

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

**ISO/IEC
6429**

Third edition
1992-12-15

**Information technology — Control
functions for coded character sets**

*Technologies de l'information — Fonctions de commande pour les jeux
de caractères codés*



Reference number
ISO/IEC 6429:1992(E)

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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. 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 6429 was prepared by the European Computer Manufacturers Association (as Standard ECMA-48) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC1, *Information technology*, in parallel with its approval by national bodies of ISO and IEC.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 6429:1988), which has been technically revised.

Annexes A, B, C, D, E, F and G of this International Standard are for information only.

Introduction

This International Standard constitutes a repertoire of a large number of control functions the definitions and coded representations of which are thus standardized. For each application the required selection of control functions can be made from this repertoire.

This third edition of ISO/IEC 6429 contains the control functions already standardized in the second edition and, in addition, new control functions needed for handling bi-directional texts, i.e. texts comprising parts written with a left-to-right script and parts written with a right-to-left script. ECMA Technical Report TR/53 gives further information and examples of handling such texts. The inclusion of these specialized control functions has required a corresponding adjustment of the definitions of some of the other control functions. Moreover, the concept of "device" had to be revised.

Information technology – Control functions for coded character sets

1 Scope

This International Standard defines control functions and their coded representations for use in a 7-bit code, an extended 7-bit code, an 8-bit code or an extended 8-bit code, if such a code is structured in accordance with International Standard ISO 2022.

This International Standard specifies technical means to handle bi-directional texts in character-imaging devices in the case of

- texts in a single script of which specific parts need to be presented in an opposite direction (for example, numbers in Arabic or Hebrew text);
- texts in different scripts presented in opposite directions (like texts in Latin and Arabic or texts in Latin and Hebrew);
- texts like the above with a horizontal line orientation and a top-to-bottom line progression.

The control functions defined in this International Standard are intended to be used embedded in character-coded data for interchange, in particular with character-imaging devices.

In general, the control functions are defined by their effects on a character-imaging input/output device. It is, therefore, necessary to make certain assumptions about the architecture of such a device. These assumptions are as unrestrictive as possible; they are specified in clause 6.

In addition to being performed the control functions may need to be represented by a graphic symbol.

The structure of this International Standard is open-ended, so that more control functions can be included in future editions.

Other standards specifying control functions may define more restricted definitions of them than those in this International Standard.

The devices to which this International Standard applies can vary greatly from each other depending on the application for which a device has been specifically designed. It is technically and economically impractical for one device to implement all the facilities specified in this International Standard. The intention is that in any type of device only a limited selection of the facilities appropriate to the application will be implemented.

2 Conformance

2.1 Types of conformance

Full conformance to a standard means that all of its requirements are met. Conformance will only have a unique meaning if the standard contains no options. If there are options within the standard they must be clearly identified, and any claim of conformance must include a statement that identifies those options that have been adopted.

This International Standard is of a different nature since it specifies a large number of facilities from which different selections may be made to suit individual applications. These selections are not identified in this International Standard, but must be identified at the time that a claim of conformance is made. Conformance to such an identified selection is known as limited conformance.

The facilities selected for a particular application may be registered according to ISO 2375 for ease of reference in information interchange.

2.2 Conformance of information interchange

A CC-data-element within coded information for interchange is in conformance with this International Standard if the coded representations of control functions within that CC-data-element satisfy the following conditions:

- a) a coded representation of a control function that is specified in this International Standard shall always represent that control function;
- b) a control function that is specified in this International Standard shall always be represented by the coded representation that is specified in this International Standard for that control function;
- c) any coded representation that is reserved for future standardization by this International Standard shall not appear.

c) any coded representation that is reserved for future standardization by this International Standard shall not appear.

Coded representations of control functions and modes not specified in this International Standard may appear in interchanged information subject to the above conditions (see 5.4, 5.4.1 and 7.4).

2.3 Conformance of devices

A device is in conformance with this International Standard if it conforms to the requirements of 2.3.1, and either or both 2.3.2 and 2.3.3. Any claim of conformance shall identify the document which contains the description specified in 2.3.1.

2.3.1 Device description

A device that conforms to this International Standard shall be the subject of a description that:

- i) identifies, by reference to the clauses of, or to the control functions specified in this International Standard, the selection of control functions, the coded representations of which the device can originate or can receive and interpret;
- ii) identifies the means by which the user may supply the corresponding control functions, or may recognize them, as specified respectively in 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 below.

2.3.2 Originating devices

An originating device shall be capable of transmitting within a CC-data-element the coded representations of an identified selection of control functions, and of their parameter values (including mode selection parameters), conforming to this International Standard.

Such a device shall allow the user to supply any control function that he chooses from among the identified selection for the purpose of transmitting its coded representation over the coding interface.

2.3.3 Receiving devices

A receiving device shall be capable of receiving within a CC-data-element and interpreting the coded representations of an identified selection of control functions, and of their parameter values (including mode selection parameters), conforming to this International Standard.

If the identified selection contains a control sequence for which a default value for a parameter is specified in this International Standard, the identified selection shall include the default value both in explicit and in implicit representations.

Such a device shall make available to the user any control function that is within the identified selection, and the coded representation of which is received over the coding interface, in such a form that the user can recognize it from among the control functions within the identified selection.

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 edition indicated was 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 edition of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 1745:1975, *Information processing - Basic mode control procedures for data communication systems*.

ISO 2022:1986, *Information processing - ISO 7-bit and 8-bit coded character sets - Code extension techniques*.

ISO 2375:1985, *Data processing - Procedure for registration of escape sequences*.

ISO 8613-6:1989, *Information processing - Text and office systems - Office Document Architecture (ODA) and interchange format - Part 6: Character content architectures*.