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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# ISO/IEC 6429

Third edition  
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## Information technology — Control functions for coded character sets

*Technologies de l'information — Fonctions de commande pour les jeux  
de caractères codés*



Reference number  
ISO/IEC 6429:1992(E)

<b>Contents</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Conformance</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Types of conformance</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Conformance of information interchange</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Conformance of devices</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.3.1</b>	<b>Device description</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.3.2</b>	<b>Originating devices</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.3.3</b>	<b>Receiving devices</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Normative references</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Notation and definitions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Notation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Coded representation</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Elements of the C0 set</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Elements of the C1 set</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Control sequences</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5.4.1</b>	<b>Parameter representation</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5.4.2</b>	<b>Parameter string format</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5.4.3</b>	<b>Types of parameters</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Independent control functions</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Control strings</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>6</b>	<b>Device concepts</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Components</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6.1.1</b>	<b>Presentation component</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.1.2</b>	<b>The active presentation position</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.1.3</b>	<b>Data component</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.1.4</b>	<b>The active data position</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6.1.5</b>	<b>Relationship between active data position and active presentation position</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6.1.6</b>	<b>Implicit movement</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6.1.7</b>	<b>Explicit movement</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6.1.8</b>	<b>Indirect movement</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>The data stream</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>6.2.1</b>	<b>Data organization</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>The graphic image output</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Formator functions and editor functions</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>6.4.1</b>	<b>Formator functions</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>6.4.2</b>	<b>Composite graphic characters</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6.4.3</b>	<b>Editor functions</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Selected and qualified areas</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6.5.1</b>	<b>Selected areas</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6.5.2</b>	<b>Qualified areas</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Auxiliary input/output devices</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>6.7</b>	<b>Tabulation and fields</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Modes</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7.1</b>	<b>The concept of modes</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Definition of modes</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>7.2.1</b>	<b>BDSM - BI-DIRECTIONAL SUPPORT MODE</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7.2.2</b>	<b>CRM - CONTROL REPRESENTATION MODE</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7.2.3</b>	<b>DCSM - DEVICE COMPONENT SELECT MODE</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7.2.4</b>	<b>ERM - ERASURE MODE</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7.2.5</b>	<b>FEAM - FORMAT EFFECTOR ACTION MODE</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>7.2.6</b>	<b>FETM - FORMAT EFFECTOR TRANSFER MODE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>7.2.7</b>	<b>GATM - GUARDED AREA TRANSFER MODE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>7.2.8</b>	<b>GRCM - GRAPHIC RENDITION COMBINATION MODE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>7.2.9</b>	<b>HEM - CHARACTER EDITING MODE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>7.2.10</b>	<b>IRM - INSERTION REPLACEMENT MODE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7.2.11</b>	<b>KAM - KEYBOARD ACTION MODE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7.2.12</b>	<b>MATM - MULTIPLE AREA TRANSFER MODE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7.2.13</b>	<b>PUM - POSITIONING UNIT MODE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7.2.14</b>	<b>SATM - SELECTED AREA TRANSFER MODE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>7.2.15</b>	<b>SRM - SEND/RECEIVE MODE</b>	<b>23</b>

7.2.16	SRTM - STATUS REPORT TRANSFER MODE	23
7.2.17	TSM - TABULATION STOP MODE	24
7.2.18	TTM - TRANSFER TERMINATION MODE	24
7.2.19	VEM - LINE EDITING MODE	24
7.2.20	ZDM - ZERO DEFAULT MODE	24
7.3	Interaction between modes	24
7.3.1	GUARDED AREA TRANSFER MODE (GATM), MULTIPLE AREA TRANSFER MODE (MATM), SELECTED AREA TRANSFER MODE (SATM), and TRANSFER TERMINATION MODE (TTM)	25
7.3.2	CONTROL REPRESENTATION MODE (CRM) and FORMAT EFFECTOR ACTION MODE (FEAM)	25
7.3.3	CHARACTER EDITING MODE (HEM) and INSERTION REPLACEMENT MODE (IRM)	25
7.3.4	BI-DIRECTIONAL SUPPORT MODE (BDSM) and DEVICE COMPONENT SELECT MODE (DCSM)	26
7.4	Private modes	26
8	Control functions	26
8.1	Types of control functions	26
8.2	Categories of control functions	27
8.2.1	Delimiters	27
8.2.2	Introducers	27
8.2.3	Shift functions	27
8.2.4	Format effectors	27
8.2.5	Presentation control functions	28
8.2.6	Editor functions	29
8.2.7	Cursor control functions	30
8.2.8	Display control functions	30
8.2.9	Device control functions	30
8.2.10	Information separators	30
8.2.11	Area definition	31
8.2.12	Mode setting	31
8.2.13	Transmission control functions	31
8.2.14	Miscellaneous control functions	31
8.3	Definition of control functions	32
8.3.1	ACK - ACKNOWLEDGE	32
8.3.2	APC - APPLICATION PROGRAM COMMAND	32
8.3.3	BEL - BELL	33
8.3.4	BPH - BREAK PERMITTED HERE	33
8.3.5	BS - BACKSPACE	33
8.3.6	CAN - CANCEL	33
8.3.7	CBT - CURSOR BACKWARD TABULATION	33
8.3.8	CCH - CANCEL CHARACTER	33
8.3.9	CHA - CURSOR CHARACTER ABSOLUTE	34
8.3.10	CHT - CURSOR FORWARD TABULATION	34
8.3.11	CMD - CODING METHOD DELIMITER	34
8.3.12	CNL - CURSOR NEXT LINE	34
8.3.13	CPL - CURSOR PRECEDING LINE	34
8.3.14	CPR - ACTIVE POSITION REPORT	34
8.3.15	CR - CARRIAGE RETURN	35
8.3.16	CSI - CONTROL SEQUENCE INTRODUCER	35
8.3.17	CTC - CURSOR TABULATION CONTROL	35

