ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

ISO RECOMMENDATION

R 9

INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE TRANSLITERATION OF SLAVIC CYRILLIC CHARACTERS

2nd EDITION
September 1968

This second edition supersedes the first edition

The ISO Recommendation R 9, *International system for the transliteration of Cyrillic characters*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Documentation*, the Secretariat of which was held at that time by the Nederlands Instituut voor Documentatie en Registratuur (NIDER).

Work on this question by the Technical Committee began in 1947, by resuming the work of the former International Federation of the National Standardizing Associations (ISA) and led, in 1950, to the adoption of a first Draft ISO Recommendation. This Draft ISO Recommendation was submitted to all the ISO Member Bodies in February 1951, but did not meet with the approval of the majority of Member Bodies.

In March 1953, a second Draft ISO Recommendation was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry. It was approved by 20 Member Bodies. No Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft.

This second Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council which decided, in September 1954, to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION, subject to the addition of a note concerning the utilization of characters 5, 14 and 41.

BRIEF HISTORY RELATING TO THE 2nd EDITION

Work on the revision of ISO Recommendation R 9-1954 was undertaken in 1955 by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46 and led, in 1967, to the adoption of a Draft Revision. In 1966, the Secretariat of Technical Committee ISO/TC 46 was transferred to the Deutscher Normenausschuss (DNA).

In May 1967, this Draft Revision (No. 1243) was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry. It was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies.:

Austria	Netherlands	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	New Zealand	Switzerland
France	Norway	Thailand
Germany	Poland	Turkey
Greece	Portugal	United Kingdom
India	Romania	U.S.A.
Israel	Spain	

Five Member Bodies opposed the approval of the Draft:

Belgium	Finland
Canada	Hungary
Denmark	

The Draft Revision was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council which decided, in September 1968, to accept it.

This edition (2nd edition) supersedes the first edition of ISO Recommendation R9-1955, the title of which has been modified as follows: *International system for the transliteration of Slavic Cyrillic characters.*

INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE TRANSLITERATION
OF SLAVIC CYRILLIC CHARACTERS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES
FOR THE CONVERSION OF ONE WRITTEN LANGUAGE INTO ANOTHER

One important function of conversion of one written language into the characters of another, particularly in bibliographic, documentation and library work, is to facilitate classifying, in alphabetical order, documents or cards in languages using differing alphabets. Conversion permits also the reproduction of various alphabets by readily available mechanical devices, such as the typewriter.

The methods of conversion most commonly used are the following:

Transcription. The operation of representing the elements of a language, either sounds or signs, however they may be written originally, in any other written system of letters or sound signs.

Transliteration. The operation of representing the characters (letters or signs), of one alphabet by those of another, in principle letter by letter. This method of conversion is applied specifically when representing one purely literal alphabet, such as Cyrillic, by another literal alphabet, such as Roman.

These methods are applicable to conversion from any alphabet to another resulting in romanization, arabization, cyrillization, etc.

Romanization, for example, is a form of conversion in which letters of the Roman alphabet are made to represent languages using other characters.

In conversion, it is important to avoid ambiguity and at the same time to maintain the utmost simplicity and the most direct relationship of each letter or sign to its counterpart.

In transliteration, letter for letter equivalence is ideal, but absolute consistency of application may not be possible. In some cases, letter groups or diacritical marks may be used, but they should be kept to a minimum. In designing any system of transliteration, a particular effort should be made to achieve direct reversibility insofar as this is possible, to facilitate reconstitution of the text in its original form should this be necessary.

Eventual acceptance by a substantial number of users should be kept constantly in mind while developing such a system.

Further, if there is in existence a widely accepted system of conversion, it should be used as the basis for establishing an international Recommendation, unless some better system appears likely to gain general acceptance.

TABLE 1. — Transliteration of the modern Russian alphabet

Letter numbers	Russian				Transliteration	Examples	
	printed		written				
1	a	A	*a*	*A*	a	адрес	— adres
2	б	Б	*б*	*Ъ*	b	баба	— baba
3	в	В	*в*	*B*	v	вы	— vy
4	г	Г	*г*	*T*	g	голова	— golova
5	д	Д	*д, g*	*D*	d	да	— da
6 [1])	e (ё)	E (Ё)	*e (ё)*	*E (Ё)*	e (ё)	ещё	— ešče
7 [2])	ж	Ж	*ж*	*Ж*	ž	журнал	— žurnal
8	з	З	*з, ӡ*	*З*	z	звезда	— zvezda
9	и	И	*и*	*И*	i	книга	— kniga
10 [2])	й	Й	*й*	*Й*	j	первый	— pervyj
11	к	К	*к*	*Ж*	k	как	— kak
12	л	Л	*л*	*Л*	l	липа	— lipa
13	м	М	*м*	*M*	m	муж	— muž
14	н	Н	*н*	*H*	n	нижний	— nižnij
15	о	О	*о*	*O*	o	общество	— obščestvo
16	п	П	*п*	*Л*	p	пара	— para
17	р	Р	*п*	*P*	r	рыба	— ryba
18	с	С	*с*	*C*	s	сестра	— sestra
19	т	Т	*т,т̄,ѓ*	*Т*	t	товарищ	— tovarišč
20	у	У	*у*	*У*	u	утро	— utro

TABLE 1. — **Transliteration of the modern Russian alphabet** (*concluded*)

Letter numbers	Russian				Trans-litera-tion	Examples	
	printed		written				
21	ф	Ф			f	физика	— fizika
22 [2, 3])	х	Х			h	химический	— himičeskij
23 [2])	ц	Ц			c ·	центральный	— central'nyj
24 [2])	ч	Ч			č	часы	— časy
25 [2])	ш	Ш	ш, ш		š	школа	— škola
26 [2, 4])	щ	Щ			šč	щит	— ščit
27	ъ	Ъ			''	объявление	— ob''javlenie
28	ы	Ы			y	был	— byl
29	ь	Ь			'	белье	— bel'e
30	э	Э			ė	это	— ėto
31 [2, 4])	ю	Ю			ju	южный	— južnyj
32 [2, 4])	я	Я			ja	яйцо	— jajco

[1]) Cyrillic ё should not be transliterated by ė unless the diacritical mark appears in the original.

