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TECHNICAL REPORT

colour inside

Graphical symbols for use on equipment – Graphical symbols for multimedia equipment – Current practice

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IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

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FOREWORD

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IEC TR 62964, which is a Technical Report, has been prepared by subcommittee 3C: Graphical symbols for use on equipment, of IEC technical committee 3: Information structures and elements, identification and marking principles, documentation and graphical symbols.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
3C/1953/DTR	3C/2006/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this Technical Report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

In this Technical Report, the following type is used:

– *tems defined in Clause 3: in italic type*

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

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- withdrawn,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

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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 publication using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

The first edition of IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*, was published in 1973. Since then the publication has been maintained and updated continuously, mainly by adding new graphical symbols in order to meet the requirements of technical committees and subcommittees within the IEC as well as ISO/IEC JTC 1 together with industries.

This Technical Report thus includes classical graphical symbols targeted to specific application areas as well as basic graphical symbols for general application.

In the era of information communication technology (ICT), new graphical symbols for use on such equipment as multimedia equipment have been in strong demand for standardization. These graphical symbols are not only printed, engraved, embossed, or moulded on the equipment, but also used on screens and displays. In the latter case, the appearance of a graphical symbol is dynamically changed to indicate a state of the equipment.

This Technical Report intends to highlight current tendency and practice of using graphical symbols for use on equipment.

GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR USE ON EQUIPMENT – GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR MULTIMEDIA EQUIPMENT – CURRENT PRACTICE

1 Scope

This Technical Report provides the result of a study of some of the *graphical symbols* for use on *equipment* standardized in IEC 60417 being primarily intended to:

– identify the *equipment* or a part of the *equipment* (e.g. a control or display);

– indicate a functional state (e.g. on, off, alarm);

– designate connections (e.g. terminals, filling points for materials);

– provide information on packaging (e.g. identification of contents, instructions for handling);

– provide instruction for the operation of the *equipment* (e.g. limitations of use);

in the focus of contemporary use of *graphical symbols* for use on multimedia *equipment*, and new possible meanings to be envisaged as well as new *graphical symbols* not yet standardized in IEC 60417.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

None.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1
equipment
associated assemblies intended to achieve a defined final objective

[SOURCE: IEC 80416-1:2008, 3.3]

3.2
graphical symbol
visually perceptible figure with a particular meaning used to transmit information independently of language

[SOURCE: IEC 80416-1:2008, 3.4]

3.3
glyph
recognizable abstract graphic symbol which is independent of any specific design

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 9541-1:2012, 3.12]

3.4
glyph image
image of a *glyph*, as obtained from a *glyph* representation displayed on a presentation surface

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 9541-1:2012, 3.15]

3.5
icon
graphical symbol presented on a screen or display

Note 1 to entry: Icons can be static, interactive and change as the result of user input or dynamic and change as the result of *equipment* status.

[SOURCE: IEC 62648:2012, 3.11]

4 Current practice

4.1 General

One of the important expectation and function of the *graphical symbols* in IEC 60417 is to serve as a pool of standardized *graphical symbols* for use on *equipment* to be used, in accordance with the provisions given in IEC 80416-3:2002 and IEC 80416-3:2002/AMD1:2011, 4.4, in IEC publications following the rules given in ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2:2011, 6.6.5.6. The actual applications and use of such *graphical symbols* include some modifications to fit specific purposes, which are allowed in accordance with the provisions given in IEC 80416-3:2002 and IEC 80416-3:2002/AMD1:2011, Clause 6.

To accommodate any difficulties to follow the rules, a set of procedures which consitute a compromise are given in IEC 62648, in agreement with IEC Guide 108.

In addition, as a result of quickly changing demand in industries such as digital cameras, multimedia, ICT and mobile equipment, there are new *graphical symbols* not yet standardized in IEC 60417.

This Technical Report classifies some of these *graphical symbols* including *icons* and *glyph images* into two categories:

a) *Graphical symbols* for control

b) *Graphical symbols* for indication

Some of the graphical representations shown on the right-hand columns of Table 1 and Table 2 are state of the art candidates for future standardization in IEC 60417.

4.2 Current practice for control

Graphical symbols to identify controls of equipment in general are important and many *graphical symbols* have been standardized in IEC 60417 for the purpose of different categories of equipment.

Subclause 4.2 highlights the result of study on current practice of *graphical symbols* to identify the *equipment* or a part of *equipment* in the field of multimedia technology. Table 1 shows such *graphical symbols* for use on multimedia *equipment* to trigger one of the functionalities and to change one function to another, as non-exhaustive examples.