
**Identification cards — Recording
technique —**

**Part 2:
Magnetic stripe — Low coercivity**

*Cartes d'identification — Technique d'enregistrement —
Partie 2: Raie magnétique — Faible coercitivité*
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ISO/IEC 7811-2:2001

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Contents

1 Scope	1
2 Conformance	1
3 Normative references	1
4 Terms and definitions	2
5 Physical characteristics of the identification card	3
5.1 Magnetic stripe area warpage	3
5.2 Surface distortions	3
6 Physical characteristics of the magnetic stripe	4
6.1 Height and surface profile of the magnetic stripe area	4
6.1.1 Surface profile of the magnetic stripe area	5
6.1.2 Height of the magnetic stripe area	6
6.2 Surface roughness	7
6.3 Adhesion of stripe to card	7
6.4 Wear of magnetic stripe from read/write head	7
6.5 Resistance to chemicals	7
7 Performance characteristics for the magnetic material	7
7.1 General	7
7.2 Testing and operating environment	7
7.3 Signal amplitude requirements for magnetic media	7
8 Encoding technique	9
9 Encoding specification, general	10
9.1 Angle of recording	10
9.2 Nominal bit density	11
9.3 Signal amplitude requirements for tracks 1, 2 and 3	11
9.4 Bit configuration	11
9.5 Direction of recording	11
9.6 Leading and trailing zeroes	11
10 Encoding specifications	12

10.1	Alphanumeric track, track 1	12
10.1.1	Average bit density	12
10.1.2	Flux transition spacing variation.....	12
10.1.3	Coded character set	13
10.1.4	Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card	14
10.2	Numeric track, Track 2	15
10.2.1	Average bit density	15
10.2.2	Flux transition spacing variation.....	15
10.2.3	Coded character set	15
10.2.4	Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card	16
10.3	Numeric track, Track 3	16
10.3.1	Average bit density	16
10.3.2	Flux transition spacing variation.....	16
10.3.3	Coded character set	16
10.3.4	Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card	17
11	Error detection	17
11.1	Parity	17
11.2	Longitudinal redundancy check (LRC).....	17
12	Location of encoded tracks	18
Annex A	(informative) Read compatibility of magnetic stripes (ISO/IEC 7811-2 and ISO/IEC 7811-6).....	19
Annex B	(normative) Signal amplitude measurements	20
Annex C	(informative) Magnetic stripe abrasivity	21

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide 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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO/IEC 7811 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO/IEC 7811-2 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Identification cards and related devices*.

This third edition of ISO/IEC 7811-2 cancels and replaces ISO/IEC 7811-2:1995, ISO/IEC 7811-4:1995 and ISO/IEC 7811-5:1995. The user is encouraged to review the entire standard for revisions and updates. The major changes made during this revision are listed below.

1. The requirements given in ISO/IEC 7811-4:1995 and ISO/IEC 7811-5:1995 are included in this edition of ISO/IEC 7811-2.
2. Wherever possible the same definitions, criteria and test methods have been used for both Part 2 and Part 6.
3. Revised the bandpass filter requirements for the test method.

ISO/IEC 7811 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Identification cards — Recording technique*:

- *Part 1: Embossing*
- *Part 2: Magnetic stripe — Low coercivity*
- *Part 6: Magnetic stripe — High coercivity*

Annex B forms a normative part of this part of ISO/IEC 7811. Annexes A and C are for information only.

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Identification cards — Recording technique —

Part 2: Magnetic stripe — Low coercivity

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 7811 is one of a series of standards describing the characteristics for identification cards as defined in the definitions clause and the use of such cards for international interchange.

This part of ISO/IEC 7811 specifies requirements for a low coercivity magnetic stripe (including any protective overlay) on an identification card, the encoding technique and coded character sets. It takes into consideration both human and machine aspects and states minimum requirements.

Coercivity influences many of the quantities specified in this part of ISO/IEC 7811 but is not itself specified. Exposure of the card to a magnetic field is likely to destroy the recorded data.

