

INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

**ISO**  
**12222**

First edition  
1996-11-15

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**Cinematography — Manufacturer-printed,  
latent image identification on 16 mm,  
35 mm and 65 mm motion-picture film —  
Specifications and dimensions**

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*Cinématographie — Identification d'image latente, imprimée par le  
fabricant, sur films cinématographiques 16 mm, 35 mm et 65 mm —  
Spécifications et dimensions*

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1-4092-8887-2b4632bdc5ba/iso-  
12222-1996



Reference number  
ISO 12222:1996(E)

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 12222 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 36, *Cinematography*.

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International Organization for Standardization  
Case Postale 56 • CH-1211 Genève 20 • Switzerland

Printed in Switzerland

# Cinematography — Manufacturer-printed, latent image identification on 16 mm, 35 mm and 65 mm motion-picture film — Specifications and dimensions

## 1 Scope

**1.1** This International Standard specifies the position and dimensions of machine-readable identification numbers on 16 mm, 35 mm and 65 mm motion-picture film. These numbers are intended to be a machine-readable version of the latent image key number. This International Standard also specifies the encoding format to be used for these machine-readable numbers, as well as the area scanned and the spectral characteristics of the scanner.

**1.2** This International Standard also specifies the position, dimensions and content of human-readable identification (key) numbers for use on 16 mm, 35 mm and 65 mm motion-picture films intended for original photography or intermediate printing which also include the machine-readable key number described in 1.1.

NOTE — These numbers normally are exposed onto the film at the time of manufacture.

**1.3** This International Standard further specifies an area that may be used for optional manufacturer-specific film-type identification information.

**1.4** This International Standard also specifies an area on the film which is not to be exposed by the film manufacturer, thus leaving it available for customer data recording.

**1.5** Finally, this International Standard specifies an optional frame line index mark for 35 mm and 65 mm films.

## 2 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 indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 69:1990, *Cinematography — 16 mm motion-picture and magnetic film — Cutting and perforating dimensions*.

ISO 491:1995, *Cinematography — 35 mm motion-picture film and magnetic film — Cutting and perforating dimensions*.

ISO 3023:1995, *Cinematography — 65 mm and 70 mm unexposed motion-picture film — Cutting and perforating dimensions*.

ANSI/AIM BC4-1995, *Uniform Symbology Specification — Code 128*.

### 3 Definitions

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

**3.1 key number; edge number; footage number:** Identification number that is printed with ink or exposed onto the film at the time of manufacture.

NOTE — The numbers are placed at regular intervals, typically every 20 perforations for 16 mm film, 64 perforations for 35 mm film and 80 perforations for 65 mm film. For the purposes of this International Standard, the key numbers are latent-image exposed.

**3.2 bar edge:** (bar code) That point where the transmittance is halfway between the maximum transmittance of the adjacent space and the minimum transmittance of the adjacent bar.

**3.3 scan transmittance profile:** (bar code) Record of the transmittance measured as a function of distance along the entire bar code symbol.

**3.4 symbol contrast, SC:** (bar code) Difference between the largest transmittance ( $T_{max}$ ) and smallest transmittance ( $T_{min}$ ) in a scan transmittance profile.

**3.5 minimum edge contrast,  $EC_{min}$ :** (bar code) Minimum difference between a space transmittance ( $T_s$ ) and the adjoining bar transmittance ( $T_b$ ).

**3.6 modulation, MOD:** (bar code) Ratio of minimum edge contrast ( $EC_{min}$ ) to symbol contrast ( $SC$ ).

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### 4 General format

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The general format of the latent-image identification information shall be as shown in figure 1 for 16 mm film, figure 2 for 35 mm film, and figure 3 for 65 mm film.

No latent information shall be placed along the upper edge of the film, as shown in figures 1, 2 and 3. This area is reserved for data recording at the time of photography.

This identification information is intended to be exposed onto film cut and perforated in accordance with ISO 69, ISO 491 or ISO 3023.

