

Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbology specifications — Code 39

ICS 35.040

National foreword

This British Standard reproduces verbatim ISO/IEC 16388:1999 and implements it as the UK national standard.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IST/34, Automatic Identification and Data Capture Techniques, which has the responsibility to:

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- present to the responsible international/European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
- monitor related international and European developments and promulgate them in the UK.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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The British Standards which implement international publications referred to in this document may be found in the BSI Standards Catalogue under the section entitled “International Standards Correspondence Index”, or by using the “Find” facility of the BSI Standards Electronic Catalogue.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the ISO/IEC title page, pages ii to iv, pages 1 to 13 and a back cover.

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**Information technology — Automatic
identification and data capture
techniques — Bar code symbology
specifications — Code 39**

*Technologies de l'information — Techniques automatiques d'identification
et de capture des données — Spécifications des symbologies des codes à
barres — Code 39*



Contents

1 Scope 1

2 Normative references 1

3 Definitions 1

4 Requirements 1

4.1 Symbology characteristics 1

4.2 Symbol structure 2

4.3 Character encodation 2

4.3.1 Symbol character encodation 2

4.3.2 Start and stop characters..... 4

4.3.3 Optional symbol check character 4

4.4 Dimensions..... 4

4.5 Reference decode algorithm 4

4.6 Application-defined parameters 6

4.6.1 Symbology and dimensional characteristics..... 6

4.6.2 Optical specifications..... 6

4.6.3 Test specifications..... 6

Annex A (informative) Additional features..... 8

Annex B (informative) Guidelines for the use of Code 39 11

Annex C (informative) Symbology identifier..... 12

Annex D (informative) Example of application-defined parameters 13

Foreword

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International Standard ISO/IEC 16388 was prepared by BSI and was adopted, under a special “fast-track procedure”, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, in parallel with its approval by national bodies of ISO and IEC.

Annexes A to D of this International Standard are for information only.

Introduction

The technology of bar coding is based on the recognition of patterns encoded in bars and spaces of defined dimensions. There is a number of methods of encoding information in bar code form, known as symbologies, and the rules defining the translation of characters into bar and space patterns and other essential features are known as the symbology specification. Code 39 is one such symbology.

Previously, symbology specifications have been developed and published by a number of organizations, resulting in certain instances in conflicting requirements for certain symbologies.

Manufacturers of bar code equipment and users of bar code technology require publicly available standard symbology specifications to which they can refer when developing equipment and application standards.