TECHNICAL REPORT

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Communication aids for blind persons — Identifiers, names and assignation to coded character sets for 8-dot Braille characters —

Part 2: Latin alphabet based character sets

Aides à la communication pour personnes aveugles — Identificateurs, noms et attribution aux jeux de caractères codés pour caractères Braille à 8 points —

Partie 2: Jeux de caractères basés sur l'alphabet latin

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established 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. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

In exceptional circumstances, when a technical committee has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard ("state of the art", for example), it may decide by a simple majority vote of its participating members to publish a Technical Report. A Technical Report is entirely informative in nature and does not have to be reviewed until the data it provides are considered to be no longer valid or useful.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO/TR 11548 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/TR 11548-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 173, *Technical systems and aids for disabled or handicapped persons*.

ISO/TR 11548 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Communication aids for blind persons — Identifiers, names and assignation to coded character sets for 8-dot Braille characters*:

— *Part 1: General guidelines for Braille identifiers and shift marks*

— *Part 2: Latin alphabet based character sets*

Further parts may be developed to meet the needs of other languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, etc.

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Introduction

The objective of this Technical Report is, in addition to ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000 which encodes 8-dot Braille patterns, to assign semantics to 8-dot Braille patterns via mapping to other coded character sets. Their coding with the 8-bit code is determined in order to set guidelines for the manufacturing of compatible input and output equipment using the Braille system. This enables visually-impaired persons to interprete the output of data processing equipment and facilitates communication with sighted people.

This Technical Report is neither intended to create a new code nor to alter or modify existing 6-dot Braille systems.

As there are many different character sets used worldwide (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Latin) a corresponding number of reference tables is necessary. The standardization work started with defining general guidelines for Braille identifiers and shift marks as well as in creating the reference for Latin alphabet based character sets; further expansion to other character sets is encouraged.

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Communication aids for blind persons — Identifiers, names and assignation to coded character sets for 8-dot Braille characters —

Part 2:
Latin alphabet based character sets

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1 Scope

This part of ISO/TR 11548 specifies the assignation of 8-dot Braille to Latin alphabet based 8-bit code tables.

This part of ISO/TR 11548 is intended to be used by experts and manufacturers of 8-dot Braille input and output devices, interfaces and software for data exchange.

This part of ISO/TR 11548 does not apply to 6-dot Braille and does not specify any physical dimension of Braille characters.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO/TR 11548, the definitions given in ISO/IEC 10367 and ISO/TR 11548-1 apply.

3 Shifting to Latin alphabet based character sets

To indicate that the following Braille characters are representing characters of Latin alphabet based code tables of this part of ISO 11548, SHIFT MARK ONE or SHIFT MARK TWO followed by the character set indicator B100 has to be used. For details see clauses 4 and 5 of ISO/TR 11548-1:2001.

4 Semantic assignation to Braille patterns

4.1 General

In this Technical Report assignation of semantics to 8-dot Braille patterns is done by mapping to Latin-based character sets and is described in 5 tables. In Tables 1 and 2 different meanings of the same Braille pattern are distinguished by rank numbers as given in column “rank”. (Synonymous and quasisynonymous names do not establish different ranks.) The primary (default) meaning is indicated by rank number “0”.

To indicate the meaning unambiguously a shift mark in combination with a rank indicator is used, as described in ISO/TR 11548-1. In the following tables, for SHIFT MARK ONE to SHIFT MARK THREE their acronyms SM1 to SM3 are used.

NOTE Deviating meanings of Braille characters in 6-dot Braille, in Braille shorthand (abbreviations, contractions), in Braille musical notation, in international Braille phonetic notation or in mathematical notations, etc. have not been listed.

4.2 Tables 1 and 2

Table 1 describes the assignation of Braille patterns to different meanings in different Latin alphabet based code tables sorted by Braille identifiers. Table 2 serves the same purpose but is sorted according to the meaning of the Latin alphabet based characters.

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