

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC 1863

Second edition
1990-05-01

**Information processing — 9-track, 12,7 mm
(0,5 in) wide magnetic tape for information
interchange using NRZ1 at 32 ftpmm (800 ftpi) —
32 cpmm (800 cpi)**

*Traitement de l'information — Bande magnétique à 9 pistes de 12,7 mm (0,5 in) de
large, pour l'échange d'information, employant NRZ1 à 32 ftpmm (800 ftpi) —
32 cpmm (800 cpi)*



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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 1863 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 1863 : 1976), which has been technically revised.

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

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Information processing — 9-track, 12,7 mm (0,5 in) wide magnetic tape for information interchange using NRZ1 at 32 ftpmm (800 ftpi) — 32 cpmm (800 cpi)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a format and recording standard for 9-track, 12,7 mm (0,5 in) magnetic tape to be used for data interchange between information processing systems, communication systems, and associated equipment utilizing the 7-bit coded character set (see ISO 646), its extension in ISO 2022 where required, and the 8-bit coded character set (see ISO 4873). Magnetic labelling for use on magnetic tape is the subject of ISO 1001. The magnetic tape and reel to be used shall conform to ISO 1864 and/or ISO 8064.

NOTE — Numeric values in the SI and/or Imperial measurement system in this International Standard may have been rounded off and therefore are consistent with, but not exactly equal to, each other. Either system may be used, but the two should be neither intermixed nor reconverted. The original design was made using the Imperial measurement system.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 646 : 1983, *Information processing — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*.

ISO 1001 : 1986, *Information processing — File structure and labelling of magnetic tapes for information interchange*.

ISO 1864 : 1985, *Information processing — Unrecorded 12,7 mm (0,5 in) wide magnetic tape for information interchange — 32 ftpmm (800 ftpi) NRZ1, 126 ftpmm (3 200 ftpi) phase encoded and 356 ftpmm (9 042 ftpi), NRZ1*.

ISO 2022 : 1986, *Information processing — ISO 7-bit and 8-bit coded character sets — Coded extension techniques*.

ISO 4873 : 1986, *Information processing — ISO 8-bit code for information interchange — Structure and rules for implementation*.

ISO 8064 : 1985, *Information processing — Reels for 12,7 mm (0,5 in) wide magnetic tapes — Sizes 16, 18 and 22*.

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

3.1 magnetic tape: A tape which will accept and retain magnetic signals intended for input, output and storage purposes on computers and associated equipment.

3.2 reference tape: A tape which has been selected for given properties for use in calibration.

3.3 Master Standard Reference Tape: A reference tape selected as a standard for signal amplitude.

NOTE — A Master Standard Reference Tape has been established by the US National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST).

3.4 Secondary Standard Reference Tape: A tape the performance of which is known and stated in relation to that of the Master Standard Reference Tape.

NOTE — Secondary Standard Reference Tapes are available from NIST (Office of Standard Reference Materials, Room B 311, Chemistry Building, NIST, Gaithersburg, Md 20899, USA) under part number SRM 3200.

It is intended that these be used for calibration of tertiary tapes for use in routine calibration.

3.5 Typical Field: In the plot of Average Signal Amplitude against recording field at the specified flux transition density, the Typical Field is the minimum field that causes an average Signal Amplitude equal to 95 % of the Maximum Average Signal Amplitude.

3.6 Reference Field: The Typical Field of the Master Standard Reference Tape at the specified recording density.

3.7 Standard Reference Amplitude: The average peak-to-peak signal amplitude derived from the Master Standard Reference Tape on the NIST measurement system under the recording conditions specified in 5.6.1.

3.8 reference edge: The edge further from an observer when a tape is lying flat with the magnetic surface uppermost and the direction of movement for recording is from left to right.

3.9 in contact: An operating condition in which the magnetic surface of a tape is in contact with a magnetic head.

3.10 track: A longitudinal area on the tape along which a series of magnetic signals may be recorded.

3.11 row: Nine transversely related locations (one in each track) in which bits are recorded.

3.12 physical recording density: The number of recorded flux transitions per unit length of track [ftpm (ftpi)].

3.13 data density: The number of data characters stored per unit length of tape [cpmm (cpi)].

3.14 skew: Within a row, the maximum displacement of any location from any other location measured as the distance between two perpendiculars to the reference edge through said locations.

4 General requirements

4.1 Operating environment

Tapes used for data interchange shall be operated under the following conditions:

- temperature: 16 °C to 32 °C (60 °F to 90 °F);
- relative humidity: 20 % to 80 %;
- wet bulb temperature: not greater than 25 °C (78 °F).

Conditioning before operating: If a tape has been exposed during storage and/or transportation to conditions outside the above values, it should be conditioned for a period of 2 h to 12 h depending upon the extent of exposure.

4.2 Storage and transportation

The recommendations for storage and transportation environment are specified in annex C.

Responsibility for ensuring that adequate precautions against damage are taken during shipment shall be with the sender (see annex C).

4.3 Wind tension

For interchange, the tape winding tension shall be between 2,0 N and 3,6 N (7 ozf to 13 ozf).

5 Recording

5.1 Method of recording

The "non return to zero change-on-ones recording" (NRZ1) method of recording shall be used where a ONE is represented by a change of direction of longitudinal magnetization.

5.2 Density of recording

The nominal density shall be designated by 32 ftpmm (800 ftpi). The actual density shall be 31,5 ftpmm (800 ftpi). The resulting nominal flux transition spacing is 31,75 µm (1 250 µin).

5.3 Average flux transition spacing

The average flux transition spacing shall be within $\pm 3\%$ of 31,75 µm (1 250 µin). This average shall be measured over a minimum of $1,2 \times 10^5$ successive flux transitions, at the extremes of operating conditions, by reading a tape that has been continuously and evenly recorded at 31,5 ftpmm (800 ftpi) in phase in all tracks.

5.4 Instantaneous flux transition spacing

The instantaneous spacing between flux transitions may be influenced by the reading and writing processes, the pattern recorded (pulse crowding effects) and other factors. Measurements are taken from leading edge to leading edge of flux transitions.

The following conditions shall all be met.

- a) The spacing between the first detected bits of successive rows shall be greater than 22,9 µm (900 µin);
- b) The spacing between the first detected bit and the last detected bit of a row shall be less than 10,8 µm (425 µin);
- c) There shall be a minimum apparent spacing between any bits of successive rows of 11,2 µm (440 µin).

5.5 Static skew

The static skew shall be less than 3,81 µm (150 µin). This condition is required to be satisfied for both flux transition polarities.

5.6 Signal amplitude

5.6.1 Standard Reference Amplitude

The Standard Reference Amplitude is the average peak-to-peak signal amplitude derived from the Master Standard Reference Tape on the qualified measurement system at the density of 32 ftpmm (800 ftpi) and the recording current I_r of $2,1 \times I_f$.

The signal amplitude shall be averaged over 4 000 flux transitions, and shall be measured on the read-while-write pass. The reference current I_f is the minimum current which produces the Reference Field.

5.6.2 Average signal amplitude

The average peak-to-peak output signal amplitude of an interchanged tape at 32 ftpmm (800 ftpi) shall be between 70 % and 115 % of the Standard Reference Amplitude.

Averaging shall be done over a minimum of 4 000 flux transitions which, for the interchange tape, may be segmented into blocks. Averaging shall be done on the first read pass after interchange.

5.6.3 Maximum signal amplitude

An interchanged tape shall contain no flux transition the base-to-peak signal amplitude of which exceeds 120 % of one-half the Standard Reference Amplitude on the first read pass after interchange.