
**Graphical symbols — Test methods —
Part 3:
Method for testing symbol referent
association**

Symboles graphiques — Méthodes d'essai —

Partie 3: Méthode pour les essais de reconnaissabilité des symboles





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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*

ISO 9186 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphical symbols — Test methods*:

- *Part 1: Method for testing comprehensibility*
- *Part 2: Method for testing perceptual quality*
- *Part 3: Method for testing symbol referent association*

Introduction

The reason for the publication of this International Standard is the increasing use of non-verbal presentation of information.

Continued growth of international trade requires graphical symbols to be understood. This part of ISO 9186 specifies a method for assessing the referent association of graphical symbols by familiarizing people with a set of specialized referents and then testing what proportion of those people can associate a particular graphical symbol with its referent.

ISO 9186-1 specifies a method of testing what proportion of people can comprehend a graphical symbol correctly.

ISO 9186-2 specifies a method of testing how well people can identify the elements which make up a graphical symbol.

This part of ISO 9186 specifies a method of familiarizing people with a set of specialized referents and then testing what proportion of those people can associate a graphical symbol with its referent

Graphical symbols — Test methods —

Part 3: Method for testing symbol referent association

1 Scope

This part of ISO 9186 specifies a method for testing the referent association of graphical symbols intended to communicate information to users who are familiar with what the symbol is intended to denote or represent (the referent). The referents can be specialized, so that the general public cannot be expected to be familiar with them without familiarity training. The intention is to develop graphical symbols which are correctly recognized by users familiar with the referents when no supplementary (i.e. explanatory) text is presented. When such a graphical symbol cannot be obtained, it might be necessary to present a graphical symbol together with supplementary text explaining its meaning in the language of the intended users.

NOTE 1 Alternatively, it could be necessary to inform people about the meaning of the graphical symbol by including its meaning in manuals, instructions, or training.

NOTE 2 ISO 9186-1 specifies a method for testing the comprehensibility of graphical symbols. ISO 9186-2 specifies a method for testing the perceptual quality of graphical symbols, the extent to which the elements of the graphical symbol can be correctly identified.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 9241-302, *Ergonomics of human-system interaction — Part 302: Terminology for electronic visual displays*

ISO 9241-400, *Ergonomics of human-system interaction — Part 400: Principles and requirements for physical input devices*

ISO 9241-5, *Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs) — Part 5: Workstation layout and postural requirements*

ISO 9241-12, *Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs) — Part 12: Presentation of information*

ISO 17724, *Graphical symbols — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 17724 and the following apply.

3.1

comprehension test

procedure for quantifying the degree of understanding of a proposed graphical symbol