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STANDARD

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**Information technology — 3,81 mm wide  
magnetic tape cartridge for information  
interchange — Helical scan recording —  
DDS format using 60 m and 90 m length  
tapes**

*Technologies de l'information — Cartouche de bande magnétique de  
3,81 mm de large pour l'échange d'information — Enregistrement par  
balayage en spirale — Format DDS utilisant des bandes de 60 m et  
90 m de long*



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**Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Section 1 - General</b>	<b>1</b>
1 Scope	1
2 Conformance	1
2.1 Magnetic tape cartridge	1
2.2 Generating system	1
2.3 Receiving system	2
3 Normative references	2
4 Definitions	2
4.1 Absolute Frame Number (AFN)	2
4.2 Area ID	2
4.3 Automatic Track Finding (ATF)	2
4.4 Average Signal Amplitude	2
4.5 azimuth	2
4.6 back surface	2
4.7 byte	2
4.8 cartridge	2
4.9 Channel Bit	2
4.10 Data Format ID	2
4.11 Early Warning Point (EWP)	3
4.12 End of Data (EOD)	3
4.13 Error Correcting Code (ECC)	3
4.14 flux transition position	3
4.15 flux transition spacing	3
4.16 frame	3
4.17 Housekeeping Frame	3
4.18 Logical Beginning of Tape (LBOT)	3

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<b>4.19</b>	<b>magnetic tape</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.20</b>	<b>Master Standard Amplitude Calibration Tape</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.21</b>	<b>Master Standard Reference Tape</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.22</b>	<b>Optimum Recording Field</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.23</b>	<b>partition boundary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.24</b>	<b>Physical Beginning of Tape (PBOT)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.25</b>	<b>Physical End of Tape (PEOT)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.26</b>	<b>physical recording density</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.27</b>	<b>pre-recording condition</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.28</b>	<b>record</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.29</b>	<b>Reference Recording Field</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.30</b>	<b>Secondary Standard Amplitude Calibration Tape</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.31</b>	<b>Secondary Standard Reference Tape</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.32</b>	<b>Separator Mark</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.33</b>	<b>Standard Reference Amplitude</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.34</b>	<b>Tape Reference Edge</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.35</b>	<b>Test Recording Current</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.36</b>	<b>track</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.37</b>	<b>Virtual End of Tape (VEOT)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Environment and safety</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Testing environment</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Operating environment</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Storage environment</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Flammability</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 2 - Requirements for the case</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Dimensional and mechanical characteristics of the case</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Overall dimensions</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Loading grip</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Holding areas</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Notches of the lid</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Lid dimensions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6.7</b>	<b>Optical detection of the beginning and end of tape</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6.8</b>	<b>Bottom side</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6.8.1</b>	<b>Locking mechanism of the slider</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6.8.2</b>	<b>Access Holes</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6.8.3</b>	<b>Recognition, Sub-datums, and Write-inhibit Holes</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6.8.4</b>	<b>Datum Holes</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6.8.5</b>	<b>Access room for tape guides</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6.8.6</b>	<b>Holes for accessing the hubs</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6.8.7</b>	<b>Internal structure of the lower half</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6.8.8</b>	<b>Light path</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.8.9</b>	<b>Support Areas</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.8.10</b>	<b>Datum Areas</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>6.8.11</b>	<b>Relationship between Support and Datum Areas and Reference Plane Z</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.9</b>	<b>Hubs</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.10</b>	<b>Leader and trailer attachment</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6.11</b>	<b>Interface between the hubs and the drive spindles</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6.12</b>	<b>Opening of the lid</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6.13</b>	<b>Release of the hub locking mechanism</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6.14</b>	<b>Label areas</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Section 3 - Requirements for the unrecorded tape</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Mechanical, physical and dimensional characteristics of the tape</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Materials</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Tape length</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.2.1</b>	<b>Length of magnetic tape</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.2.2</b>	<b>Length of leader and trailer tapes</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.2.3</b>	<b>Length of splicing tapes</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Tape width</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.3.1</b>	<b>Width of magnetic, leader and trailer tapes</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.3.2</b>	<b>Width and position of splicing tape</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.4</b>	<b>Discontinuities</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.5</b>	<b>Total thickness</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.6</b>	<b>Longitudinal curvature</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7.7</b>	<b>Cupping</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7.8</b>	<b>Coating adhesion</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7.9</b>	<b>Layer-to-layer adhesion</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7.10</b>	<b>Tensile strength</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7.10.1</b>	<b>Breaking strength</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7.10.2</b>	<b>Yield strength</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7.11</b>	<b>Residual elongation</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7.12</b>	<b>Electrical resistance of coated surfaces</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7.13</b>	<b>Light transmittance of the tape</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Magnetic recording characteristics</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Optimum Recording Field</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Signal amplitude</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>8.3</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Overwrite</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>8.4.1</b>	<b>Physical recording densities of 750,6 ftpmm and 3 002 ftpmm</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>8.4.2</b>	<b>Physical recording densities of 83,4 ftpmm and 1 001 ftpmm</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>8.5</b>	<b>Ease of erasure</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>8.6</b>	<b>Tape quality</b>	<b>31</b>