It is the purpose of this series of standards to provide criteria to which cards shall perform. No consideration is given within these standards to the amount of use, if any, experienced by the card prior to test. Failure to conform to specified criteria should be negotiated between the involved parties.

ISO/IEC 10373-2 specifies the test procedures used to check cards against the parameters specified in this part of ISO/IEC 7811.

NOTE Numeric values in the SI and/or Imperial measurement system in this part of ISO/IEC 7811 may have been rounded off and therefore are consistent with, but not exactly equal to, each other. Either system may be used, but the two should not be intermixed or reconverted. The original design was made using the Imperial measurement system.

2 Conformance

A prerequisite for conformance with this part of ISO/IEC 7811 is conformance with ISO/IEC 7810. An identification card is in conformance with this part of ISO/IEC 7811 if it meets all mandatory requirements specified herein. Default values apply if no others are specified.

3 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO/IEC 7811. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of ISO/IEC 7811 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 4287, *Geometrical Product Specifications (GPS) — Surface texture: Profile method — Terms, definitions and surface texture parameters*.

ISO/IEC 7810, *Identification cards — Physical characteristics*.

ISO/IEC 10373-1, *Identification cards — Test methods — Part 1: General characteristics tests*.

ISO/IEC 10373-2, *Identification cards — Test methods — Part 2: Cards with magnetic stripes*.

4 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO/IEC 7811, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 7810 and the following apply.

4.1

primary standard

set of reference cards established and maintained by Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) that represent the values of U_R and I_R designated RM7811-2

4.2

secondary standard

reference card designated RM7811-2 that is related to the primary standard as stated in the calibration certificate supplied with each card

NOTE Secondary standards can be ordered from Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), FLab. 2.24 - Bundesallee 100, D-38116 Braunschweig, Germany. The source of secondary standards will be maintained at least until 2005.

4.3

unused un-encoded card

card possessing all the components required for its intended purpose, which has not been subjected to any personalization or testing operation, and which has been stored in a clean environment with no more than 48 hour exposure to daylight at temperatures between 5 °C to 30 °C and humidity between 10% to 90% without experiencing thermal shock

4.4

unused encoded card

card according to 4.3 that has only been encoded with all the data required for its intended purpose (e.g. magnetic encoding, embossing, electronic encoding)

4.5

returned card

card according to 4.4 after it has been issued to the card holder and returned for the purpose of testing

4.6

flux transition

location of the greatest rate of change with distance of the magnetisation

4.7

reference current

I_R

minimum recorded current amplitude under the given test conditions that causes, on the reference card, a readback signal amplitude equal to 80% of the reference signal amplitude U_R , at a density of 8 flux transitions per millimetre (200 flux transitions per inch) as shown in Figure 6

4.8

reference flux level

F_R

flux level in the test head that corresponds to the reference current I_R

4.9

test recording currents

two recording currents defined by:

I_{\min} = Recording current corresponding to 3,5 F_R

I_{\max} = Recording current corresponding to 5,0 F_R

4.10**individual signal amplitude** U_i

base-to-peak amplitude of a single readback voltage signal

4.11**average signal amplitude** U_A

sum of the absolute value of the amplitude of each signal peak (U_i) divided by the number of signal peaks (n) for a given track over the length of the magnetic stripe area

4.12**reference signal amplitude** U_R

maximum value of the average signal amplitude of a reference card corrected to the primary standard

4.13**physical recording density**

number of flux transitions per unit length recorded on a track

4.14**bit density**

number of data bits stored per unit of length (bits/mm or bpi)

4.15**bit cell**

distance between two clocking flux transitions. See Figure 10

4.16**sub interval**

distance that is nominally half of the distance between two clocking flux transitions. See Figure 10

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5 Physical characteristics of the identification card

The identification card shall conform to the specification given in ISO/IEC 7810.