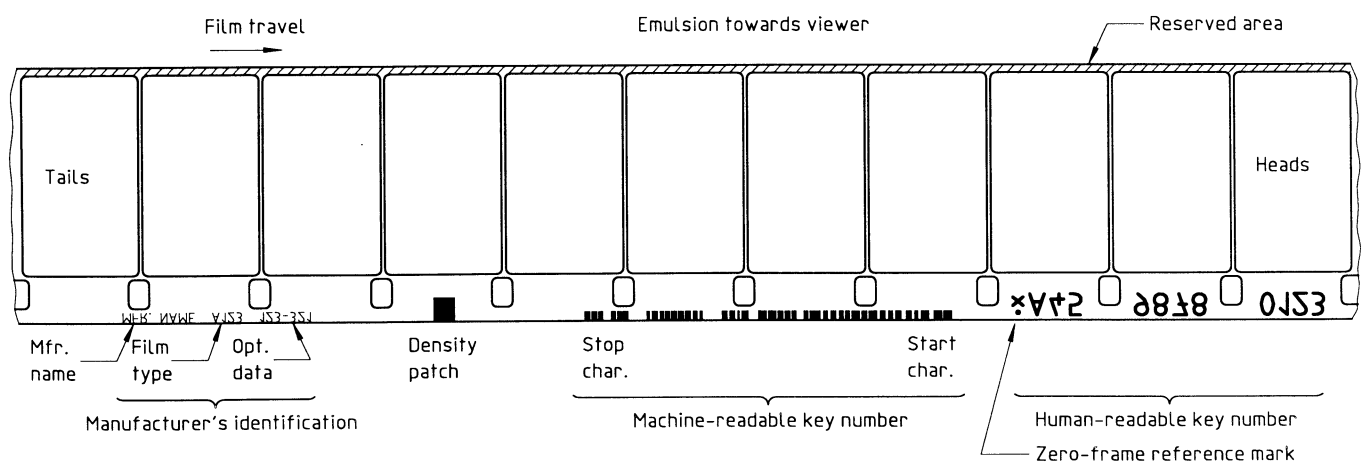


Figure 1 — General format on 16 mm film

