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Third edition
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Packaging — Bar code and two-dimensional symbols for shipping, transport and receiving labels

Emballage — Codes à barres et symboles bidimensionnels pour l'expédition, le transport et les étiquettes de réception



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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.

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 ISO documents 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 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 Technical Committee ISO/TC 122, *Packaging*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 15394:2009), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- [5.4](#) has been restructured;
- [5.5](#) has been added;
- additional information on label design has been added in [7.1](#);
- a new [Figure E.7](#) has been added and succeeding figures have been renumbered accordingly;
- [E.3](#) has been added;
- [Figures E.11](#), [E.12](#), and [E.13](#) have been added;
- [Tables E.1](#) and [E.2](#) have been added.

Introduction

The use of electronic data interchange (EDI) in association with the physical transport and handling of packages and when traceability is appropriate, such as that described in ISO 9000, requires a clear and unique identifier linking the electronic data and the transport unit.

Bar code-marked transport labels are in widespread use in global industries. Several different standards exist, each designed to meet the requirements of the specific industry sector. For effective and economic use within and between industry sectors, one common multi-industry standard is a necessity.

A bar code-marked transport label is designed to facilitate the automation of shipping and handling of administrative operations. The bar code information on the transport label may be used as a key to access the appropriate database that contains detailed information about the transport unit, including information transmitted using EDI. In addition, a transport label may contain other information as agreed between the trading partners.

Two-dimensional symbols may be included to assist in moving large amounts of shipping label or EDI data from sender to recipient and to assist the transportation carrier automated sortation and tracking systems.

This document incorporates the technology, data structure and conformance standards of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 with the user requirements for shipping labels into a single application standard.

While this document provides an international shipping label standard, ISO 22742 provides guidance for product packaging. This document and ISO 22742 are complementary.

On the other hand, ISO 17365 covers the use of RF tags on shipping/transport units and was prepared by ISO/TC 122.