



Technical  
Specification

**ISO/IEC TS  
20071-41**

**Information technology — User  
interface component accessibility —**

Part 41:  
**Design and use of pictograms,  
photos, and icons in augmentative  
and alternative communication  
(AAC)**

*Technologies de l'information — Accessibilité du composant  
interface utilisateur —*

*Partie 41: Conception et utilisation de pictogrammes, de photos  
et d'icônes en communication alternative et améliorée (CAA)*

**First edition  
2026-03**

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CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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Published in Switzerland

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

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 document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives) or [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs)).

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 35, *User interfaces*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 20071 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html) and [www.iec.ch/national-committees](http://www.iec.ch/national-committees).

## Introduction

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) makes use of pictograms and other alternate forms of communication to serve a variety of users not able to fully use available spoken or written language.

Pictograms, like early forms of writing in some natural languages, provide graphic representations of words for communication with persons who cannot speak or use the written form of some natural language.

A set of pictograms provides the vocabulary to be used in a graphical language. There are requirements and recommendations relating to the design and use of individual pictograms and sets of pictograms.

Photographs provide realistic visual representations of particular people, things, and locations. Photos can be used to supplement a set of pictograms. There are requirements and recommendations relating to the purpose, structuring, and use of photos to supplement a set of pictograms.

Icons provide control over the functions of a computer system or some application within a computer system. Icons used by an AAC can come from the computer's operating system or from the AAC itself. There are requirements and recommendations relating to the consistent use of icons within AAC and relating to the differentiation between icons and pictograms.



# Information technology — User interface component accessibility —

Part 41:

## Design and use of pictograms, photos, and icons in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)

### 1 Scope

This document provides requirements and recommendations for the design and use of pictograms, photos, and icons in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) in the information and communication technology (ICT) domain.

This document recognizes that AAC can be delivered on various sized devices including computer displays, tablets, and smart phones. It applies to pictograms, photos, and icons that can be used on a range of devices. It is not specific to particular devices or the particular software used.

This document focuses on the needs of those users who cannot use a natural language in written or spoken form to communicate with a peer group or the community as a whole. In facilitating communication with those other people, it also serves them.

### 2 Normative References

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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/IEC TS 20071-40, *Information technology — User interface component accessibility — Part 40: Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC TS 20071-40 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1

##### **regular pictogram**

pictogram that is selectable for use in composing an utterance

#### 3.2

##### **communication intent**

thought process of an individual to communicate an idea