
**Packaging — Distribution packaging
— Graphical symbols for handling and
storage of packages**

*Emballages — Emballages de distribution — Symboles graphiques
pour la manutention et le stockage des emballages*



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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. www.iso.org/directives

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 122, *Packaging*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 780:1997), which has been technically revised.

All the 17 graphical symbols in this International Standard have already been modified to accord with IEC 80416-1:2008, *Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment — Part 1: Creation of graphical symbols for registration* and submitted to TC 145/SC 3 for registration on ISO 7000, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment — Registered symbols*.

Some of the major modification points are indicated as follows:

a) Title:

New: Packaging – Distribution packaging – Graphical symbols for handling and storage of packages

Old: Packaging – Pictorial marking for handling of goods

“Distribution packaging” is preferred to “transport packaging” in this standard. The reason is that “transport packaging” does not include “stored” packages, for example, in the practice of “transport packaging for dangerous goods”. ISO 780 concerns with packages during storage as well as those during transport.

“Pictorial marking” is replaced by “graphical symbols” to coincide with TC 145's way of addressing pictorial marking.

b) Introduction:

Statements on safety issue and hand-written symbols have been added.

c) Handling instructions:

The order of the graphical symbols has been re-arranged in the following order.

1) Graphical symbols used for large-sized packages.

2) Graphical symbols used for middle and small-sized packages:

- For all types of handling;
- For manual handling;
- For handling using machines.

3) Graphical symbols used for both transport and storage.

4) Graphical symbols used for storage.

To make this standard easier to use, the layout of the table has been changed and each graphical symbol has its Reference No. to ISO 7000, Meaning, Requirement, Note and example of application.

Introduction

Packages are often marked with handling instructions in the language of the country of origin. While this may safeguard the consignment in the areas using the same language, it is of little value for goods consigned to, or through, countries using different languages, and of no value at all if people handling the packages are illiterate.

Graphical symbols offer the best possibility of conveying the consignor's intention and their adoption will; therefore, undoubtedly reduce loss and damage through incorrect handling. Moreover, graphical symbols help ensure safety of workers, who cannot grasp such important information as structure, gravity centre, property, and strength of a package while handling distribution packages.

The graphical symbols specified are in accordance with the rules of ISO/TC 145/SC 3, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*.

The use of graphical symbols does not provide any guarantee of satisfactory handling; safely and properly protective packaging is therefore of primary importance.

Distribution packages could deteriorate as time passes and sometimes cannot withstand normal handling before they reach the final destination. In such case, according to the provisions of the distribution contract, we need to decide whether to stop shipping and storing them or to continue to use them by putting proper graphical symbols on them. In any case, handwritten symbols are partially accepted in this standard so that the proper symbols can be added to do the needful on the spot.

Packaging — Distribution packaging — Graphical symbols for handling and storage of packages

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a set of graphical symbols conventionally used for marking of distribution packages in their physical distribution chain to convey handling instructions. The graphical symbols should be used only when necessary.

This International Standard is applicable to packages containing any kind of goods, but does not include instructions specific to handling of dangerous goods.

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.

ISO 2331, *Fork lift trucks — Hook-on type fork arms — Vocabulary*

ISO 4306-1, *Cranes — Vocabulary — Part 1: General*

ISO 5053, *Powered industrial trucks — Terminology*

ISO 7000, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment — Registered symbols*

ISO 21067, *Packaging — Vocabulary*

3 Graphical Symbols

3.1 General

In order to ensure safe, proper and efficient handling of distribution packages, display, colour, size, number and position of graphical symbols shall be considered.

3.2 Display of graphical symbols

For large packages, graphical symbols should preferably be stencilled directly on the package or may appear on a label. It is recommended that the graphical symbols should be printed, painted or otherwise reproduced as specified in this International Standard. They need not be framed by border lines.

The graphical design of each symbol shall have only one meaning; symbols are purposely designed so that they can also be stencilled without changing the graphics. The change of the graphics, however, is accepted to facilitate the forming of stencil.

3.3 Colour of graphical symbols

The colour used for graphical symbols shall be black.

If the colour of the package is such that the black symbol would not show clearly, a panel of a suitable contrasting colour, preferably white, shall be provided as a background.

Care shall be taken to avoid the use of colours such as red, orange or yellow, which could result in confusion with the labelling of dangerous goods.