[2]) In countries where tradition favours it, the following variations are permitted, but only as a group.

Letter 7: ж — zh
10: й — ī
22: x — kh
23: ц — ts (when this form is used, Russian т followed by c will require t.s)
24: ч — ch
25: ш — sh
26: щ — shch
31: ю — yu
32: я — ya

[3]) In countries where tradition favours ch rather than h, this is permitted.

[4]) The initials of words starting with Щ, Ю, Я, should always be transliterated by Šč, Ju, Ja, and not by Š and J, as is often the case.

TABLE 2. — Transliteration of Slavic Cyrillic alphabets

Letter numbers	Cyrillic character				Transliteration from						Examples	
	printed		written		Russian	Ukrainian	Byelorussian	Serbian	Macedonian	Bulgarian		
1	a	A	*a*	*A*	a	a	a	a	a	a	адрес	— adres
2	б	Б	*б*	*Ƃ*	b	b	b	b	b	b	баба	— baba
3	в	В	*в*	*B*	v	v	v	v	v	v	вы	— vy
4	г	Г	*г*	*T*	g	g ¹⁾	g ¹⁾	g	g	g	голова	— golova
5	г	Г	*г*	*ſ*		ġ ⁵⁾	ġ ⁵⁾				густ	— ġust
6	д	Д	*д, д*	*D*	d	d	d	d ⁷⁾	d	d	да	— da
7	Ђ	ђ	*ђ*	*Ƌ*				đ			ђон	— đon
8	ѓ	Ѓ	*ѓ*	*Ѓ*					ǵ		ѓугум	— ǵugum
9	e (ё) E (Ё)		*e (ё)* *Ɛ (Ё)*		e (ё)³⁾	e	e (ё)³⁾	e	e	e	ещё	— ešče
10	є	Є	*Ɛ*	*Ɛ*		je ⁴⁾					твоє	— tvoje
11	ж	Ж	*ж*	*Ж*	ž ²⁾	ž ²⁾	ž ²⁾	ž	ž	ž ²⁾	журнал	— žurnal
12	з	З	*з, з*	*З*	z	z	z	z	z	z	звезда	— zvezda
13	ѕ	Ѕ	*ѕ*	*S*					dz ⁴⁾		ѕвезда	— dzvezda
14	и	И	*u*	*U*	i	i ¹⁾	i ⁵⁾	i	i	i	книга	— kniga
15	і	І	*i*	*J*	ī ⁵⁾	ī ¹⁾	ī ¹⁾				білий	— bīlij
16	ї	Ї	*ï*	*Ï*		ï					їзда	— ïzda
17	j	J	*j*	*Ɉ*				j	j		jедан	— jedan
18	й	Й	*й*	*Ŭ*	j ²⁾	j ²⁾	j ²⁾			j ²⁾	первый	— pervyj
19	к	К	*к*	*Ж*	k	k	k	k	k	k	как	— kak
20	л	Л	*л*	*Л*	l	l	l	l	l ⁶⁾	l	липа	— lipa

TABLE 2. — Transliteration of Slavic Cyrillic alphabets (*continued*)

Letter numbers	Cyrillic character				Transliteration from						Examples	
	printed		written		Russian	Ukrainian	Byelorussian	Serbian	Macedonian	Bulgarian		
21	љ	Љ						lj [4]	lj [4]		љубав	— ljubav
22	м	М			m	m	m	m	m	m	муж	— muž
23	н	Н			n	n	n	n	n [6]	n	нижний	— nižnij
24	њ	Њ						nj [4]	nj [4]		њива	— njiva
25	о	О			o	o	o	o	o	o	общество	— obščestvo
26	п	П			p	p	p	p	p	p	пара	— para
27	р	Р			r	r	r	r	r	r	рыба	— ryba
28	с	С			s	s	s	s	s	s	сестра	— sestra
29	т	Т			t	t	t	t	t	t	товарищ	— tovarišč
30	ћ	Ћ						ć			кућа	— kuća
31	ќ	Ќ							k		кука	— kuka
32	у	У			u	u	u	u	u	u	утро	— utro
33	ў	Ў					ŭ				слоўнік	— sloŭnīk
34	ф	Ф			f	f	f	f	f	f	физика	— fizika
35	х	Х			h [2]	h [1,2]	h [1,2]	h	h	h [2]	химический	— himičeskij
36	ц	Ц			c [2]	c [2]	c [2]	c	c	c [2]	центральный	— central'nyj
37	ч	Ч			č [2]	č [2]	č [2]	č	č	č [2]	часы	— časy
38	џ	Џ						dž [4]	dž [4]		џамија	— džamija
39	ш	Ш			š [2]	š [2]	š [2]	š	š	š [2]	школа	— škola
40	щ	Щ			šč [2,4]	šč [2,4]				šč [1,4]	щит	— ščit