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INCITS/ISO/IEC 19794-10:2007  
(ISO/IEC 19794-10:2007, IDT)

# American National Standard

*Information technology —  
Biometric data interchange formats —  
Part 10: Hand geometry silhouette data*

**Developed by**



*Where IT all begins*



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## Information technology — Biometric data interchange formats —

### Part 10: Hand geometry silhouette data

*Technologies de l'information — Formats d'échange de données  
biométriques —*

*Partie 10: Données de la silhouette de la géométrie de la main*

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## Contents

Page

Foreword.....	iv
Introduction .....	v
1 Scope .....	1
2 Conformance .....	1
3 Normative references .....	1
4 Terms and definitions.....	1
5 General.....	3
5.1 Byte order .....	3
5.2 Use of FCCs for data compression.....	3
5.3 CBEFF Format owner and format type .....	4
6 Silhouette acquisition requirements.....	4
6.1 Overview .....	4
6.2 Hand orientation .....	4
6.3 Aspect ratio .....	5
6.4 Presentation .....	6
6.5 Coordinate system.....	6
7 Hand geometry interchange format (BDB format) .....	7
7.1 General record header.....	8
7.2 Hand geometry view record (HGVR).....	9
Annex A (informative) Sample hand geometry data packet.....	17
Annex B (informative) Best practices.....	19

## 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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national 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 and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 19794-10 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 37, *Biometrics*.

ISO/IEC 19794 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Biometric data interchange formats*:

- *Part 1: Framework*
- *Part 2: Finger minutiae data*
- *Part 3: Finger pattern spectral data*
- *Part 4: Finger image data*
- *Part 5: Face image data*
- *Part 6: Iris image data*
- *Part 7: Signature/sign time series data*
- *Part 8: Finger pattern skeletal data*
- *Part 9: Vascular image data*
- *Part 10: Hand geometry silhouette data*

The following part is under preparation:

- *Part 11: Signature/sign processed dynamic data*

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## Introduction

In the Access Control and Time Management communities, hand geometry has been an option to add biometrics to traditional security systems. While several hand geometry systems have been developed into products, each vendor has traditionally relied on a proprietary algorithm and has stored a proprietary template. This has made it impossible to transfer data from one vendor's system to another's, forcing end users to source their hand geometry solution. To allow integration of hand geometry systems from multiple vendors, a nonproprietary interchange format must be adopted.

This part of ISO/IEC 19794 is intended to provide a data interchange format (a CBEFF biometric data block – BDB) for applications requiring an interoperable hand geometry record. The information consists of a variety of mandatory and optional items including data capture parameters, standardized hand position and vendor-specific information. This information is intended for interchange among organizations that rely on automated devices and systems for identification or verification purposes based on the information from hand geometry. While this part of ISO/IEC 19794 mandates a particular data format, it does not mandate a particular algorithm. For example, a user may be enrolled on a system from one vendor and verified on a system from another.

Because hand geometry products have historically relied on measurements taken from a hand silhouette, this format stores hand silhouette data rather than color or grayscale image data. To increase the flexibility of the data format, provisions have been made to store views of the left and right hands, in addition to multiple views of each hand. Specific implementations of this part of ISO/IEC 19794 that are constrained by storage space (such as smart card applications) may wish to limit the number of views stored for each hand. Such limitations are outside the scope of this part of ISO/IEC 19794, but reduced choices can prejudice interoperability.

It is well known that the presentation of a biometric sample affects algorithm performance. While image acquisition and hand placement requirements are outside the scope of this part of ISO/IEC 19794, Annex B is provided as guidance for those wishing to adhere to industry "best practices".