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Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Code 39 bar code symbology specification

Technologies de l'information — Techniques automatiques d'identification et de capture des données — Spécifications des symbologies des codes à barres, code 39



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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 16388:2007), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the grading of parameter “Inter character gap” in [4.6.2.2](#) has been corrected;
- a NOTE has been added below [Table A.2](#) about possible alternate representation of a minus sign, a period or the numbers 0 to 9 by character pairs.

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 and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Introduction

The technology of bar coding is based on the recognition of patterns encoded in bars and spaces of defined dimensions. There are numerous methods of encoding information in bar code form, known as symbologies. Code 39 is one such symbology. The rules defining the translation of characters into bar and space patterns and other essential features are known as the symbology specification.

In the past, symbology specifications were developed and published by a number of organizations, resulting in certain instances in conflicting requirements for certain symbologies.

Manufacturers of bar code equipment and users of bar code technology require publicly available standard symbology specifications to which they can refer when developing equipment and application standards.