WARNING --The attention of card issuers is drawn to the fact that information held on the magnetic stripe may be rendered ineffective through contamination by contact with dirt and certain commonly used chemicals including plasticizers. It should also be noted that any printing or screening placed on top of the magnetic stripe must not impair the function of the magnetic stripe.

5.1 Magnetic stripe area warpage

Application of a 2,2 N (0.5 lbf) load evenly distributed on the front face opposite the magnetic stripe shall bring the entire stripe within 0,08 mm (0.003 in) of the rigid plate.

5.2 Surface distortions

There shall be no surface distortions, irregularities or raised areas on both the front and the back of the card in the area shown in Figure 1 that might interfere with the contact between the magnetic head and magnetic stripe.

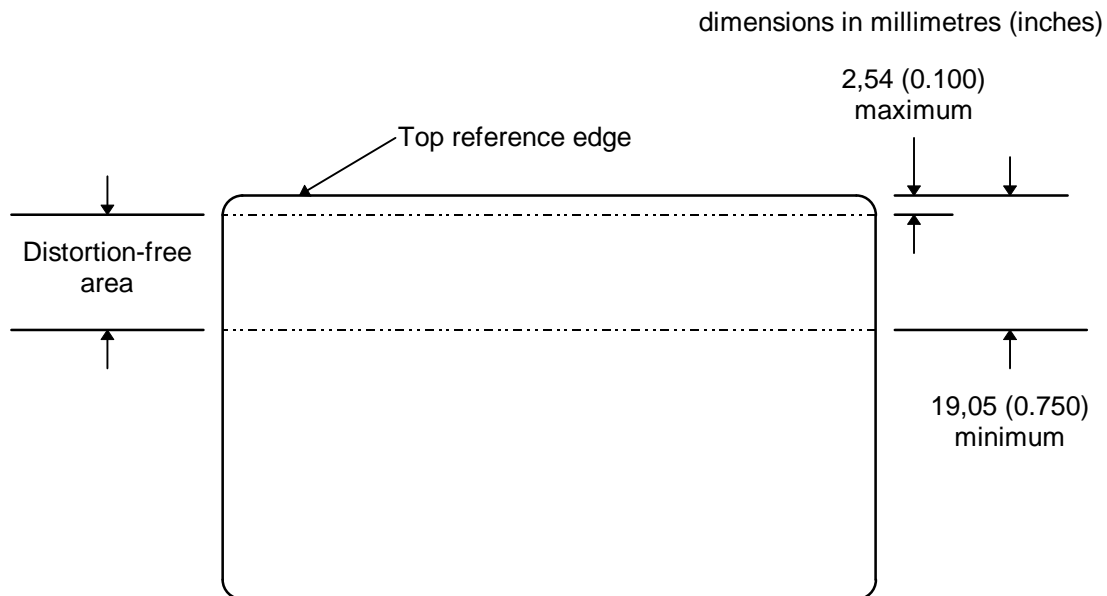


Figure 1 — Distortion-free area on card with magnetic stripe

If a raised signature panel area is located on the front or back of the card, then it shall be no closer to the top edge of the card than 19,05 mm (0.750 in).

NOTE Raised areas and distortions on other areas of the card may cause card transport problems with magnetic stripe processing equipment resulting in reading or writing errors.

