
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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Information processing — Magnetic tape cassette and cartridge labelling and file structure for information interchange

Traitement de l'information — Étiquetage des bandes magnétiques en cassettes et cartouches, et structure des fichiers pour l'échange d'information

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FOREWORD

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Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

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It has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries:

Australia	Italy	Sweden
Belgium	Japan	Switzerland
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Information processing — Magnetic tape cassette and cartridge labelling and file structure for information interchange

0 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this International Standard is to make possible the interchange of information recorded on magnetic tape cassettes and cartridges between different users and different data processing and data capture equipment. This is accomplished by the arrangement of magnetically recorded separators and labels, to structure and identify the files.

To provide for the wide range of equipment and applications using magnetic tape cassettes, three systems of increasing complexity are specified. It is possible to distinguish between the three systems by reading the first block recorded on a particular volume.

In order that a cassette which carries more sophisticated labelling may be copied on unsophisticated equipment, the terminating conditions for end of track and end of data within a cassette are identical in all three of these systems. Thus, support of the basic system is a necessary requirement to ensure data interchangeability from simple data preparation devices to more complex data processing systems.

The third system is provided only for use in the most sophisticated environment, where ISO 1001 for magnetic tape labelling is already employed.

Throughout the whole of this International Standard, the use of the 7-bit coded character set specified in ISO 646 is implied.

NOTE — Whenever the word "cassette" is used, the word "cartridge" is also implied. It is felt that the illustrations and examples given for cassettes can readily be interpreted to cover similar situations for multi-track cartridges.

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard specifies file structures for data interchange on magnetic tape cassettes.

To provide for the range of sophistication in equipment and applications, three systems are specified :

- a) the *basic* system, employing only hardware-defined separators to structure the files;
- b) the *compact* system, employing special data blocks with information content (labels), which are capable of being recorded using only numeric equipment;
- c) the *extended* system, employing the magnetic tape labelling system specified in ISO 1001 together with new labels, to define a more comprehensive labelling system.

This International Standard is not limited to the 3,81 mm magnetic tape cassette described in ISO 3407 but could also be applied to higher capacity cassettes or cartridges.

2 REFERENCES

ISO 646, *7-bit coded character set for information processing interchange*.

ISO 1001, *Information processing — Magnetic tape labelling and file structure for information interchange*.

ISO 3275, *Information processing — Implementation of the 7-bit coded character set and its 7-bit and 8-bit extensions on 3,81 mm magnetic tape cassette for data interchange*.

ISO 3407, *Information processing — 3,81 mm (0.150 in) magnetic tape cassette for information interchange, 32 bpm (800 bpi), phase encoded*.