

**Vöötkodeerimine. Struktureeritud andmefailid**

**Bar coding - Structured Data Files**

## EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

## NATIONAL FOREWORD

See Eesti standard EVS-EN 12403:2000 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN 12403:1998 ingliskeelset teksti.	This Estonian standard EVS-EN 12403:2000 consists of the English text of the European standard EN 12403:1998.
Standard on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas.	This standard has been endorsed with a notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation.
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ICS 35.040

Võtmesõnad: bar codes, character recognition, data, data processing, dimensions, files, optical recognition,

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ICS 35.040

Descriptors: Bar coding, data files.

**English version**

**Bar coding  
Structured data files**

Code à barres – Fichiers structurés  
de données

Strichcodierung – Strukturierte  
Datensätze

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 1998-02-28.

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European Committee for Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation  
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**Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart 36, B-1050 Brussels**

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## Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 225 "Bar coding", the secretariat of which is held by NNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 1998, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 1998.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## Introduction

The use of bar codes to carry information that can be read into computer systems reliably, quickly, and cheaply is now well established. Often bar codes are printed on labels attached to an item to which they refer, so that the information is always available with the item to anyone with standard reading equipment. This technique has been well proven in a number of industries such as retail, health care, steel and automotive.

Because of the success of bar codes used in this way, the demand exists to carry more machine readable data with the item, to provide information related to topics such as identification, traceability, safety, addressing, during manufacture, transportation, service and other processes. Often, this information has already been prepared by the supplier of the item and is sent to the receiver of the item electronically using EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) standards. However, other parties involved in the transaction, for example carriers, may also want to receive some or all of this information.

This standard defines how several items of structured information should be represented as one machine readable message which can be printed in one of the two-dimensional symbologies specified in European Standards, and how the message should be interpreted by anyone reading it.

## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies a method of representing several items of structured information as an encoded and printed message using a two-dimensional symbology.

## 2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated references provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

ISO 646:1991	Information processing - ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange
ISO 9735:1990	Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) - Application level syntax rules
prEN 1556	Bar coding - Terminology
EN 1571:1996	Bar coding - Data Identifiers

## 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard the definitions of prEN 1556 and the following apply.

**3.1 Structured data file:** Machine readable structured data used to convey information about an entity.

**3.2 Two-dimensional symbols:** Machine-readable symbols which must be examined both vertically and horizontally to read the entire message.

**3.3 Data type indicator:** A character used in a fixed position in a message to define the syntax rules used in the message.

**3.4 Data block:** The part of a structured data file used to represent the information content of the message.

**3.5 Format:** Formats comprise one or more data segments which shall all use the same syntax.

## 4 Data format

### 4.1 Overall structure

The overall structure of a structured data file shall comprise:

- Message header
- Format header
- Data, formatted according to the rules defined for the format
- Format trailer
- Message trailer