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BSI Standards Publication

Identification cards — Recording technique

Part 2: Magnetic stripe: Low coercivity

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO/IEC 7811-2:2018. It supersedes BS ISO/IEC 7811-2:2014, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IST/17, Cards and security devices for personal identification.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

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Identification cards — Recording technique —

Part 2: Low coercivity

*Cartes d'identification — Technique d'enregistrement —
Partie 2: Bandeau magnétique: Faible coercivité*

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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. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, SC 17, *Cards and personal identification*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO/IEC 7811-2:2014), which has been technically revised.

Major changes from the previous edition are as follows:

- wherever possible, the same definitions, criteria and test methods are used in ISO/IEC 7811-2 and ISO/IEC 7811-6;
- the primary standard cards held by Q-Card are used to calibrate the manufacture of secondary reference cards. Other primary standard cards held by PTB and Card Testing International (CTI) are used as backup to replace cards held by Q-Card as they wear out;
- the supplier of secondary reference cards has changed from PTB to Q-Card;
- during revision, some figure and table numbers may have changed and might not be the same between the two standards.

Notes in this document are only used for giving additional information intended to assist in the understanding or use of the document. They do not contain provisions or requirements to which it is necessary to conform in order to claim compliance with this document.

A list of all the parts in the ISO/IEC 7811 series, can be found on the ISO website.

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.

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Identification cards — Recording technique —

Part 2: Magnetic stripe: Low coercivity

1 Scope

ISO/IEC 7811 defines the characteristics for identification cards as defined in [Clause 4](#) of this document and the use of such cards for international interchange.

This document specifies requirements for a low coercivity magnetic stripe (including any protective overlay) on an identification card, the encoding technique and coded character sets. It takes into consideration both human and machine aspects and states minimum requirements.

Coercivity influences many of the quantities specified in this document but is not itself specified.

ISO/IEC 7811 provides criteria to which cards are to perform. No consideration is given within ISO/IEC 7811 to the amount of use, if any, experienced by the card prior to test. Failure to conform to specified criteria is negotiated between the involved parties.

ISO/IEC 10373-2 specifies the test procedures used to check cards against the parameters specified in this document.

NOTE Numeric values in the SI and/or Imperial measurement system in this document may have been rounded off and are consistent with, but not exactly equal to each other. Using either system is correct but intermixing or reconvertng values can result in errors. The original design was made using the Imperial measurement system.

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 4287, *Geometrical Product Specifications (GPS) — Surface texture: Profile method — Terms, definitions and surface texture parameters*

ISO/IEC 7810, *Identification cards — Physical characteristics*

ISO/IEC 10373-1, *Identification cards — Test methods — Part 1: General characteristics*

ISO/IEC 10373-2, *Identification cards — Test methods — Part 2: Cards with magnetic stripes*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 7810 and the following apply.

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

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