<b>8.6.1</b>	Missing pulses	<b>31</b>
<b>8.6.2</b>	Missing pulse zone	<b>31</b>
<b>8.7</b>	Signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) characteristic	<b>31</b>
<b>Section 4 - Requirements for an interchanged tape</b>		<b>31</b>
<b>9</b>	Format	<b>31</b>
<b>9.1</b>	General	<b>31</b>
<b>9.2</b>	Basic Groups	<b>32</b>
<b>9.2.1</b>	Group Information Table	<b>33</b>
<b>9.2.2</b>	Block Access Table	<b>34</b>
<b>9.3</b>	Sub-Groups	<b>37</b>
<b>9.3.1</b>	G1 Sub-Group	<b>37</b>
<b>9.3.2</b>	G2 Sub-Group - randomizing	<b>38</b>
<b>9.3.3</b>	G3 Sub-Group	<b>38</b>
<b>9.3.4</b>	G4 Sub-Group	<b>40</b>
<b>9.3.5</b>	Main Data Block	<b>44</b>
<b>9.4</b>	Sub Data Area	<b>45</b>
<b>9.4.1</b>	Pack Item No. 1	<b>46</b>
<b>9.4.2</b>	Pack Item No. 2	<b>47</b>
<b>9.4.3</b>	Pack Item No. 3	<b>48</b>
<b>9.4.4</b>	Pack Item No. 4	<b>49</b>
<b>9.4.5</b>	Pack Item No. 5	<b>50</b>
<b>9.4.6</b>	Pack Item No. 6	<b>51</b>
<b>9.4.7</b>	Pack Item No. 7	<b>52</b>
<b>9.4.8</b>	Pack Item No. 8	<b>53</b>
<b>9.4.9</b>	Sub Data Block	<b>53</b>
<b>10</b>	Method of recording	<b>57</b>
<b>10.1</b>	Physical recording density	<b>57</b>
<b>10.2</b>	Long-term average bit cell length	<b>57</b>
<b>10.3</b>	Short-term average bit cell length	<b>57</b>
<b>10.4</b>	Rate of change	<b>57</b>
<b>10.5</b>	Bit shift	<b>57</b>
<b>10.6</b>	Read signal amplitude	<b>57</b>
<b>10.7</b>	Maximum recorded levels	<b>57</b>
<b>11</b>	Track geometry	<b>57</b>
<b>11.1</b>	Track configuration	<b>57</b>
<b>11.2</b>	Average track pitch	<b>58</b>
<b>11.3</b>	Variations of the track pitch	<b>58</b>
<b>11.4</b>	Track width	<b>58</b>

