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Information technology — Designation of unrecorded flexible disk cartridges

*Technologies de l'information — Désignation des cartouches à disquettes
vierges*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrical Commission) form the specialized system for world-wide 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 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 9983 was prepared by the European Computer Manufacturers Association (as Standard ECMA-124) and was adopted, under a special “fast-track procedure”, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, in parallel with its approval by national bodies of ISO and IEC.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 9983:1989), which has been technically revised.

Annex A of this International Standard is for information only.

Introduction

Since the beginning of their activity in the field of standardization of flexible disk cartridges ISO has issued standards for such cartridges of three different sizes, viz. 200 mm (8 in), 130 mm (5,25 in) and 90 mm (3,5 in). It can be foreseen that in not too distant a future further smaller sizes may be considered.

Some of these cartridges, whilst having the same size, do not have the same magnetic characteristics and, therefore, should be used only with the physical recording density and the number of tracks for which they have been designed.

In practice, however, they are offered commercially to end users in packages bearing indications (e.g. 1D, DD, HD, etc.) which are clear for those skilled in the art but quite obscure to the average buyer. As a consequence it was necessary to arrive at a consensus on type designation to be used nationally and internationally. Investigations have shown that manufacturers of flexible disk cartridges are willing to print the proposed designation in addition to the presently used identifiers which would remain during a transition period. The proposed designation is explicit in that it specifies not only a type, but also minimum information indicating the main parameters as well.

In the interests of users it is desirable that the scheme described be implemented now and as a whole. However, as the suppliers of flexible disk cartridges, drives and systems have already developed their own designations for cartridges, and their own procedures for marking packages, it would be expensive to implement the whole scheme immediately. It is expected that suppliers will introduce the specified marking of cartridges and packages, and the references in manuals, as soon as the re-ordering of cases, packaging and printing makes this economically possible.