

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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## Information technology — Control functions for text communication

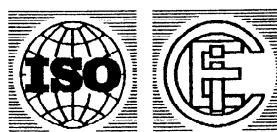
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*Technologies de l'information — Fonctions de commande pour la  
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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for world-wide 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 10538 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

Annexes A, B and C of this International Standard are for information only.

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## Introduction

This International Standard combines in one document the repertoires of control functions for text communication that were first published in Draft International Standard ISO/DIS 6937-3 (for the control functions for page-image format), and in the Draft Proposal for ISO 6937-4 (for the control functions for formatted and formattable text).

Because these repertoires of control functions are applicable to text communication in general, and can be used independently from ISO 6937, JTC 1/SC2 at its 21st plenary meeting in London in October 1988 decided in resolution 8 that the former ISO 6937-3 and ISO 6937-4 were to be published as a single new International Standard.

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## Information technology - Control functions for text communication

### Section 1 - General

#### 1 Scope

This International Standard defines the control functions, and their coded representations needed, for use in text communication.

Section 2 specifies the control functions for text in page-image format, Section 3 specifies the control functions for formatted and formattable text.

The control functions, with the exception of two, have been taken from ISO 6429. The definitions of the control functions in this International Standard are, in general, more specific than the corresponding definitions in ISO 6429.

The specifications in this International Standard apply to the interchange of text in the form of binary-coded representations of graphic characters and control functions. They are not intended for the actual processing of text.

Although, in general, text consists of characters and pictures, this International Standard applies only to text made up of characters.

The coded representations defined in this International Standard are intended for use when the control functions concerned are embedded in the communicated text, not when they are separated from the text as elements of a communication protocol, for example.

This International Standard does not define any control functions required for controlling the process of communication.

#### 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 then they shall be clearly identified, and any claim of conformance shall include a statement that identifies those options that have been adopted.

This International Standard is of a different nature since it specifies for the applications in Section 2 and Section 3 a number of facilities from which different selections may be made to suit individual application requirements. These selections are identified as levels in clauses 12 and 16. They shall be identified at the time that a claim of conformance is made. Conformance to such an identified selection is known as limited conformance.

##### 2.2 Conformance of information interchange

A coded-character-data-element (CC-data-element) within coded information for interchange is in conformance with a Section and a level of this International Standard if all coded representations of control functions within that CC-data-element conform either to the requirements of clause 12 or to those of clause 16.

A claim of conformance shall identify the Section and the level adopted.

### 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, and shall identify Section and the level as well as the selected control functions.

#### 2.3.1 Device description

A device that conforms to this International Standard shall be the subject of a description that identifies the means by which the user may supply the selected control functions or may recognize them when they are made available to him, as specified in 2.3.2. and 2.3.3, respectively.

#### 2.3.2 Originating devices

An originating device shall allow its user to supply any sequence of control functions from the Section and level adopted, and shall be capable of transmitting their coded representation within a CC-data-element.

#### 2.3.3 Receiving devices

A receiving device shall be capable of receiving and interpreting any coded representations of control functions that are within a CC-data-element, and that conform to 2.2, and shall make the corresponding control functions available to its user in such a way that the user can identify them from among those of the Section and level adopted, and can distinguish them from each other.

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### 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 editions indicated were 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 editions of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

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

ISO 6429:1988, *Information processing - Control functions for 7-bit and 8-bit coded character sets*.

ISO 7350:1991, *Text communication - Registration of graphic repertoires of characters from ISO 10367*.

### 4 Definitions

For the purpose of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

**4.1 active area:** The area which contains the active position.

**4.2 active field:** The field which contains the active position.

**4.3 active line:** The line which contains the active position.

**4.4 active page:** The page which contains the active position.

**4.5 active position:** The character position which is to image the graphic symbol representing the next graphic character or relative to which the next control function is to be executed.

NOTE - In general, the active position is indicated by a cursor.

**4.6 area:** A series of successive character positions that are not necessarily on the same line.

**4.7 bit combination:** An ordered set of bits used for the representation of characters.

**4.8 byte:** A bit string that is operated upon as a unit.

**4.9 character:** A member of a set of elements used for the organization, control or representation of data.

**4.10 character path:** The direction of presentation of successive graphic characters along a line.

**4.11 character position:** The portion of a display that is imaging or is capable of imaging a graphic symbol.

**4.12 coded character set; code:** A set of unambiguous rules that establishes a character set and the one-to-one relationship between the characters of the set and their representation by one or more bit combinations.

**4.13 coded-character-data-element (CC-data-element):** An element of interchanged information that is specified to consist of a sequence of coded representations of characters, in accordance with one or more identified standards for coded character sets.

NOTES

1 In a communication environment according to the reference model for Open Systems Interconnection of ISO 7498, a CC-data-element will form all or part of the information that corresponds to the Presentation-Protocol-Data-Units (PPDU) defined in that International Standard.

