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AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

Graphic technology — Prepress digital data exchange — Diecutting data (DDES3)

**SECRETARIAT
NPES THE ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPLIERS OF PRINTING, PUBLISHING
AND CONVERTING TECHNOLOGIES**

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IT8.6-2002

Foreword

This standard is a revision of IT8.6-1991, *Graphic technology — Prepress digital data exchange — Diecutting data*. It was developed by the International Association of Diecutting & Diemaking (IADD) Technical Committee, DDES3 Subcommittee, functioning as a working group under ANSI-accredited Committee for Graphic Arts Technologies Standards. The committee was made up of CAD vendors, diemakers and other interested parties listed below. The revision is based on IT8.6-1991, often referred to as DDES2, with additional input from the CFF2 standard, and ideas submitted to the DDES3 subcommittee.

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Secretary: Mary Abbott, NPES

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Graphic technology – Prepress digital data exchange – Diecutting data (DDES3)

1 Scope

This standard establishes a data exchange format to enable transfer of numerical control information between diecutting systems and between diecutting systems and electronic prepress systems.

The information will typically consist of numerical control information used in the manufacture of dies.

2 Notations, symbols and abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this standard with the meanings indicated:

A	Alphanumeric string beginning with an alphabetic character.
ASCII	“American Standard Code for Information Interchange”, the popular name for ANSI X3.4-1986, Coded Character Set – 7 Bit American National Standard Code for Information Interchange.
<EOL>	Sequence of one or two ASCII characters, signifying the end of the line. Any of the following are permitted: CR (ASCII 13), LF (ASCII10), CR + LF, or LF + CR.
DDES	“Digital Data Exchange Specification”: a method of sharing digitally encoded information between cooperating systems.
DDES3	The version identifier of the DDES data file format described herein.
I	Integer. Numbers in this field cannot include a decimal point (e.g., “2” is acceptable, “2.0” or “2.” are not acceptable).
L	Length of field, in number of bytes.
IADD	International Association of Diecutting and Diemaking.
R	Real number. Numbers in this field may include a decimal point (e.g., “2”, “2.” and “2.0” are all acceptable)
S12	Alphanumeric String. Consecutive sequence of up to 12 ASCII characters in the range of 33-127.
SPACE	ASCII character with byte value 32.

3 Conformance

This standard is the basic requirement for exchange of diecutting data files, and use of this standard by any vendor implies that the implementation, at a minimum, can import any file that conforms with this specification. Some software, especially that which acts purely as a machine interface, will be designed for import only. In this case, any data that is not needed by that machine can be freely discarded. Other software, typically CAD systems, will be designed for both import and export. In this case, it should be able to import and then without any editing, export any