

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Quantities and units –
Part 13: Information science and technology**

**Grandeurs et unités –
Partie 13: Science et technologies de l'information**



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

QUANTITIES AND UNITS –

Part 13: Information science and technology

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 80000-13 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 25: Quantities and units, and their letter symbols.

This standard cancels and replaces subclauses 3.8 and 3.9 of IEC 60027-2:2005.

The only significant change is the addition of explicit definitions for some quantities.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
25/371/FDIS	25/377/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

IEC 80000 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Quantities and units*:

Part 6: *Electromagnetism*

Part 13: *Information science and technology*

Part 14: *Telebiometrics related to human physiology*

The following parts are published by ISO:

Part 1: *General*

Part 2: *Mathematical signs and symbols to be used in the natural sciences and technology*

Part 3: *Space and time*

Part 4: *Mechanics*

Part 5: *Thermodynamics*

Part 7: *Light*

Part 8: *Acoustics*

Part 9: *Physical chemistry and molecular physics*

Part 10: *Atomic and nuclear physics*

Part 11: *Characteristic numbers*

Part 12: *Solid state physics*

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- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

INTRODUCTION

0.1 Arrangements of the tables

The tables of quantities and units in ISO/IEC 80000 are arranged so that the quantities are presented on the left-hand pages and the units on the corresponding right-hand pages.

All units between two full lines on the right-hand pages belong to the quantities between the corresponding full lines on the left-hand pages.

Where the numbering of an item has been changed in the revision of a part of IEC 60027, the number in the preceding edition is shown in parenthesis on the left-hand page under the new number for the quantity; a dash is used to indicate that the item in question did not appear in the preceding edition.

0.2 Tables of quantities

The names in English and in French of the most important quantities within the field of this document are given together with their symbols and, in most cases, their definitions. These names and symbols are recommendations. The definitions are given for identification of the quantities in the International System of Quantities (ISQ), listed on the left hand pages of Table 1; they are not intended to be complete.

The scalar, vectorial or tensorial character of quantities is pointed out, especially when this is needed for the definitions.

In most cases only one name and only one symbol for the quantity are given; where two or more names or two or more symbols are given for one quantity and no special distinction is made, they are on an equal footing. When two types of italic letters exist (for example as with ϑ and θ ; φ and ϕ ; a and α ; g and g) only one of these is given. This does not mean that the other is not equally acceptable. It is recommended that such variants should not be given different meanings. A symbol within parenthesis implies that it is a reserve symbol, to be used when, in a particular context, the main symbol is in use with a different meaning.

In this English edition the quantity names in French are printed in an italic font, and are preceded by *fr.* The gender of the French name is indicated by (m) for masculine and (f) for feminine, immediately after the noun in the French name.

0.3 Tables of units

0.3.1 General

The names of units for the corresponding quantities are given together with the international symbols and the definitions. These unit names are language-dependent, but the symbols are international and the same in all languages. For further information, see the SI Brochure (8th edition 2006) from BIPM and ISO 80000-1 (under preparation).

The units are arranged in the following way:

- a) The coherent SI units are given first. The SI units have been adopted by the General Conference on Weights and Measures (Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures, CGPM). The use of coherent SI units, and their decimal multiples and submultiples formed with the SI prefixes are recommended, although the decimal multiples and submultiples are not explicitly mentioned.
- b) Some non-SI units are then given, being those accepted by the International Committee for Weights and Measures (Comité International des Poids et Mesures, CIPM), or by the International Organization of Legal Metrology (Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale, OIML), or by ISO and IEC, for use with the SI.

Such units are separated from the SI units in the item by use of a broken line between the SI units and the other units.

- c) Non-SI units currently accepted by the CIPM for use with the SI are given in small print (smaller than the text size) in the “Conversion factors and remarks” column.
- d) Non-SI units that are not recommended are given only in annexes in some parts of ISO/IEC 80000. These annexes are informative, in the first place for the conversion factors, and are not integral parts of the standard. These deprecated units are arranged in two groups:
 - 1) units in the CGS system with special names;
 - 2) units based on the foot, pound, second, and some other related units.
- e) Other non-SI units given for information, especially regarding the conversion factors, are given in another informative annex.

0.3.2 Remark on units for quantities of dimension one, or dimensionless quantities

The coherent unit for any quantity of dimension one, also called a dimensionless quantity, is the number one, symbol 1. When the value of such a quantity is expressed, the unit symbol 1 is generally not written out explicitly.

EXAMPLE

Refractive index $n = 1,53 \times 1 = 1,53$

Prefixes shall not be used to form multiples or submultiples of this unit. Instead of prefixes, powers of 10 are recommended.

EXAMPLE

Reynolds number $Re = 1,32 \times 10^3$

Considering that plane angle is generally expressed as the ratio of two lengths and solid angle as the ratio of two areas, in 1995 the CGPM specified that, in the SI, the radian, symbol rad, and steradian, symbol sr, are dimensionless derived units. This implies that the quantities plane angle and solid angle are considered as derived quantities of dimension one. The units radian and steradian are thus equal to one; they may either be omitted, or they may be used in expressions for derived units to facilitate distinction between quantities of different kinds but having the same dimension.

0.4 Numerical statements in this International Standard

The sign = is used to denote “is exactly equal to”, the sign \approx is used to denote “is approximately equal to”, and the sign := is used to denote “is by definition equal to”.

Numerical values of physical quantities that have been experimentally determined always have an associated measurement uncertainty. This uncertainty should always be specified. In this standard, the magnitude of the uncertainty is represented as in the following example.

EXAMPLE

$l = 2,347\ 82(32)\text{ m}$

In this example, $l = a(b)$ m, the numerical value of the uncertainty b indicated in parentheses is assumed to apply to the last (and least significant) digits of the numerical value a of the length l . This notation is used when b represents one standard uncertainty (estimated standard deviation) in the last digits of a . The numerical example given above may be interpreted to mean that the best estimate of the numerical value of the length l , when l is expressed in the unit metre, is 2,347 82, and that the unknown value of l is believed to lie between $(2,347\ 82 - 0,000\ 32)$ m and $(2,347\ 82 + 0,000\ 32)$ m with a probability determined by the standard uncertainty 0,000 32 m and the probability distribution of the values of l .

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QUANTITIES AND UNITS –

Part 13: Information science and technology

1 Scope

In IEC 80000-13 names, symbols and definitions for quantities and units used in information science and technology are given. Where appropriate, conversion factors are also given.

2 Normative references

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

IEC 60027-3:2002, *Letter symbols to be used in electrical technology – Part 3: Logarithmic and related quantities, and their units*

IEC 60050-704:1993, *International electrotechnical vocabulary – Part 704: Transmission*

IEC 60050-713:1998, *International electrotechnical vocabulary – Part 713: Radiocommunications: transmitters, receivers, networks and operation*

IEC 60050-715:1996, *International electrotechnical vocabulary – Part 715: Telecommunication networks, teletraffic and operation*

IEC 60050-721:1991, *International electrotechnical vocabulary – Part 721: Telegraphy, facsimile and data communication*

ISO/IEC 2382-16:1996, *Information technology – Vocabulary – Part 16: Information theory*

3 Names, definitions and symbols

The names, definitions and symbols for quantities and units of information science and technology are given in the tables on the following pages. Prefixes for binary multiples are also given.