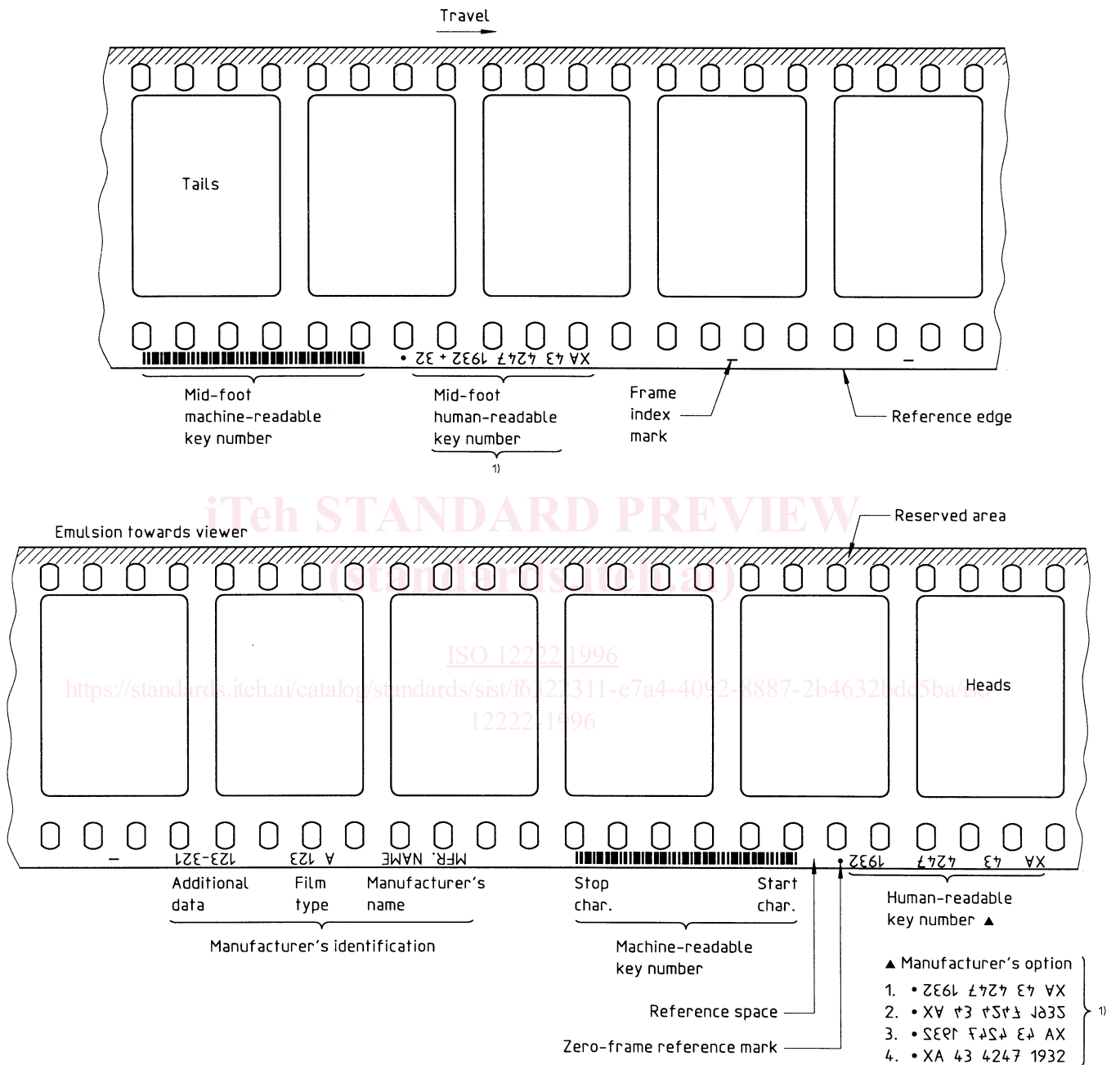
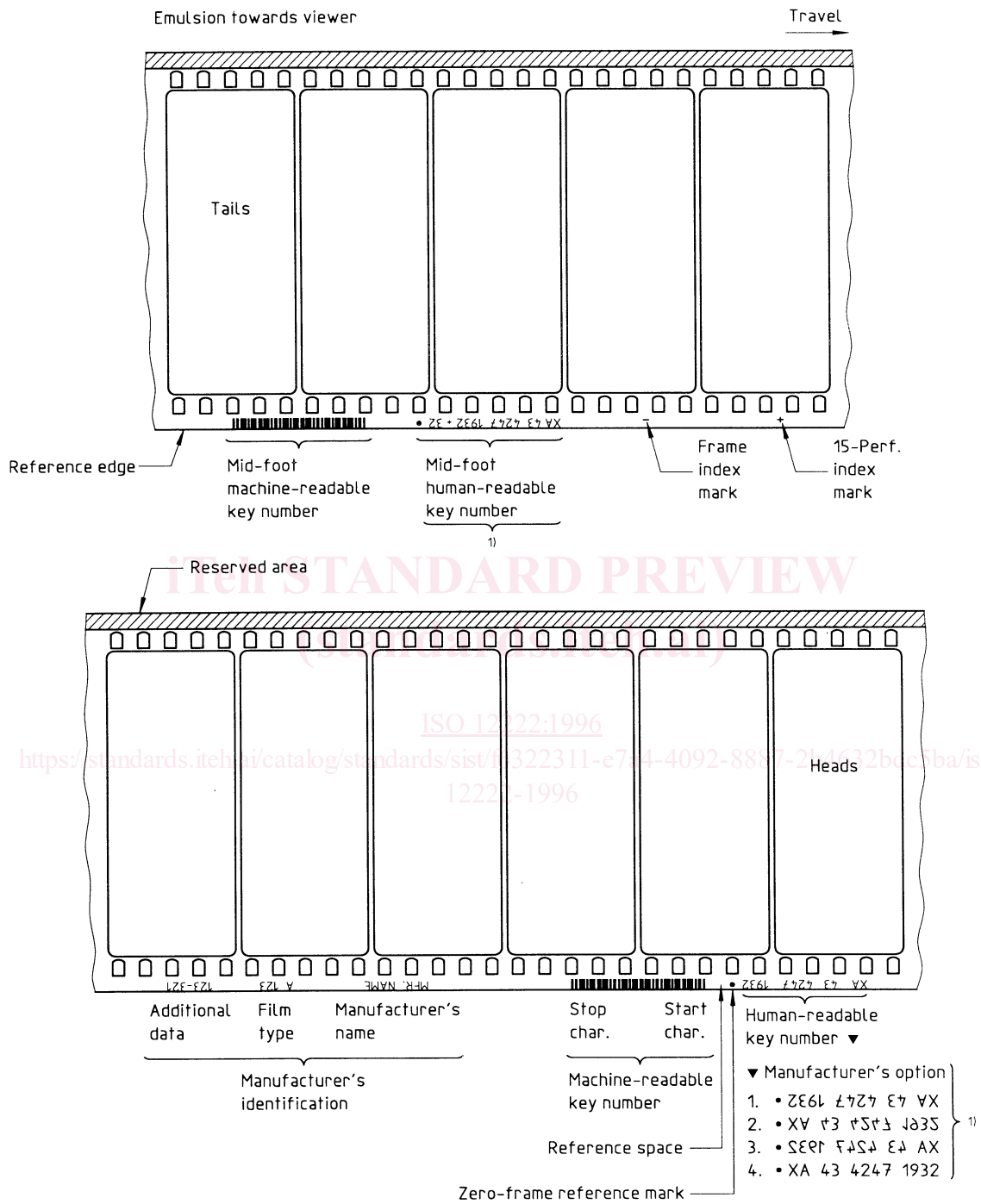


