BS ISO/IEC 16388:2023

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# Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Code 39 bar code symbology specification

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# National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO/IEC 16388:2023. It supersedes BS ISO/IEC 16388:2007, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IST/34, Automatic identification and data capture techniques.

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

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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Third edition
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# Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Code 39 bar code symbology specification

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

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# Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 16388:2007), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— the grading of parameter “Inter character gap” in 4.6.2.2 has been corrected;

— a NOTE has been added below Table A.2 about possible alternate representation of a minus sign, a period or the numbers 0 to 9 by character pairs.

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# Introduction

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

In the past, symbology specifications were 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.

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