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Graphical symbols for use on equipment – Guidelines for the inclusion of graphical symbols in IEC publications

Symboles graphiques utilisables sur le matériel – Lignes directrices pour l'introduction de symboles graphiques dans les publications de la CEI



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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR USE ON EQUIPMENT –
GUIDELINES FOR THE INCLUSION OF GRAPHICAL
SYMBOLS IN IEC PUBLICATIONS**

FOREWORD

- 1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
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International Standard IEC 62648 has been prepared by subcommittee 3C: Graphical symbols for use on equipment, of IEC technical committee 3: Information structures, documentation and graphical symbols.

It has the status of a horizontal standard in accordance with IEC Guide 108.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
3C/1778/FDIS	3C/1793/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.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

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- withdrawn,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

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INTRODUCTION

A graphical symbol is defined as a visually perceptible figure with a particular meaning used to transmit information independently of language. Graphical symbols are used on equipment for a wide range of purposes. The understanding of such symbols can be improved by consistent design. This is particularly important where families of symbols are used in one location or on similar equipment. Good design also helps to maintain the legibility of graphical symbols when they are reduced to small dimensions for application. Thus, there is a need for those involved in technical works to collaborate with experts in SC 3C responsible for developing and maintaining graphical symbols for use on equipment to be standardized in the horizontal standard IEC 60417.

This international standard is intended for committees working on graphical symbols for use on equipment to be included in their product publications. It provides them with guidelines on how to create their own graphical symbols for use on equipment as well as on how to consult SC 3C so that these symbols are also included in IEC 60417.

This international standard provides commonly agreeable procedures among SC 3C and other committees developing product publications including graphical symbols for use on equipment in accordance with IEC Guide 108.

GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR USE ON EQUIPMENT – GUIDELINES FOR THE INCLUSION OF GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS IN IEC PUBLICATIONS

1 Scope

This International Standard provides guidelines to ensure that graphical symbols for use on equipment in IEC product publications are consistent with the requirements of horizontal standard IEC 60417, and ISO 7000. This document is intended to be used by any technical committees and subcommittees to develop graphical symbols for use on equipment for inclusion in their product publications.

This document is based on and develops IEC Guide 108:2006, Clause 4.

For the creation of new graphical symbols for use on equipment, IEC 80416-1 and ISO 80416-2 are used. For the application of standardized graphical symbols for use on equipment, IEC 80416-3 and ISO 80416-4 are used.

This horizontal standard is primarily intended for use by technical committees in the preparation of standards in accordance with the principles laid down in IEC Guide 108.

One of the responsibilities of a technical committee is, wherever applicable, to make use of horizontal standards in the preparation of its publications. The contents of this horizontal standard will not apply unless specifically referred to or included in the relevant publications.

2 Normative references

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

IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*

IEC 80416-1:2008, *Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment – Part 1: Creation of graphical symbols for registration*

IEC 80416-3:2002, *Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment – Part 3: Guidelines for the application of graphical symbols*

IEC Guide 108:2006, *Guidelines for ensuring the coherency of IEC publications – Application of horizontal standards*

ISO 3864-1, *Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Part 1: Design principles for safety signs and safety markings*

ISO 7000, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment – Index and synopsis*

ISO 7010:2011, *Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Registered safety signs*

ISO 80416-2, *Basic principles of graphical symbols for use on equipment – Part 2: Form and use of arrows*

ISO 80416-4, *Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment – Part 4: Guidelines for the adaptation of graphical symbols for use on screens and displays (icons)*

ISO/IEC Directives Part 2:2011, *Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*

ISO/IEC Directives:2011, *Supplement – Procedures specific to IEC*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC Guide 108 and Supplement to ISO/IEC Directives, and the following apply.

3.1 equipment

associated assemblies intended to achieve a defined final objective

[SOURCE: 3.3 of IEC 80416-1:2008]

3.2 graphical symbol

visual perceptive figure with a particular meaning used to transmit information independently of language

[SOURCE: 3.4 of IEC 80416-1:2008]

3.3 graphical symbol for use on equipment

graphical symbol for use on associated assemblies intended to achieve a defined final objective

[SOURCE: adapted from 3.3 and 3.4 of IEC 80416-1:2008]

3.4 safety related graphical symbol

graphical symbol for use on equipment that conveys a message with a relation to personal and/or equipment safety and that is not qualified as a safety sign, e.g. because the related risk is comparatively low

Note 1 to entry A safety related graphical symbol may e.g. express a prohibition (Do not ...!) or a *warning* related to a specific hazard (Caution! ...); however it is not required to use the safety colours and shapes according to ISO 3864-1. It can be standardized in IEC 60417 or ISO 7000.

3.5 safety sign

sign which gives a general safety message, obtained by a combination of colour and geometric shape and which, by the addition of a graphical symbol, gives a particular safety message

[SOURCE: ISO 17724:2003, definition 68]

3.6 safety symbol

graphical symbol used together with a safety colour and safety shape to form a safety sign

[SOURCE: ISO 17724:2003, definition 69]