
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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**Alphanumeric character sets for optical recognition —
Part I : Character set OCR-A — Shapes and dimensions
of the printed image**

*Jeux alphanumériques de caractères pour la reconnaissance optique — Partie I : Jeu de caractères ROC-A —
Formes et cotes de l'image imprimée*

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Technical Committees are circulated to the Member Bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 1073/I was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 97, *Computers and information processing*, and was circulated to the Member Bodies in May 1975.

It has been approved by the Member Bodies of the following countries :

Belgium	Japan	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	United Kingdom
France	New Zealand	U.S.A.
Germany	Romania	Yugoslavia
Hungary	South Africa, Rep. of	
Italy	Switzerland	

The Member Body of the following country expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

Brazil

This International Standard, together with ISO 1073/II, cancels and replaces ISO Recommendation R 1073-1969.

Alphanumeric character sets for optical recognition – Part I : Character set OCR-A – Shapes and dimensions of the printed image

1 GENERAL

1.1 Scope

This International Standard for character shapes and sizes is intended to facilitate and foster the use of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) in data processing, by defining character shapes suitable for both human and machine reading.

It establishes a common basis for printing equipment and optical scanning equipment for OCR interchange applications.

Additional International Standards will cover the print quality and the relevant characteristics of the formats needed to satisfy interchange requirements.

1.2 Field of application

This International Standard specifies the printed image shapes and sizes of alphanumeric characters, graphics and symbols designed for use in Optical Character Recognition. They are also suitable for general purposes.

In order to satisfy present requirements and encourage the wide extension of OCR applications, two sets of characters are specified. These are named OCR-A and OCR-B.

Character set OCR-A includes the numeric sub-set which was recommended in draft ISO Recommendation No. 890 (now part of this International Standard). The shapes of the characters have been designed to be suitable for use in many applications of OCR. Dimensions of OCR-A are given in three sizes.

The shapes of the OCR-B characters have been designed for use in OCR systems without undue sacrifice of their suitability for general purposes in a wide range of applications. Dimensions of OCR-B are given in three sizes. (See part II.)