INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC 15421

Second edition
2010-06-01

Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code master test specifications

Technologies de l'information — Techniques automatiques d'identification et de capture des données — Spécifications pour essai de base des codes à barres

Reference number
ISO/IEC 15421:2010(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 15421 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 15421:2000), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

The technology of bar coding is based on the recognition of patterns encoded in bars and spaces of specified dimensions. A wide variety of methods exists by which these bar and space patterns can be reproduced as a physical image. Conventional printing processes such as offset lithography, photogravure, letterpress, screen process, hot foil stamping and flexography require one or more intermediate image carriers, for example artwork, photographic film, printing plates or cylinders, screens or dies.

The term bar code master refers to the first physical image of the complete bar code symbol from which the other image carriers can be produced. Some processes directly create an image carrier without generating a master that would be covered by this International Standard. In order to make allowances for variability of the production processes, and to ensure the correct encoding of the data to be represented, certain procedures need to be performed during the preparation of the bar code master.

This International Standard does not define the procedures but states the requirements for a bar code master.

Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code master test specifications

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements and test methods for physical and related attributes of a bar code master. It covers all forms of bar code master, irrespective of the mode of origination of the initial image, intended for reproduction by conventional printing processes. This International Standard does not cover processes in which there is no master, such as computer to plate (CTP).

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 5-3, *Photography and graphic technology — Density measurements — Part 3: Spectral conditions*

ISO 18911, *Imaging materials — Processed safety photographic films — Storage practices*

ISO/IEC 19762-1, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) techniques — Harmonized vocabulary — Part 1: General terms relating to AIDC*

ISO/IEC 19762-2, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) techniques — Harmonized vocabulary — Part 2: Optically readable media (ORM)*