element intended to negate a *graphical symbol's* (3.14) original intended meaning

3.13
negative contrast
contrast made by using white or bright characters on black or dark-coloured background

Note 1 to entry: See also *positive contrast* (3.17).

3.14
panel
area of a safety sign having a distinctive background colour different from adjacent areas of the *sign* (3.19), or which is clearly delineated by a line, border or margin

3.15
phosphorescent sign
sign (3.19) that uses phosphors as pigmentation and emits light for a period of time after the energy source has been removed

3.16
positive contrast
contrast made by using black or dark characters on white or light-coloured background

Note 1 to entry: to entry**:** See also *negative contrast* (3.13).

3.17
registered graphical symbol original
graphical symbol original (3.10) which has been registered by the relevant standards organization as the definitive version

3.18
safety symbol
graphical symbol (3.9) used together with a safety colour and safety shape to form a safety sign

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3.19
sign
configuration of visual elements including symbols, text and shapes intended to communicate a given meaning

3.20
sign carrier
material on which the visual elements of a *sign* (3.19) are directly reproduced

3.21
symbol set
set of graphical symbols with related referents or graphical symbol elements

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