
**Graphical symbols — Test methods —
Part 1:
Methods for testing comprehensibility**

Symboles graphiques — Méthodes d'essai —

Partie 1: Méthodes de vérification de la compréhensibilité



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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 2.

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.

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

ISO 9186-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Public information symbols*.

This first edition of ISO 9186-1, together with ISO 9186-2, cancels and replaces ISO 9186:2001, which has been technically revised.

ISO 9186 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphical symbols — Test methods*:

- *Part 1: Methods for testing comprehensibility*
- *Part 2: Method for testing perceptual quality*

Introduction

The reason for the publication of this International Standard is the increasing use of non-verbal presentation of information in buildings and other places, and for services to the public.

Continued growth of international travel, tourism and trade requires graphical symbols to be understood. This part of ISO 9186 specifies methods for assessing the comprehensibility of graphical symbols.

ISO 9186-1 is intended to be used by all Technical Committees within ISO charged with developing specific graphical symbols for their industry, to ensure that there is only one symbol for each meaning. It is also intended to be used by any other organization concerned with establishing the comprehensibility of graphical symbols.

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Graphical symbols — Test methods —

Part 1: Methods for testing comprehensibility

1 Scope

This part of ISO 9186 specifies methods for testing the comprehensibility of graphical symbols. It includes:

- the method to be used in testing the extent to which a variant of a graphical symbol communicates its intended message; and
- the method to be used in testing which variant of a graphical symbol is judged the most comprehensible.

The purpose of this part of ISO 9186 is to ensure that graphical symbols, and signs using graphical symbols, are readily understood. The intention is to develop graphical symbols which are correctly understood by users when no supplementary (i.e. explanatory) text is presented. When such a graphical symbol cannot be obtained, it might be necessary to present a graphical symbol together with supplementary text explaining its meaning in the language of the intended users.

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.

ISO 9241-3, *Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs) — Part 3: Visual display requirements*

ISO 9241-4, *Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs) — Part 4: Keyboard requirements*

ISO 9241-5, *Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs) — Part 5: Workstation layout and postural requirements*

ISO 9241-8, *Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs) — Part 8: Requirements for displayed colours*

ISO 9241-12, *Ergonomic requirements for office work with visual display terminals (VDTs) — Part 12: Presentation of information*

ISO 17724, *Graphical symbols — Vocabulary*