

Specification for

Paper tape for data processing —

**Part 4: General requirements for data
interchange on punched paper tape**

Co-operating organizations

The Data Processing Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives of the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:

Aslib
 British Computer Society*
 British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association
 British Federation of Master Printers*
 British Paper and Board Makers' Association*
 British Telecommunications Research Limited
 Business Equipment Trade Association*
 Civil Service Department*
 Committee of London Clearing Bankers
 Data-Processing Management Association
 Department of Trade and Industry — National Physical Laboratory*
 Department of Trade and Industry — Computer Advisory Service Technical Support Unit*
 Electricity Council, the Central Electricity Generating Board and the Area Boards in England and Wales
 Electronic Engineering Association*
 Engineering Equipment Users' Association
 Government Communications Headquarters*
 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
 Institute of Cost and Works Accountants
 Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (Incorporated)
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 London Transport Executive
 Ministry of Aviation Supply
 National Coal Board
 National Computing Centre Limited
 National Research Development Corporation
 Post Office*
 Society of British Aerospace Companies
 Technical Section of the British Paper and Board Makers' Association
 Telecommunication Engineering and Manufacturing Association
 Radio and Electronic Component Manufacturers' Federation

The Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:

Confederation of British Industry
 H.M. Stationery Office
 Ministry of Defence (Army Dept.)
 Research Association for the Paper and Board, Printing and Packaging Industries (PIRA)

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Foreword

This standard makes reference to the following standards publications:

BS 3880, *Paper tape for data processing*.

BS 3880-1, *Unpunched paper tape*.

BS 3880-2, *Dimensions and location of punched holes in paper tape*.

BS 3880-3, *Representation of codes on paper tape*.

BS 4730, *The United Kingdom 7-bit data code (ISO-7-UK)*.

ISO 1154, *Information processing — Punched paper tape — Dimensions and location of feed holes and code holes*.

ISO 1729, *Information of processing — Unpunched paper tape — Specification*.

ISO 2195, *Data interchange on rolled-up punched paper tape — General requirements*.

ISO 3692, *Information processing — Reels and cores for 25,4 mm (1 in) perforated paper tape for information interchange — Dimensions*.

Paper tape is one of the three main media for input and output in connection with computer installations and for the recording and storage of data. The group of standards under the general heading BS 3880, "*Paper tape for data processing*", sets out the specification in logical order, that is to say, according to the life of the tape from paper stock to the medium through which the data is transferred. The revision of the former standard, BS 3880:1965, was made necessary by the publication of further specifications and the information contained within this earlier standard is now separated into the relevant publications within the group under the general heading BS 3880, "*Paper tape for data processing*", and is in conformity with ISO 1154, ISO 1729 and ISO 2195. The parts of the standard in this group are as follows:

- 1) Part 1, "*Unpunched paper tape*", deals with the properties of the material, the methods of testing and the dimensions of the unpunched tape. The relatively small amount of information required by the paper converter to supply coils of unpunched tape ready for use, which formerly appeared in BS 3880:1965, has been included in Part 1 of the present edition of the standard so that all the requirements of the unpunched paper tape are embraced within this one document.
- 2) Part 2, "*Dimensions and location of punched holes in paper tape*", specifies both the dimensions of the punched holes at the time of punching, and the location of the feed holes with respect to the data holes and reference edge of the tape.
- 3) Part 3, "*Representation of codes on paper tape*", specifies the correspondence between the patterns of punched holes and the bit patterns by which characters are encoded.
- 4) This Part 4, "*General requirements for data interchange on punched paper tape*", specifies the handling and storage requirements to effect satisfactory interchange of data on punched paper tape.

This Part of this standard specifies a number of handling and operational procedures. It also gives guidance on storage and transportation. Thus clauses 2 to 7 are mandatory for interchange purposes and include the requirement for a minimum of 100 null characters in the trailer after the last data character; clauses 8 to 10, however, are not mandatory and are provided for the purpose of guidance only.

In the United Kingdom unpunched paper tape has for some years commonly been supplied on a plastics core. An important feature of this Part of this standard is that it specifies that punched paper tape for data interchange is wound on a suitable core. The primary function of a core is to facilitate the handling of tape during winding operations.

It should be noted that consideration was given to a standard tape spool but no single cheap spool could be found which would meet the conflicting requirements of low speed and high speed equipment. Furthermore it was found that to meet handling requirements a core was considered to be adequate.

As with the other Parts of the standard, this specification has been produced under the authority of the Data Processing Industry Standards Committee.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 6, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.