2 When information interchange is accomplished by means of interchangeable media, a CC-data element will form all or part of the information that corresponds to the user data, and not that recorded during formatting and initialization.

**4.14 code extension:** The techniques for the encoding of characters that are not included in the character set of a given code.

**4.15 code table:** A table showing the character allocated to each bit combination in a code.

**4.16 control character:** A control function the coded representation of which consists of a single bit combination.

**4.17 control function:** An element of a character set that effects the recording, processing, transmission, or interpretation of data, and that has a coded representation consisting of one or more bit combinations.

**4.18 control sequence:** A sequence of bit combinations starting with that representing the control character CONTROL SEQUENCE INTRODUCER (CSI), used for the coded representation of control functions with parameters.

**4.19 control string:** A delimited string of characters which may occur in the data stream as a logical entity for control purposes.

**4.20 cursor:** A special indicator used to mark the active position in a display.

**4.21 default:** A value or a state that is to be assumed when no value or state is explicitly specified.

**4.22 to designate:** To identify a set of characters that are to be represented, in some cases immediately and in others on the occurrence of a further control function, in a prescribed manner.

**4.23 device:** A component of information processing equipment which can transmit, and/or receive, coded information within CC-data-elements.

NOTE - It may be an input/output device in the conventional sense, or a process such as an application program or a gateway function.

**4.24 display:** The region for visual presentation of data on any type of character-imaging device, including printer, cathode ray tube and similar devices.

**4.25 document:** An ordered set of one or more pages intended by the sender to be regarded as an entity.

**4.26 document terminator:** A function that delimits the text that is part of a given document and separates it from the text of the next document, if any. The separator is either an occurrence of the control function DOCUMENT TERMINATOR (DT) (INFORMATION SEPARATOR FOUR (IS4)) embedded in the text, or the equivalent function as a protocol element.

**4.27 editor function:** Control function used for editing, altering or transposing the visual arrangement of data.

**4.28 escape sequence:** A bit string that is used for control purposes in code extension procedures and that consists of two or more bit combinations. The first of these bit combinations represents the character ESCAPE.

**4.29 field:** An area consisting of the character position at a character tabulation stop (beginning of the field) and the character positions up to, but not including, the character position at the following character tabulation stop (end of the field).

**4.30 Final Byte:** The bit combination that terminates an escape sequence or a control sequence.

**4.31 formator function:** Control functions (format effectors and presentation control functions) describing how the originator of the data stream wishes the information to be formatted or presented.

**4.32 formattable text:** Character-coded text that contains control functions intended by the sender to be usable to expedite the processing and/or the formatting of the text by the recipient.

**4.33 formatted text:** Character-coded text that contains control functions which determine the detail of the layout and appearance of text as presented.

**4.34 graphic character:** A character, other than a control function, that has a visual representation normally handwritten, printed or displayed, and that has a coded representation consisting of one or more bit combinations.

**4.35 graphic rendition:** The visual style of displaying a set of graphic symbols.

**4.36 graphic symbol:** A visual representation of a graphic character or a control function.

**4.37 Intermediate Byte:**

- a) In an escape sequence, a bit combination that may occur between the control function ESCAPE (ESC) and the Final Byte;
- b) In a control sequence, a bit combination that may occur between the control function CONTROL SEQUENCE INTRODUCER (CSI) and the Final Byte, or between a Parameter Byte and the Final Byte.

**4.38 to invoke:** To cause a designated set of characters to be represented by the prescribed bit combinations whenever those bit combinations occur.

**4.39 line:** A set of consecutive character positions.

**4.40 line home position:** A reference position on a line ahead of which the active position can normally not be moved.

**4.41 line limit position:** A reference position on a line beyond which the active position can normally not be moved.

**4.42 line progression:** The direction of presentation of successive lines.

**4.43 page:** A set of consecutive lines.

**4.44 page home position:** A reference position on a page ahead of which the active position can normally not be moved.

**4.45 page-image format; PIF:** A representation of the image of text which is for-matted by the sender for presentation by the recipient and which is not intended to be subjected to reformatting operations by the recipient.

**4.46 page limit position:** A reference position on a page beyond which the active position can normally not be moved.

**4.47 page terminator:** A function that delimits the text that is to be imaged on a given page and separates it from the text of the next page, if any, of the same document. The separator is either an occurrence of the control function PAGE TERMINATOR (PT) (INFORMATION SEPARATOR THREE (IS3)) or DOCUMENT TERMINATOR (DT) (INFORMATION SEPARATOR FOUR (IS4)) embedded in the text, or the equivalent function as a protocol element.

**4.48 Parameter Byte:** In a control sequence, a bit combination that may occur between the control function CONTROL SEQUENCE INTRODUCER (CSI) and the Final Byte, or between CSI and an Intermediate Byte.