Figure 2 — General format on 35 mm film



1) Human-readable key number orientation is manufacturer's option.

Figure 3 — General format on 65 mm film

## 5 Human-readable key numbers

### 5.1 Human-readable key number specifications applicable to 16 mm, 35 mm and 65 mm film

#### 5.1.1 General

An incrementing, human-readable key number shall be printed onto the film at the time of manufacture. The film shall be supplied to the user with the lowest number at the outside of the roll unless the sales format of the unit shown states differently. The human-readable key number shall consist of two alphabetic characters and 10 numerical characters. For 16 mm film, this alphanumeric code shall be separated into three groups of four characters, as shown in figure 1. For 35 mm and 65 mm film, this alphanumeric code shall be separated into groups of two alphabetic characters and two, four and four digits, separated by spaces, as shown in figures 2 and 3.

#### 5.1.2 Alphabetic characters

The first two alphabetic characters of the key number identify the manufacturer and film type. The character set used shall be the normal upper-case letters A through Z.

The first alphabetic character shall identify the film manufacturer, according to table 1. Other letters are reserved for future assignment by ISO/TC 36. The second character shall be a film-type identifier. The character is chosen at the discretion of the film manufacturer.

**Table 1 — Manufacturer alphabetic codes**

Manufacturer	Code
Agfa-Gevaert N.V.	A
Eastman Kodak Company	K
Fuji Photo Film Company	F
Other or nondesignated	(as assigned or blank)

#### 5.1.3 Numerical characters

For the 10 numerical characters of the key number, only the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 shall be used, and they shall be in normal counting sequence. It is recommended, although not required, that the "ten thousands" place not be allowed to increment within a single roll of film.

### 5.2 Human-readable key number specifications applicable to 16 mm film only

#### 5.2.1 Dimensions

The height and width of the human-readable key numbers shall be as specified in figure 4 and table 2. Note that the height of the first character is less than that of the others to allow for the reference mark specified in 5.2.2. The width of each human-readable character is left to the manufacturer's discretion, but it should be wide enough for good legibility, while still maintaining dimension  $F$ . A character height-to-width ratio of 14:10 and a space between characters of 2/14 of a character height is recommended.

#### 5.2.2 Reference mark

A zero-frame reference mark shall be printed between the first human-readable key number and the edge of the film, as shown in figure 1. This may be above or below the character, depending upon which of the possible orientations allowed in 5.2.6 is used. The zero-frame reference mark shall be a filled circle with a diameter as given by dimension  $B_3$  of table 2.