<b>11.5</b>	Track angle	<b>58</b>
<b>11.6</b>	Track edge linearity	<b>59</b>
<b>11.7</b>	Track length	<b>59</b>
<b>11.8</b>	Ideal tape centreline	<b>59</b>
<b>11.9</b>	Azimuth angles	<b>59</b>
<b>12</b>	Recording of blocks on the tape	<b>59</b>
<b>12.1</b>	Recorded Main Data Block	<b>59</b>
<b>12.2</b>	Recorded Sub Data Block	<b>59</b>
<b>12.3</b>	Margin Blocks, Preamble Blocks and Postamble Blocks	<b>59</b>
<b>12.4</b>	Spacer Blocks	<b>59</b>
<b>13</b>	Format of a track	<b>59</b>
<b>13.1</b>	Track capacity	<b>59</b>
<b>13.2</b>	Positioning accuracy	<b>60</b>
<b>13.3</b>	Tracking scheme	<b>60</b>
<b>14</b>	Layout of a Single Data Space tape	<b>63</b>
<b>14.1</b>	Device Area	<b>63</b>
<b>14.2</b>	Reference Area	<b>64</b>
<b>14.3</b>	Position Tolerance Band No. 1	<b>64</b>
<b>14.4</b>	System Area	<b>64</b>
<b>14.4.1</b>	System Preamble	<b>64</b>
<b>14.4.2</b>	System Log	<b>64</b>
<b>14.4.3</b>	System Postamble	<b>64</b>
<b>14.4.4</b>	Position Tolerance Band No. 2	<b>64</b>
<b>14.4.5</b>	Vendor Group Preamble	<b>64</b>
<b>14.5</b>	Data Area	<b>64</b>
<b>14.5.1</b>	Vendor Group	<b>64</b>
<b>14.5.2</b>	Recorded Data Group	<b>65</b>
<b>14.5.3</b>	ECC3	<b>65</b>
<b>14.5.4</b>	Multiple recorded instances	<b>66</b>
<b>14.5.5</b>	Repeated frames	<b>66</b>
<b>14.5.6</b>	Appending and overwriting	<b>66</b>
<b>14.6</b>	EOD Area	<b>68</b>
<b>14.7</b>	Post-EOD Area	<b>68</b>
<b>14.8</b>	Early Warning Point - EWP	<b>69</b>
<b>14.9</b>	Initialization	<b>69</b>
<b>15</b>	Layout of a partitioned tape	<b>69</b>
<b>15.1</b>	Overall magnetic tape layout	<b>70</b>
<b>15.1.1</b>	Device Area	<b>70</b>
<b>15.1.2</b>	Partition 1	<b>70</b>

<b>15.1.3 Partition 0</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>15.2 Area ID</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>15.3 System Area Pack Items No. 3 and No. 4</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>15.4 Empty partitions</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>15.5 Initialization of partitioned tapes</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>16 Housekeeping Frames</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>16.1 Amble Frames</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>16.2 System Log Frames</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>16.3 Tape Management Frames</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Annexes</b>	
<b>A - Measurement of the light transmittance of the prisms</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>B - Recognition Holes</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>C - Means to open the lid</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>D - Measurement of light transmittance of tape and leaders</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>E - Measurement of Signal-to-Noise Ratio</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>F - Method for determining the nominal and the maximum allowable recorded levels</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>G - Representation of 8-bit bytes by 10-bit patterns</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>H - Measurement of bit shift</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>J - Recommendations for transportation</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>K - Method of measuring track edge linearity</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>L - Read-After-Write</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>M - Example of the content of a Basic Group No. 0</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>N - Media Recognition System (MRS)</b>	<b>96</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO/IEC 12247 was prepared by the European Computer Manufacturers Association (ECMA) (as Standard ECMA-170) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, in parallel with its approval by national bodies of ISO and IEC.

Annexes A, D, E, F, G, H and K form an integral part of this International Standard. Annexes B, C, J, L, M and N are for information only.

## Introduction

ISO/IEC have produced a series of International Standards for cassettes and cartridges containing magnetic tapes of different width and characteristics. Of these, the following relate to helical scan recording.

ISO/IEC 10777:1991, *Information technology - 3,81 mm wide magnetic tape cartridge for information interchange - Helical scan recording - DDS format.*

ISO/IEC 11319:1993, *Information technology - 8 mm wide magnetic tape cartridge for information interchange - Helical scan recording.*

ISO/IEC 11321:1992, *Information technology - 3,81 wide magnetic tape cartridge for information interchange - Helical scan recording - DATA/DAT format.*

ISO/IEC 11557:1992, *Information technology - 3,81 wide magnetic tape cartridge for information interchange - Helical scan recording - DDS-DC format using 60 m and 90 m length tapes.*

