INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC
16388

First edition
1999-10-15

Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbology specifications — Code 39

Technologies de l'information — Techniques automatiques d'identification et de capture des données — Spécifications des symbologies des codes à barres — Code 39

ISO/IEC 16388:1999(E)

Contents

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO/IEC 16388 was prepared by BSI 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.

Annexes A to D of this International Standard are for information only.

Introduction

The technology of bar coding is based on the recognition of patterns encoded in bars and spaces of defined dimensions. There is a number of methods of encoding information in bar code form, known as symbologies, and the rules defining the translation of characters into bar and space patterns and other essential features are known as the symbology specification. Code 39 is one such symbology.

Previously, symbology specifications have been developed and published by a number of organizations, resulting in certain instances in conflicting requirements for certain symbologies.

Manufacturers of bar code equipment and users of bar code technology require publicly available standard symbology specifications to which they can refer when developing equipment and application standards.

Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbology specifications — Code 39

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements for the bar code symbology known as Code 39; it specifies Code 39 symbology characteristics, data character encodation, dimensions, tolerances, decoding algorithms and application-defined parameters.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

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

ISO 7064:1983, *Data processing — Check character systems.*

ISO/IEC 15416, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code print quality test specification — Linear symbols.*

ISO/IEC 15424, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Data carrier/symbology identifiers.*

EN 1556:1997, *Bar Coding — Terminology.*