**4.49 position:** The part of a code table identified by its column and row coordinates.

**4.50 repertoire:** A specified set of characters that are represented by one or more bit combinations of a coded character set.

**4.51 tabulation:** The technique of identifying character positions or lines in a display for the purpose of arranging information systematically.

**4.52 tabulation stop:** The indication that a character position or a line is to be used for tabulation; a character tabulation stop may also serve as a boundary between fields.

**4.53 text area:** The image of the part of a page on which text may be presented.

**4.54 user:** A person or other entity that invokes the services provided by a device.

NOTES

1 This entity may be a process such as an application program if the "device" is a code converter or a gateway function, for example.

2 The characters, as supplied by the user or made available to him, may be in the form of codes local to the device, or of non-conventional visible representations, provided that 2.3 above is satisfied.

**4.55 variable-spacing graphic symbol:** The visible forms of graphic characters - letters, digits or symbols - in which their dimensions along the line may differ from one to the other.

**5 Notation and names**

**5.1 Notation**

The bits of the bit combinations of an 8-bit code are identified by b<sub>8</sub>, b<sub>7</sub>, b<sub>6</sub>, b<sub>5</sub>, b<sub>4</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>, and b<sub>1</sub>, where b<sub>8</sub> is the highest-order, or most significant, bit and b<sub>1</sub> is the lowest-order, or least significant, bit.

Analogously, the bits of a 7-bit code are identified by b<sub>7</sub>, b<sub>6</sub>, b<sub>5</sub>, b<sub>4</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>, and b<sub>1</sub>, where b<sub>7</sub> is the highest-order, or most significant, bit and b<sub>1</sub> is the lowest-order, or least significant, bit.

The bit combinations may be interpreted to represent integers in the range 0 to 255 (0 to 127 in the case of a 7-bit code) in binary notation by attributing the following weights to the individual bits:

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bit	b <sub>8</sub>	b <sub>7</sub>	b <sub>6</sub>	b <sub>5</sub>	b <sub>4</sub>	b <sub>3</sub>	b <sub>2</sub>	b <sub>1</sub>
weight	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1

In this International Standard, the bit combinations are identified by notations of the form xx/yy, where xx is a number in the range 00 to 15 (00 to 07 in the case of a 7-bit code) and yy is a number in the range 00 to 15. The correspondence between the notations of the form xx/yy and the bit combinations consisting of the bits b<sub>8</sub> (b<sub>7</sub> in the case of a 7-bit code) to b<sub>1</sub> is as follows:

- xx is the number represented by b<sub>8</sub>, b<sub>7</sub>, b<sub>6</sub> and b<sub>5</sub> where these bits are given the weights 8, 4, 2 and 1, respectively;
- yy is the number represented by b<sub>4</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, b<sub>2</sub> and b<sub>1</sub> where these bits are given the weights 8, 4, 2 and 1, respectively.

**5.2 Names**

This International Standard assigns one name to each control function. In addition, it specifies an acronym for each control function and for the character SPACE. By convention, only capital letters and hyphen are used for writing the names of graphic characters and control functions. For acronyms only capital letters and digits are used. It is intended that the acronyms and this convention be retained in all translations of the text.

## 6 Categories of control functions

The control functions in the repertoires of Sections 2 and 3 belong in all or some of the following categories:

- a) format effectors, which cause the active position to be moved within the text area of a page, and from page to page;
- b) presentation control functions, which specify presentation attributes, that is, ways in which subsequent text is to be presented. Examples of presentation attributes are page format, character rendition and tabulation;
- c) introducers,
- d) information separators,
- e) logical control functions, which indicate where line-breaks may be made or should be avoided, and delimit character strings that are to be treated as single entities;
- f) miscellaneous control functions, which do not fit in any of the preceding categories.

## 7 Coded representation

### 7.1 General

Each control function in Sections 2 and 3 belongs to one of the following types:

- a) not an element of any set;
- b) elements of the C0 set;
- c) elements of the C1 set;
- d) control sequences; [ISO/IEC 10538:1991](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/d08609e7-6e59-427b-9b1d-c6767a5271b1/iso-iec-10538-1991)
- e) independent control functions.

### 7.2 Elements of the C0 set

These control functions are represented in 7-bit and 8-bit codes by bit combinations from 00/00 to 01/15.

The definitions and the coded representations of the control functions are specified in clauses 11 and 15.

### 7.3 Elements of the C1 set

These control functions are represented

- a) in a 7-bit code by 2-character escape sequences of the form ESC Fe, where ESC is represented by bit combination 01/11 and Fe is represented by a bit combination from 04/00 to 05/15;
- b) in an 8-bit code by bit combinations from 08/00 to 09/15; however, when the announcer sequence ESC 02/00 04/06 according to ISO 2022 is used, the control functions of the C1 set are represented by ESC Fe sequences.

The definitions and the coded representations of the control functions are specified in clauses 11 and 15.