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Design principles for communication support board using pictorial symbols

Principes de conception pour le conseil de support de communication utilisant des symboles illustrés

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 173, *Assistive products for persons with disability*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Accessible design.*

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Introduction

This International Standard provides design principles for usable communication support boards that assist in transcending regional/cultural and linguistic barriers and is of substantial benefit for those persons who is to rely on a visual strategy to express their communicative intent.

A communication support board is a tool designed for the use of visual symbols (such as pictorial symbols) to facilitate communication and social interaction when expressive/receptive communication is limited due to physical or linguistic barriers.

Pictorial symbols, as visual expressions internationally, remove communication barriers in daily life when the characteristics of the pictorial symbols are easy to understand and able to be applied regardless of regional/cultural differences.

There are several user groups of pictorial symbols ranging from those who have poor or no communication abilities to those who require enhanced communication support.

It is important that the symbols used for the communication board correspond with the symbols visible in the environment to facilitate communication for the individual using the communication board in society.

In addition, the usage of communication support boards encourages inclusiveness in society for the user.

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Design principles for communication support board using pictorial symbols

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies basic configurations for communication support boards, which are necessary to facilitate communication. A variety of communication support boards can be designed for specific communication purposes.

This International Standard specifies basic elements common to different types of formats/media, such as simple boards, book style or digital media. This International Standard does not regulate any specific design or any specific pictorial symbols for communication support boards.

As for design principles of pictorial symbols, this International Standard introduces examples of design principles applicable when designing and developing pictorial symbols.

NOTE Examples of basic pattern used to create pictorial symbols are shown in Annex A. Examples of communication support boards using pictorial symbols are shown in Annexes B and C.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1
graphical symbol
visually perceptible figure with a particular meaning used to transmit information independently of language

[SOURCE: ISO 17724:2003]

2.2
pictorial symbol
visual figure which comprises representational and abstract symbols, sometimes used in multiple combinations

2.3
communication support board
tool to support persons who have difficulties communicating

Note 1 to entry: It can be used in various situations and places, such as for private, public and educational usage.

Note 2 to entry: This includes difficulties communicating orally or when language is a barrier to express communicative intent.

3 Basic configuration of a communication support board

3.1 Board

a) **Size**

Size should be suitable for the intended users and intended usage.

b) **Material**

A communication support board can be made of paper or plastic.

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