



# SLOVENSKI STANDARD SIST ISO 9186-2:2009

01-april-2009

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SIST ISO 9186:2003

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Graphical symbols - Test methods - Part 2: Method for testing perceptual quality

## iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW

Symboles graphiques - Méthodes (d'essai - Partie 2: Méthode d'essai de la qualité perçue)

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**Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: ISO 9186-2:2008**

### ICS:

01.080.10 Simboli za javne informacije Public information symbols

**SIST ISO 9186-2:2009**

**en**

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**Graphical symbols — Test methods —  
Part 2:  
Method for testing perceptual quality**

*Symboles graphiques — Méthodes d'essai —  
Partie 2: Méthode d'essai de la qualité perçue*

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## ISO 9186-2:2008(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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

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

ISO 9186-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Public information symbols*.

This first edition of ISO 9186-2, together with ISO 9186-1, cancels and replaces ISO 9186:2001, which has been technically revised.

ISO 9186 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphical symbols — Test methods*:

- *Part 1: Methods for testing comprehensibility*
- *Part 2: Method for testing perceptual quality*

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## Introduction

In addition to being comprehensible, a graphical symbol should have sufficient perceptual quality to enable the eventual user population in a practical situation to identify its elements correctly. If the symbol's ultimate meaning is to be understood, it is essential that its elements be identifiable. As an example to clarify this concept of identifiability, consider Figure 1. A person who sees this “lost and found” symbol should be able to report that the symbol consists of a question mark, a glove and an umbrella. If, for example, the glove is seen as a hand, the symbol's identifiability is insufficient. On the other hand, the umbrella would be correctly identified by the description “triangle apex down with a curved line at the top”. Stated more generally, an element is considered to be identified correctly, if either an accurate, shape-wise description is given, or the object intended to be depicted is named.



**Figure 1 — Graphical symbol for the referent “lost and found” or “lost property”**

For designers of graphical symbols, ISO provides guidelines and requirements to support the realization of optimal perceptual quality, such as ISO 22727 and ISO 3864-3.

However, applying requirements and criteria can never guarantee an optimal design outcome. There may be times when there is a need to examine empirically key aspects of proposed graphical symbols. Such a need may arise, for example, during initial design in order to determine how elements within a symbol are identified when the symbol subtends a small visual angle (due to small symbol size and/or large viewing distance), or after comprehension testing has shown there to be difficulties in interpreting a symbol and it is desired to scrutinize the elements making up the symbol as an aid in generating improvements. This part of ISO 9186 describes a test method for assessing the identifiability of symbol elements. The core of this test method is to show a symbol to appropriately representative respondents and have them describe what they see. The respondents' task is to name the elements of the symbol's image content. This procedure will assist in locating those elements within a symbol that may be the source of difficulty.

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# Graphical symbols — Test methods —

## Part 2: Method for testing perceptual quality

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 9186 specifies a method for testing the perceptual quality of graphical symbols, to verify that the elements that constitute a graphical symbol are readily identifiable by the eventual user population.

### 2 Normative references

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

ISO 17724:2003, *Graphical symbols — Vocabulary*

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### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 17724 and the following apply.

#### 3.1

##### **identifiability**

property of a graphical symbol which enables its elements to be perceived as the objects or shapes depicted

#### 3.2

##### **graphical symbol**

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

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 31]

#### 3.3

##### **graphical symbol element**

part of a graphical symbol with a particular meaning

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 32]

#### 3.4

##### **image content**

written description of the elements of a graphical symbol and their relative disposition

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 38]

#### 3.5

##### **referent**

idea or object that a graphical symbol is intended to represent

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 61]

**ISO 9186-2:2008(E)****3.6****factor of distance***z*

relationship between the height (*h*) of a sign and the observation distance (*l*), used to determine observation distances of signs

$$z = l/h$$

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 28]

**3.7****visual acuity**

capacity for seeing distinctly fine details that have very small angular separation

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 82]

**3.8****visual angle**

angle subtended by two lines drawn from the eye of the observer to the two extremes of the longest axis of the symbol being viewed

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 83]

**3.9****corner marking**

part of a graphical symbol original, four of which define its corners

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 17]

