

**Implementation of
ISO/IEC 646:1991**

**Information
technology —
ISO 7-bit coded
character set for
information
interchange**

UDC 681.3.04:681.327.1

NO COPYING WITHOUT BSI PERMISSION EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW



Document Sharing Hub

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 10-1999

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference IST/2
Draft for comment 90/62175 DC

ISBN 0 580 20672 6

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments
7619	February 1993	Indicated by a sideline in the margin

Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
National foreword	ii
Foreword	iv
Text of ISO/IEC 646	1

National foreword

This British Standard reproduces verbatim ISO/IEC 646:1991 and implements it as the base standard from which the UK national version of the code is derived (see BS 4730:1993 *Specification for UK 7-bit coded character set*).

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
646

Third edition
1991-12-15

Information technology — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange

*Technologies de l'information — Jeu ISO de caractères codés à 7
éléments pour l'échange d'informations*



Reference number
ISO/IEC 646:1991(E)



Documents

Document Sharing Hub

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	2
4 Definitions	2
4.1 active position	2
4.2 bit combination	2
4.3 character	2
4.4 character position	2
4.5 coded character set	2
4.6 coded-character-data-element (CC-data-element)	2
4.7 code extension	2
4.8 code table	2
4.9 control character	3
4.10 control function	3
4.11 device	3
4.12 escape sequence	3
4.13 Final byte	3
4.14 graphic character	3
4.15 graphic symbol	3
4.16 repertoire	3
4.17 user	3
5 Notation, code table and names	3
5.1 Notation	3
5.2 Code table	4
5.3 Names	4
6 Specification of the coded character set	4
6.1 Structure	4
6.2 Control characters	5
6.3 Character SPACE	5
6.4 Graphic characters	5
6.4.1 Unique graphic character allocations	5
6.4.2 Alternative graphic character allocations	7
6.4.3 National or application-oriented graphic character allocations	8
6.5 Character DELETE	8
7 Composite graphic characters	8
8 Versions of the coded character set	8
8.1 General	8
8.2 International Reference Version (IRV)	9
8.3 National versions	9
8.4 Application-oriented versions	9
9 Identification of versions	10
9.1 Purpose and context of identification	10
9.2 Identification of a version	10
10 Explanation of Code Table 4 and Table 5	10

	Page
Annex A (normative) Specification of the C0 set	13
Annex B (informative) Guidelines for standards derived from ISO/IEC 646	14
Annex C (informative) Differences between the second edition (1983) and the present (third) edition of this International Standard	14
Figure 1 — Structure of the 7-bit coded character set	5
Table 1 — Unique graphic character allocations	6
Table 2 — Alternative graphic character allocations	8
Table 3 — IRV graphic character allocations	9
Table 4 — Basic code table	11
Table 5 — Version with the G0 set of the IRV	12
Table A.1 — C0 set of ISO/IEC 6429	13

Descriptors: Data processing, information interchange, character sets, coded character sets, ISO seven-bit codes, control characters, graphic characters.

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

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 646:1983) which has been technically revised.

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