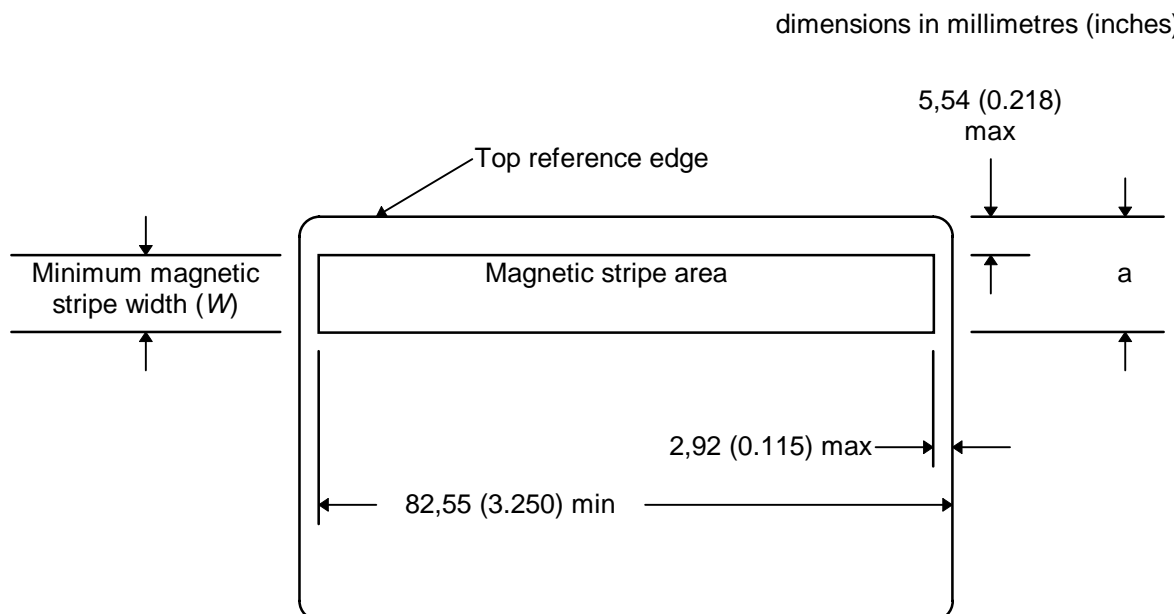
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6 Physical characteristics of the magnetic stripe

6.1 Height and surface profile of the magnetic stripe area

The magnetic stripe area is located on the back of the card as shown in Figure 2.



For use of tracks 1 and 2: $a = 11,89 (0.468) \text{ min}$

For use of tracks 1, 2, and 3: $a = 15,95 (0.628) \text{ min}$

NOTE In the case of the magnetic stripe area used for track 1 and 2, the dimension a as shown in Figure 2 of the magnetic media could be less than the maximum dimension b as shown in Figure 11 for the location of track 2 data on the card. It is desirable that the magnetic stripe area extend beyond the limits of the encoded track.

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Figure 2 — Location of magnetic material for ID-1 type card

[ISO/IEC 7811-2:2001](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/d6d8b23b-1788-4156-aad4-d48a137b8dde/iso-iec-7811-2-2001)

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6.1.1 Surface profile of the magnetic stripe area

The maximum vertical deviation (a) of the transverse surface profile of the magnetic stripe area is shown below. See Figures 3, 4, and 5. The slope of the surface profile curve shall be limited to: $-4a/W < \text{slope} < 4a/W$

When the bending stiffness value (see ISO/IEC 7810) for the card is 20 mm or more then the surface profile limits are:

Minimum stripe width	As shown in Figure 3A	As shown in Figure 3B
$W = 6,35 \text{ mm (0.25 in)}$	$a \leq 9,5 \mu\text{m (375 } \mu\text{in)}$	$a \leq 5,8 \mu\text{m (225 } \mu\text{in)}$
$W = 10,28 \text{ mm (0.405 in)}$	$a \leq 15,4 \mu\text{m (607 } \mu\text{in)}$	$a \leq 9,3 \mu\text{m (365 } \mu\text{in)}$

When the bending stiffness value (see ISO/IEC 7810) for the card is less than 20 mm then the surface profile limits are:

Minimum stripe width	As shown in Figure 3A	As shown in Figure 3B
$W = 6,35 \text{ mm (0.25 in)}$	$a \leq 7,3 \mu\text{m (288 } \mu\text{in)}$	$a \leq 4,5 \mu\text{m (175 } \mu\text{in)}$
$W = 10,28 \text{ mm (0.405 in)}$	$a \leq 11,7 \mu\text{m (466 } \mu\text{in)}$	$a \leq 7,3 \mu\text{m (284 } \mu\text{in)}$