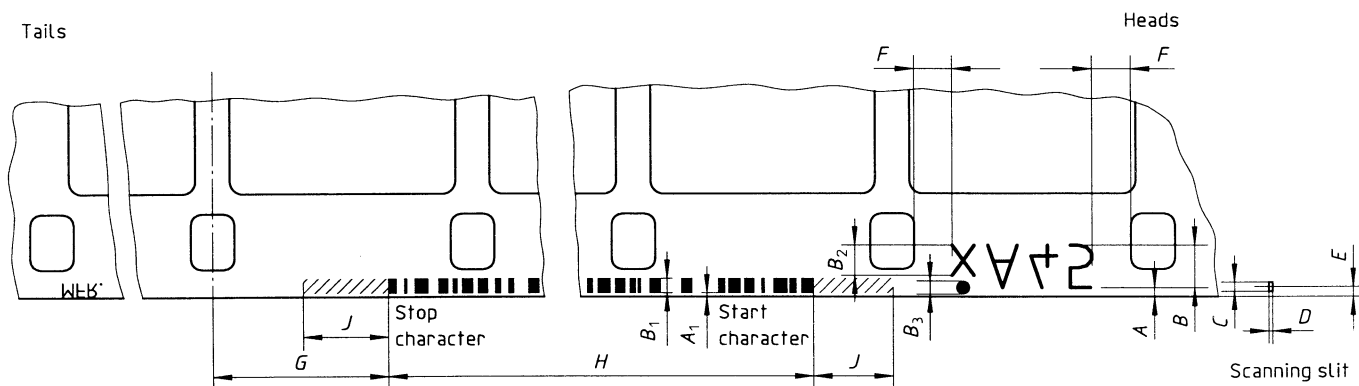


Figure 4 — Key number position and dimensions on 16 mm film

Table 2 — Key number dimensions on 16 mm film

Symbol in fig. 4	Parameter	Dimensions			
		Millimetres		Inches	
		nom.	tol.	nom.	tol.
A	Edge of film to bottom of characters	0,292	± 0,076	0,011 5	± 0,003 0
A <sub>1</sub>	Edge of film to bottom of bars	0,10	± 0,08	0,004	± 0,003
B	Height of characters	1,334	± 0,076	0,052 5	± 0,003 0
B <sub>1</sub>	Height of bars and manufacturer's information	0,478	± 0,076	0,018 8	± 0,003 0
B <sub>2</sub>	Height of first character	0,84 min. to 0,99 max.		0,033 min. to 0,039 max.	
B <sub>3</sub>	Height of zero-frame reference mark	0,46 min. to 0,61 max.		0,018 min. to 0,024 max.	
C	Scanning slit length	0,15	max.	0,006	max.
D	Scanning slit width	0,13	max.	0,005	max.
E	Edge of film to centreline of scanning slit	0,33	± 0,05	0,013	± 0,002
F	Key number to edge of perforation	0,76	min.	0,030	min.
G	Bar code displacement	4,78	± 0,51	0,188	± 0,020
H	Length of bar code	23,432	± 0,508	0,922 5	± 0,020 0
J	Quiet zone (no-print area)	2,54	min.	0,100	min.

### 5.2.3 Alignment with respect to perforations

The numbers shall be printed so that each of the three groups of four characters is centred between two perforations. To ensure visibility, the human-readable key numbers shall not be printed closer to the perforation than the distance specified as dimension *F* in figure 4 and table 2.

### 5.2.4 Frame identification

Since the key number is longer than one frame, the following rule shall be applied to frame identification.

- The frame immediately above the zero-frame reference mark is the one referenced by that key number. Other frames are specified by an offset which is written as an additional digit(s) separated from the key number by a plus sign. Figure 5 shows an example of this rule.



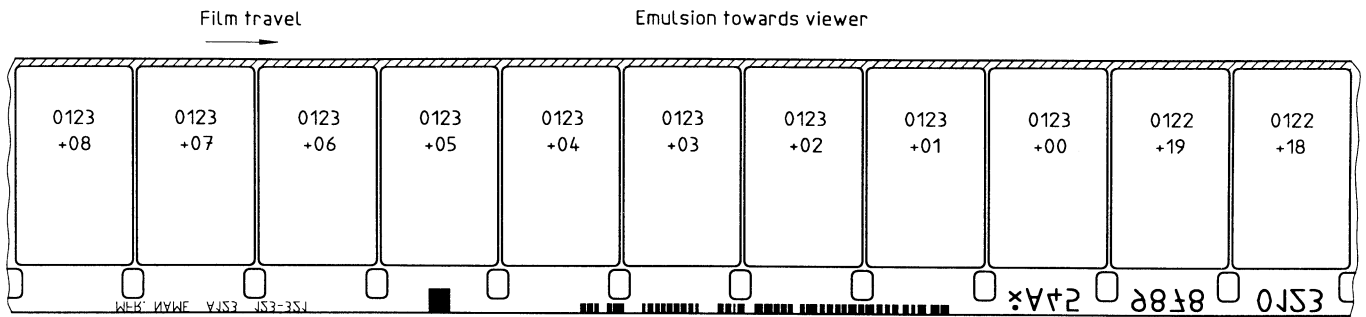


Figure 5 — Alignment of zero-frame reference mark on 16 mm film

### 5.2.5 Repeat frequency

The spacing from one key number to the next shall be 20 perforations.