ISO/IEC 12246:1993, *Information technology - 8 mm wide magnetic tape cartridge dual azimuth format for information interchange - Helical scan recording.*

ISO/IEC 12248:1993, *Information technology - 3,81 wide magnetic tape cartridge for information interchange - Helical scan recording - DATA/DAT-DC format using 60 m and 90 length tapes.*

This International Standard is a further International Standard for the same recorded format as given in ISO/IEC 10777, but which supports two types of cartridges. For Type A, the magnetic tape has a nominal thickness of 13  $\mu\text{m}$ . For Type B, the magnetic tape has a nominal thickness of 9  $\mu\text{m}$ . This International Standard also includes the specifications of the Media Recognition System, namely a striped splicing tape.

A companion International Standard ISO/IEC 11557 defines another data interchange specification for the same cartridges, but with a recorded format, namely DDS-DC, which enables data to be compressed by the drive before being recorded.

**Information technology - 3,81 mm wide magnetic tape cartridge for information interchange - Helical scan recording - DDS format using 60 m and 90 m length tapes****Section 1 - General****1 Scope**

This International Standard specifies the physical and magnetic characteristics of a 3,81 mm wide magnetic tape cartridge to enable interchangeability of such cartridges. It also specifies the quality of the recorded signals, the recorded format and the recording method, thereby allowing data interchange between drives by means of such magnetic tape cartridges. The format used is known as Digital Data Storage (DDS).

This International Standard specifies two types of cartridge which, for the purpose of this International Standard, are referred to as Type A and Type B.

For Type A, the magnetic tape has a nominal thickness of 13 µm and a nominal length of up to 60,5 m.

For Type B, the magnetic tape has a nominal thickness of 9 µm and a nominal length of up to 92,0 m.

Information interchange between systems by means of this International Standard also requires the use, at a minimum, of a labelling and file structure and an interchange code which are agreed upon by the interchange parties. It is not within the scope of this International Standard to specify the labelling and file structure, or the interchange code.

**2 Conformance****2.1 Magnetic tape cartridge**

A tape cartridge shall be in conformance with this International Standard if it meets all mandatory requirements specified herein for either Type A or Type B. The tape requirements shall be satisfied throughout the extent of the tape. A recorded tape shall be either a Single Data Space Tape or a partitioned tape.

A claim of conformance shall state whether the optional feature for the Media Recognition System (MRS) is incorporated (see annex N).

**2.2 Generating system**

A system generating a magnetic tape cartridge for interchange shall be entitled to claim conformance with this International Standard if all recordings on the tape meet the mandatory requirements of this International Standard, and if either or both methods of appending and overwriting are implemented.

A claim of conformance shall state whether cartridges of Type A or Type B or both are supported. In addition a claim of conformance shall also state which of the following optional features are implemented and which are not:

- the performing of a Read-After-Write check and the recording of any necessary repeated frames,
- the recording of multiple representations of the same Basic Group,
- the generation of ECC3 Frames.

A claim of conformance shall also state the differences in its operation, if any, which depend upon the presence, or absence, of the MRS feature in the cartridge.

### 2.3 Receiving system

A system receiving a magnetic tape cartridge for interchange shall be entitled to claim conformance with this International Standard if it is able to handle any recording made on the tape according to this International Standard. In particular it shall be able:

- to recognize repeated frames and to make available to the user data and Separator Marks from only one of these frames,
- to recognize multiple representations of the same Basic Group and to make available to the user data and Separator Marks from only one of these representations,
- to update the System Log(s) if the Write-inhibit Hole state so permits,
- to recognize an ECC3 frame, and ignore it if the system is not capable of using ECC3 check bytes in a process of error correction.

A claim of conformance shall state whether or not the system is capable of using ECC3 check bytes in a process of error correction.

In addition a claim of conformance shall also state whether cartridges of Type A or Type B or both are supported.

A claim of conformance shall also state the differences in its operation, if any, which depend upon the presence, or absence, of the MRS feature in the cartridge.

## 3 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO/R 527:1966, *Plastics - Determination of tensile properties*.

ISO 1302:1992, *Technical Drawings - Method of indicating surface texture*.

IEC 950:1991, *Safety of information technology equipment, including electrical business equipment*.