ASTM INTERNATIONAL

Standard Specification for
Letters and Numerals for Ships[1]

1. Scope

1.1 This specification specifies shape, size, spacing, and shading of letters and numerals to be used aboard ship.

1.2 *Characters are of Five Types:*

1.2.1 *Type 1*—Plain letters and numerals (16 units).

1.2.2 *Type 2*—Block letters and numerals (12 units).

1.2.3 *Type 3*—Type 2 characters with shading (shading—1 unit).

1.2.4 *Type 4*—Block letters (10 units) and numerals (12 units).

1.2.5 *Type 5*—Type 4 characters with shading (shading—1 unit).

1.3 This specification does not give location or size of various shipboard markings incorporating letters and numerals.

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Ordering Information

2.1 When ordering letters and numerals in accordance with this specification, it is necessary to state the ASTM designation and the type and height of the character.

3. General Requirements

3.1 Characters are designed using the grid method which allows the size of the character to be changed proportionately as required.

3.1.1 *Character Stroke* (thickness—2 units).

3.1.2 *Character Width:*

3.1.2.1 *Type 1, Plain Characters*—12 in accordance with Fig. 1 unless otherwise noted.

3.1.2.2 *Type 2, Block Characters*—8 units in accordance with Fig. 2 unless otherwise noted.

3.1.2.3 *Type 3, Block Characters with Shading*—Same as Type 2 plus 1 unit for shading in accordance with Fig. 3.

3.1.2.4 *Type 4, Block Characters, Letters*—Width varies. Numerals—8 units.

3.1.2.5 *Type 5, Block Characters with Shading*—Same as Type 4 plus 1 unit for shading.

3.2 *Sizing of the Character:*

3.2.1 *Type 1*—Space characters in accordance with Table 1.

3.2.2 *Type 2*—Space characters in accordance with Table 1.

3.2.3 *Type 3*—Space characters in accordance with Table 1 with 1 unit added to each value for shading.

3.2.4 *Type 4*—Space letters in accordance with Fig. 4; spacing shall be equal to the space following the letter. Numerals shall be spaced in accordance with Table 1.

3.2.5 *Type 5*—Space letters in accordance with Fig. 5; spacing shall be equal to the space following the letter. Numerals shall be spaced in accordance with Table 1 with 1 unit added to each value for shading.

3.3 *Spacing Between Words, After Punctuation, or Between Sentences:*

3.3.1 The space between words, after a comma, and after a period (as after initials) shall be in accordance with Table 1.

3.3.2 The space between sentences shall be in accordance with Table 1.

3.3.3 The space between a letter and a comma or period (for any use) shall be 2 units.

3.3.4 The space between lines shall be equal to one half the height of the tallest letter.

4. Keywords

4.1 block characters; block letters; block numerals; letters; marine; numerals; plain letters; plain numerals; shading; ship; ship letters; ship markings; ship numerals

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TABLE 1 Spacing Between Letters and Numerals[A]

Letters and Numerals	4	3¾	3½	3	2½	2	1¾	1½	1	½	¼	Δ¼	Δ½	Δ1	Δ1¼	Δ1½
							Units									
A					*	+		Z 7	A,X	J	4	V,W,Y	T			
B,D,O,Q,S 3,5,8			*	+		A,V,W,X,Z 7		J,T,Y 4								
C,E,R					*	+		A,V,W,X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4							
F						*		+	X,Z 7	T,W,Y	A 4	J				
G 6		*	+		A,V,W,X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4										
H,I,M,N,U 1,9	*		+		A,V,W,X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4										
J		*	+			A,V,W,X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4									
K					*	+		A,V,W,X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4							
L					*			+	Z 7	A,X	4			V,W		T,Y
P				*	+			V,W,X,Z 7	T,Y 4		A	J				
T					*			+	V,W,X,Z 7	T,Y 4	A	J				
V,W				*		+		V,W,X,Z 7	T,Y 4	A	J					
X				*		+		A,V,W,X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4							
Y 7					*			+	V,W,X,Z 7	T,Y 4				A	J	
Z 2				*		+		A,V,W,X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4							

Spacing Between Words and After Punctuation

	4	3¾	3½	3	2½	2										
Type 1	18	17¾	17½	17¼	17	16¾										
Types 2–5	14	13¾	13½	13¼	13	12¾										

Spacing Between Sentences

	4	3¾	3½	3	2½	2										
Type 1	22	21¾	21½	21¼	21	20¾										
Types 2–5	18	17¾	17½	17¼	17	16¾										

[A]Key:

*—means space for: B,D,E,F,H,I,K,L,M,N,P,R,U 1,3,8 (also used for punctuation and sentence spacing).

+—means space for: C,G,O,Q,S 0,2,5,6,9.

Δ—indicates that a portion of a letter enters the area of the next letter.

Character Spacing:

Select a character from the vertical column, read across locating the next character, read up to find the correct spacing.

Example:

If the letter "K" is followed by the letter "A," the spacing is 1 unit.

If the letter "F" is followed by the letter "H," the spacing is 2 units.

Punctuation and Sentence Spacing:

Locate in column of table the last character of word, read across locating (*), drop vertically down to the appropriate row, and read spacing.

Example:

If the first word was "vessel," the spacing to the first letter of the next word is 12¾ units.