### 5.2.6 Orientation

The key number may be placed in one of two orientations at the discretion of the film manufacturer. When the original negative film is held with the emulsion towards the viewer and the head towards the right, the numbers may be in either of the following orientations:

- right side up, reading from tail to head;
- upside down, reading from tail to head.

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In all cases, regardless of the orientation, the dot shall be above the trailing character (closest to the tail), as shown in figure 1. The human-readable key number shall precede the machine-readable key number, i.e. the human-readable key number shall be closer to the head of the roll.

## 5.3 Human-readable key number specifications applicable to 35 mm film only

### 5.3.1 Dimensions

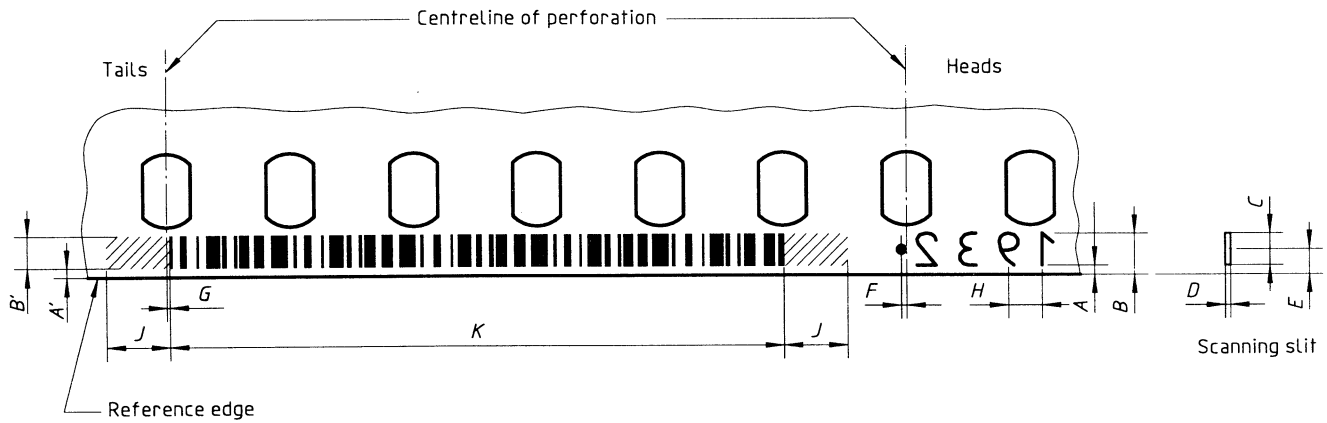
The height and width of the human-readable key numbers shall be as specified in figure 6 and table 3.

### 5.3.2 Reference mark

A zero-frame reference mark shall be printed adjacent to the digit of the human-readable key number that is closest to the tail of the film, as shown in figure 2. The zero frame reference mark shall be a filled circle with a diameter of 0,64 mm to 0,76 mm (0,025 in to 0,030 in).

### 5.3.3 Alignment with respect to perforations

The numbers shall be printed so that the centreline of the zero-frame reference mark is aligned with the centreline of a perforation, within the tolerance shown in figure 6 and table 3.



NOTE: This drawing shows emulsion towards the viewer. Normal film travel is from left to right.

**Figure 6 — Key number position and dimensions on 35 mm film**

**Table 3 — Key number dimensions on 35 mm film**

Symbol in fig. 6	Parameter	Dimensions			
		Millimetres		Inches	
		nom.	tol.	nom.	tol.
A	Edge of film to bottom of characters	0,23	± 0,13	0,009	± 0,005
A'	Edge of film to bottom of bars	0,23	+ 0,13 - 0,23	0,009	+ 0,005 - 0,009
B	Height of characters	1,52	± 0,10	0,060	± 0,004
B'	Height of bars	1,52	+ 0,25 - 0,10	0,060	+ 0,010 - 0,004
C	Scanning slit length	0,97	max.	0,038	max.
D	Scanning slit width	0,13	max.	0,005	max.
E	Edge of film to centreline of scanning slit	0,89	± 0,05	0,035	± 0,002
F	Zero-frame reference mark displacement	0,0	± 1,0	0,00	± 0,04
G	Bar code displacement	0,0	± 1,0	0,00	± 0,04
H	Character-to-character spacing	1,52	(nom.)	0,060	(nom.)
J	Quiet zone (no-print area)	2,54	min.	0,100	min.
K	Length of bar code	23,432	± 1,016	0,9225	± 0,0400

**5.3.4 Frame identification**

The alignment specified in 5.3.3 is intended to facilitate frame identification with a minimum of confusion, even though the picture frame may have one of several positions relative to the key number. The following rule shall be applied to frame identification.