**3.10****field of application**

context or sphere of activity in which a graphical symbol is to be used

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 29]

**3.11****comprehension test**

procedure for quantifying the degree of understanding of a proposed graphical symbol

[ISO 17724:2003, definition 14]

**4 Principle**

This test method is used to assess whether the perceptual quality of a graphical symbol enables the eventual user population to identify correctly the element(s) constituting the symbol. Respondents are instructed to name the elements of the symbol. The final outcome of the test is the percentage of the respondents who describe correctly *all* elements of the symbol (the “correct identification percentage”). The test uses two or more presentation sizes of the symbols, keeping all other conditions constant. With the larger presentation size, the test assesses whether the elements are at all identified as intended by the designer. The other smaller size(s) serve(s) to simulate the minimal subtended visual angle(s) at which the symbol should function properly when used. With the smaller size(s), the test assesses whether the symbol is identifiable when it subtends such a smaller visual angle.

NOTE 1 The terms and concepts used in this part of ISO 9186 are clarified in Annex A.

NOTE 2 The organization to which the graphical symbol is submitted as a proposal for standardization, such as ISO, CEN, national or industry standards bodies, will specify whether the graphical symbol has to obtain a particular correct identification percentage before it can be accepted for standardization, and, if so, what this percentage is.

## 5 Pre-test information

Before initiating a test programme, the test administrators shall ensure that the submitter of the graphical symbol has checked the information required by the relevant standards organization or industry organization to which the findings may have to be submitted when the graphical symbol is proposed for standardization.

The submitter of the symbol shall provide information which includes the following:

- the name and contact details of the organization to which the test findings are to be submitted;
- details of the information that is required from the submitter and test administrators by that organization;
- a completed application form for each symbol as required by the standards organization. Where the standards organization does not have a specified application form for the submission of graphical symbols for standardization, the submitter shall complete an application form for each symbol as required by the test administrators.

NOTE 1 Application forms for submission of public information symbols for standardization by ISO/TC 145/SC 1 are available on [www.iso.org/tc145/sc1](http://www.iso.org/tc145/sc1) or from the ISO/TC 145/SC 1 Secretary. Application forms for submission of symbols to be used on safety signs for standardization by ISO/TC 145/SC 2 are available on [www.iso.org/tc145/sc2](http://www.iso.org/tc145/sc2) or from the ISO/TC 145/SC 2 Secretary. Application forms for submission of symbols for use on equipment for standardization by ISO/TC 145/SC 3 are available on [www.iso.org/tc145/sc3](http://www.iso.org/tc145/sc3) or from the ISO/TC 145/SC 3 Secretary.

The following items should be provided in addition to the completed form:

- a) a description of the image content defining all elements of the symbol and their disposition;
- b) the minimum subtended visual angle(s) at which the symbol's elements should be identifiable. These values can be deduced from the symbol sizes and viewing distances expected to exist when the graphical symbol is in use;
- c) confirmation that the proposed graphical symbol has been designed in accordance with the relevant design principles, design requirements or design criteria;

NOTE 2 Design principles and design criteria for public information symbols for standardization in ISO 7001 are specified in ISO 22727; design principles and design criteria for safety signs for standardization in ISO 7010 are specified in ISO 3864-1 and ISO 3864-3.

- d) an EPS (or TIFF) computer file of the symbol as required by the standards organization.

## 6 Test method

### 6.1 Apparatus and test material

**6.1.1** The symbols shall be shown to respondents using a printed presentation, taking care that contrast and resolution of the printed material are adequate. If using an office printer, the resolution shall be at least 24 dots/mm (or 600 dots/inch).

**6.1.2** Symbols shall be presented to respondents in a vertical plane at a viewing distance of  $(2 \pm 0,04)$  m. The respondent's line of sight shall be  $(90 \pm 10)^\circ$  to the plane of the symbol. To ensure that this distance and the correct head position are maintained throughout the test, the respondent shall be instructed to adopt a comfortable sitting posture and to maintain this during the test.

A smaller viewing distance might be more practical but should be avoided because small, inevitable, head and body movements would have a relatively large effect on the actual viewing distance.