

Specification for

Magnetic six-disk packs for data processing —

Part 2: Track format

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- H.M. Stationery Office
- Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers
- Ministry of Defence (STAN 10)
- Radio and Electronic Component Manufacturers' Federation
- Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain
- United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

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Foreword

This British Standard has been published under the authority of the Data Processing Industry Standards Committee.

Work on magnetic disk packs began at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in June, 1968, with the setting up of a Working Group under the Secretariat of Germany. The first meeting of the Working Group took place in June, 1969, when it was quickly established that International Standards were desirable for a six-disk pack. Since that date, work on this standard has been carried out concurrently with the international discussions. It was realized that because of the rapid development taking place in the data processing industry, standardization on this initial project should be completed as quickly as possible.

This Part of the standard specifies a variable length track format for six-disk packs, detailing the patterns of magnetization on the disks to be used to record Data Blocks of variable length with or without the use of keys. The specified format is based on current practice; disk packs recorded according to this Part of the standard and also conforming to the requirements of Part 1 of this Standard may be used for data interchange.

It is the intention that future international work will be directed to the introduction of new format and labelling standards of more universal application, since limitations exist in the general use of the present standard for interchange. Use of binary code within 8-bit groups (bytes or octets) is specified for control characters (some groups are specified in hexadecimal notation for convenience), and information in key and Data Blocks is also specified in 8-bit bytes, using the UK 7-bit data code (see BS 4730 "*The United Kingdom 7-bit data code (ISO-7-UK)*") or, by agreement between the sender and the recipient, any 7-bit or 8-bit code structured in accordance with BS 4953 "*Code extension techniques for use with the United Kingdom 7-bit data code*". Use of binary code for control purposes avoids the need to modify existing equipment; most control functions are usually implemented by hardware. Since control information is visible to operating system software, such an arrangement may not prove to be suitable for a general format specification for interchange between dissimilar systems. However, any future changes are unlikely to be applied to six-disk systems.

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Summary of pages

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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.