- The frame immediately above the zero-frame reference mark is the one referenced by that key number. Other frames are specified by an offset which is written as an additional digit(s) separated from the key number by a plus sign. Figure 7 shows an example of this rule.

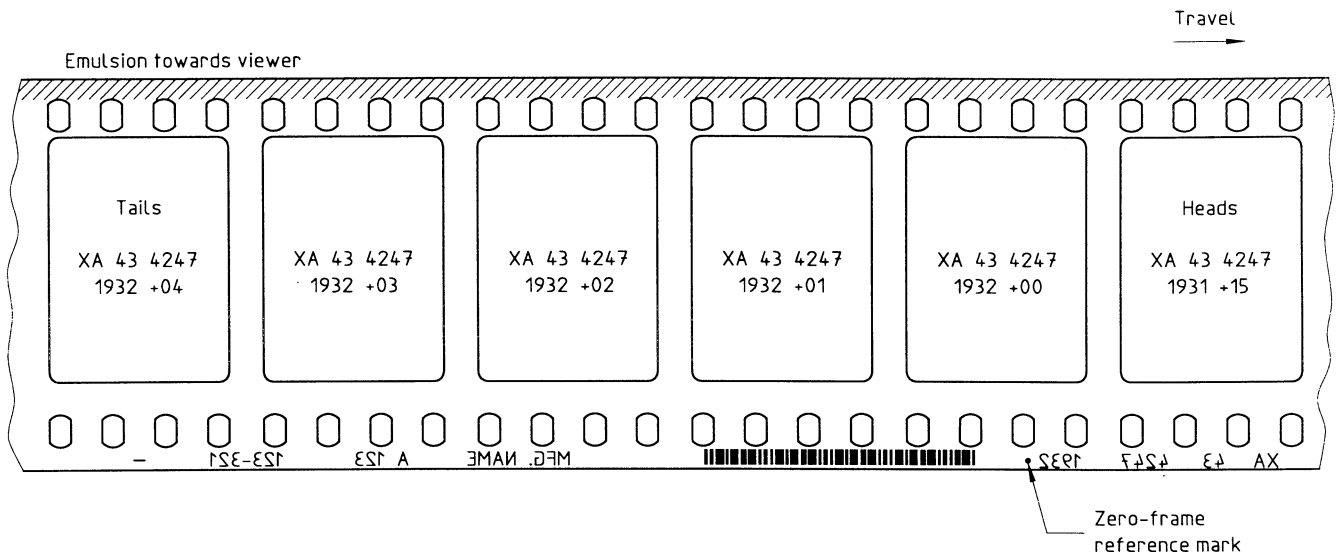


Figure 7 — Alignment of zero-frame reference mark on 35 mm film

### 5.3.5 Repeat frequency

The spacing from one key number to the next shall be 64 perforations.

### 5.3.6 Orientation

The number may be placed in one of several orientations at the discretion of the film manufacturer. When the original negative film is held with the emulsion towards the viewer and the head towards the right, the numbers may be in any one of the following orientations:

- right side up, reading from head to tail;
- upside down, reading from head to tail;
- right side up, reading from tail to head;
- upside down, reading from tail to head.

In all cases, regardless of the orientation, the dot shall be to the left (closer to the tail) and adjacent to the trailing (closest to the tail) character, as shown in figure 2. The human-readable key number shall precede the machine-readable key number, i.e. the human-readable key number shall be closer to the head of the roll.

### 5.3.7 Mid-foot key number

A mid-foot key number, as shown in figure 2, shall be placed halfway between each key number. The mid-foot key number shall have two parts: a mid-foot human-readable key number and a mid-foot machine-readable key number.

The mid-foot human-readable key number shall consist of a zero-frame reference mark, an adjacent key number that shall be nearer the head end of the roll, and an offset in perforations which shall always be 32. The mid-foot key number shall thus have the format "XA 12 3456 7890 + 32". The mid-foot key number shall have the same orientation as the standard human-readable key number (see 5.3.6). All characters shall be small in size (approximately half-size).

## 5.4 Human-readable key number specifications applicable to 65 mm film only

### 5.4.1 Dimensions

The height and width of the human-readable key numbers shall be as specified in figure 8 and table 4.