

Implementation of
ISO/IEC 4873:1991

**Information
technology —
ISO 8-bit code for
information
interchange —
Structure and rules for
implementation**

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Information Systems Technology Standards Policy Committee (IST/-) to Technical Committee IST/2, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Computer Society
- British Federation of Printing Machinery and Supplies Ltd.
- British Telecommunications plc
- Digital Equipment Co Ltd.
- IBM United Kingdom Ltd.
- Information and Communications Industry Association
- Institution of Electrical Engineers
- International Computers Limited
- Philips Research Laboratories
- Coopted members

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Information Systems Technology Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 28 February 1992

© BSI 01-2000

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference IST/2
Draft for comment 90/62173 DC

ISBN 0 580 20671 8

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
National foreword	ii
Foreword	iv
Text of ISO/IEC 4873	1

National foreword

This British Standard reproduces verbatim ISO/IEC 4873:1991 and implements it as the UK national standard.

This British Standard is published under the direction of the Information Systems Technology Standards Policy Committee whose Technical Committee IST/2 has the responsibility to:

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

NOTE International and European Standards, as well as overseas standards, are available from BSI Sales Department, BSI, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes, MK14 6LE.

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.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, the ISO/IEC title page, pages ii to iv, pages 1 to 14 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.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC
4873

Third edition
1991-12-15

Information technology — ISO 8-bit code for information interchange — Structure and rules for implementation

*Technologies de l'information — Code ISO à 8 éléments pour l'échange
d'informations — Structure et règles de matérialisation*



Reference number
ISO/IEC 4873:1991(E)

Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
1 Scope	1
2 Conformance and implementation	1
2.1 Conformance	1
2.1.1 Conformance of information interchange	1
2.1.2 Conformance of devices	1
2.2 Implementation	1
3 Normative references	1
4 Definitions	2
4.1 active position	2
4.2 bit combination	2
4.3 byte	2
4.4 character	2
4.5 character position	2
4.6 coded-character-data-element (CC-data-element)	2
4.7 coded character set	2
4.8 code extension	2
4.9 code table	2
4.10 control character	2
4.11 control function	2
4.12 device	2
4.13 escape sequence	2
4.14 Final Byte	2
4.15 graphic character	2
4.16 graphic symbol	3
4.17 repertoire	3
4.18 user	3
5 Notation, code table and names	3
5.1 Notation	3
5.2 Code table	3
5.3 Names	3
6 Structure of the 8-bit code	3
6.1 Elements of the 8-bit code	3
6.2 Identification of the elements of the 8-bit code	4
6.3 Invocation	4
6.3.1 C0 set 5	4
6.3.2 Character SPACE	4
6.3.3 G0 set	4
6.3.4 Character DELETE	4
6.3.5 C1 set 5	4
6.3.6 G1 set	4
6.3.7 G2 set	4
6.3.8 G3 set	4
7 Specification of the characters of the 8-bit code	4
7.1 C0 set	4
7.2 Character ESCAPE	4
7.3 Character SPACE	4
7.4 G0 set	4
7.5 Character DELETE	6
7.6 C1 set	6

	Page
7.7 G1 set	7
7.8 G2 set	7
7.9 G3 set	7
7.10 Summary of the specification of the 8-bit code	7
8 Levels	7
8.1 Level 1	7
8.2 Level 2	7
8.3 Level 3	8
9 Version of the 8-bit code	8
9.1 Contents of a version	8
9.2 Unique coding of characters	8
10 Identification of version and level	8
10.1 Purpose and context of identification	8
10.2 Identification of level	8
10.3 Identification of a version	8
10.4 Switching from one version to another	9
10.5 Switching from one level to another	9
Annex A (normative) Restrictions applicable to the C0 and C1 sets	13
Annex B (informative) Shift functions	13
Annex C (informative) Composite graphic characters	13
Annex D (informative) Use of bit combinations 00/14 and 00/15	14
Annex E (informative) Main differences between the 2nd edition (1986) and the present (third) edition of this International Standard	14
Figure 1 — Elements of the 8-bit code	10
Figure 2 — Level 1	11
Figure 3 — Level 2	11
Figure 4 — Level 3	12
Table 1 — ESCAPE	4
Table 2 — SPACE	4
Table 3 — Graphic characters of the G0 set	5
Table 4 — DELETE	6

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO/IEC 4873 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 4873:1986), which has been technically revised.

Annex A forms an integral part of this International Standard. Annex B, Annex C, Annex D and Annex E are for information only.