IEC 60757

Edition 2.0 2021-06

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

BASIC SAFETY PUBLICATION

PUBLICATION FONDAMENTALE DE SÉCURITÉ

Code for designation of colours

Code de désignation de couleurs

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

COMMISSION ELECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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CODE FOR DESIGNATION OF COLOURS

FOREWORD

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IEC 60757 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 3: Documentation, graphical symbols and representations of technical information. It is an International Standard.

It has the status of a basic safety publication in accordance with IEC Guide 104.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 1983. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) codes restricted to letter codes;
b) removed old unnecessary notes;
c) added a new subclause on alternating colours of the same item;
d) added Annex A with examples of colours and their corresponding RGB (red, green, blue) encoding.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
3/1486/FDIS	3/1513/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

CODE FOR DESIGNATION OF COLOURS

1 Scope

This document specifies letter codes for designation of colours and provides rules for their combination to designate colour combinations. The letter codes are intended to be applied in the technical documentation of electrical installations, electrical equipment and products, and in markings of electrical equipment and products.

This basic safety publication focusing on safety essential requirements is primarily intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of safety publications in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 104 and ISO/IEC Guide 51.

It is not intended for use by manufacturers or certification bodies. One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of basic safety publications in the preparation of its publications. The requirements of this basic safety publication will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the relevant publications.

This document does not specify any requirements for the encoding of colour properties, nor for their visual representation. Such requirements are under the responsibility of the different technical committees.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

IEC 60445, *Basic and safety principles for man-machine interface, marking and identification – Identification of equipment terminals, conductor terminations and conductors*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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

- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

4 Letter codes for colours

For the designation of a colour, the following applies:

- for colours listed in Table 1, the designation shall be in accordance with the letter code specified in Table 1;
- for other colours, the letter code applied shall be specified in supporting documentation.

Table 1 – Colours and their letter code

Colour	Letter code
Black	BK
Brown	BN
Red	RD
Orange	OG
Green	GN
Yellow	YE
Blue	BU
Violet	VT
Grey	GY
White	WH
Pink	PK
Gold	GD
Turquoise	TQ
Silver	SR

NOTE 1 Annex A shows examples of the colours together with their RGB encoding. As there is no colour matching required or implied, the colours are selected to be unambiguously different.

NOTE 2 The sequence of the colours GREEN and YELLOW in Table 1 has been modified compared to that in the first edition of IEC 60757 in order to be in line with the colour code of the combination GREEN-AND-YELLOW, GNYE. However, since the colour YELLOW is the next colour in the sequence after the colour GREEN, the change of sequence has no impact for designation of combinations of the other colours listed. It is foreseen that the sequence of the colours listed in Table 1 be maintained in future editions of IEC 60757.

5 Application of colour designations

5.1 Multiple colours on the same item

Where an item is coloured with different colours, the colour designation for that item shall be formed by adding the colour codes for the different colours applied in a sequence as they are listed from the top in Table 1.

EXAMPLE An item coloured red and blue is colour designated: RDBU.

The combination of the colours green, GN, and yellow, YE, shall be restricted to those purposes specified in IEC 60445, and those colours shall not be used in any combination other than the combination green-and-yellow, GNYE.

5.2 Alternating colours of the same item

Where different colours are used alternatively for the same item, the colour designation for that item shall be formed by adding the colour codes for the different alternating colours applied in a sequence as they are listed from the top in Table 1, separated by the SOLIDUS sign "/".

EXAMPLE An LED alternating between the two colours blue and white is colour designated BU/WH.

5.3 Colours on different subitems of an item

Where different subitems of an item are coloured with different colours or colour combinations, the colour designation for the content of the item shall be formed by adding the colour designation of the different subitems separated by the PLUS sign "+".

EXAMPLE A cable with a black, a brown, a grey, a blue, and a green-and-yellow core is colour designated: BK+BN+GNYE+BU+GY

Annex A
(informative)

Examples of colours

Table A.1 shows examples of the colours together with their RGB encoding. As there is no colour matching required or implied, the colours are selected to be unambiguously different.

Table A.1 – Examples of the colours and their RGB encoding

Colour name	Letter code	Colour	RGB code
Black	BK		0;0;0;
Brown	BN		153;102;51;
Red	RD		255;0;0;
Orange	OG		255;165;0;
Green	GN		0;255;0;
Yellow	YE		255;255;0;
Blue	BU		0;0;255;
Violet	VT		255;0;255;
Grey	GY		150;150;150;
White	WH		255;255;255;
Pink	PK		255;192;203;
Gold	GD		255;215;0;
Turquoise	TQ		64;224;208
Silver	SR		192;192;192

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