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# Graphical symbols — Test methods — Part 1: Method for testing comprehensibility

*Symboles graphiques — Méthodes d'essai —*

*Partie 1: Méthode de vérification de la compréhensibilité*



Reference number  
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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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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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 meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 9186-1:2007), which has been technically revised. Annex B has been removed.

ISO 9186 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphical symbols — Test methods*:

- *Part 1: Method for testing comprehensibility*
- *Part 2: Method for testing perceptual quality*
- *Part 3: Method for testing referent association*

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## Introduction

The reason for the publication of this part of ISO 9186 is the increasing use of non-verbal presentation of information in buildings and other places, and for services to the public.

Continued growth of international travel, tourism, and trade requires graphical symbols to be understood. This part of ISO 9186 specifies methods for assessing the comprehensibility of graphical symbols.

This part of ISO 9186 is intended to be used by all Technical Committees within ISO charged with developing specific graphical symbols for their industry, to ensure that there is only one symbol for each meaning. It is also intended to be used by any other organization concerned with establishing the comprehensibility of graphical symbols.

This part of ISO 9186 specifies a method of testing what proportion of people can comprehend a graphical symbol correctly.

ISO 9186-2 specifies a method of testing how well people can identify the elements which make up a graphical symbol.

ISO 9186-3 specifies a method of testing what proportion of people who are familiar with a number of referents relevant to a graphical symbol can associate the graphical symbol with its referent.