8.3.18	CUB - CURSOR LEFT	36
8.3.19	CUD - CURSOR DOWN	36
8.3.20	CUF - CURSOR RIGHT	36
8.3.21	CUP - CURSOR POSITION	36
8.3.22	CUU - CURSOR UP	36
8.3.23	CVT - CURSOR LINE TABULATION	36
8.3.24	DA - DEVICE ATTRIBUTES	37
8.3.25	DAQ - DEFINE AREA QUALIFICATION	37
8.3.26	DCH - DELETE CHARACTER	37
8.3.27	DCS - DEVICE CONTROL STRING	38
8.3.28	DC1 - DEVICE CONTROL ONE	38
8.3.29	DC2 - DEVICE CONTROL TWO	38
8.3.30	DC3 - DEVICE CONTROL THREE	38
8.3.31	DC4 - DEVICE CONTROL FOUR	39
8.3.32	DEL - DELETE	39
8.3.33	DL - DELETE LINE	39
8.3.34	DLE - DATA LINK ESCAPE	39
8.3.35	DMI - DISABLE MANUAL INPUT	39
8.3.36	DSR - DEVICE STATUS REPORT	40
8.3.37	DTA - DIMENSION TEXT AREA	40
8.3.38	EA - ERASE IN AREA	40
8.3.39	ECH - ERASE CHARACTER	41
8.3.40	ED - ERASE IN PAGE	41
8.3.41	EF - ERASE IN FIELD	42
8.3.42	EL - ERASE IN LINE	42
8.3.43	EM - END OF MEDIUM	43
8.3.44	EMI - ENABLE MANUAL INPUT	43
8.3.45	ENQ - ENQUIRY	43
8.3.46	EOT - END OF TRANSMISSION	43
8.3.47	EPA - END OF GUARDED AREA	43
8.3.48	ESA - END OF SELECTED AREA	43
8.3.49	ESC - ESCAPE	44
8.3.50	ETB - END OF TRANSMISSION BLOCK	44
8.3.51	ETX - END OF TEXT	44
8.3.52	FF - FORM FEED	44
8.3.53	FNK - FUNCTION KEY	44
8.3.54	FNT - FONT SELECTION	44
8.3.55	GCC - GRAPHIC CHARACTER COMBINATION	45
8.3.56	GSM - GRAPHIC SIZE MODIFICATION	45
8.3.57	GSS - GRAPHIC SIZE SELECTION	45
8.3.58	HPA - CHARACTER POSITION ABSOLUTE	45
8.3.59	HPB - CHARACTER POSITION BACKWARD	46
8.3.60	HPR - CHARACTER POSITION FORWARD	46
8.3.61	HT - CHARACTER TABULATION	46
8.3.62	HTJ - CHARACTER TABULATION WITH JUSTIFICATION	46
8.3.63	HTS - CHARACTER TABULATION SET	46
8.3.64	HVP - CHARACTER AND LINE POSITION	46
8.3.65	ICH - INSERT CHARACTER	47
8.3.66	IDCS - IDENTIFY DEVICE CONTROL STRING	47
8.3.67	IGS - IDENTIFY GRAPHIC SUBREPERTOIRE	47
8.3.68	IL - INSERT LINE	48
8.3.69	INT - INTERRUPT	48
8.3.70	IS1 - INFORMATION SEPARATOR ONE (US - UNIT SEPARATOR)	48
8.3.71	IS2 - INFORMATION SEPARATOR TWO (RS - RECORD SEPARATOR)	48
8.3.72	IS3 - INFORMATION SEPARATOR THREE (GS - GROUP SEPARATOR)	48

8.3.73	IS4 - INFORMATION SEPARATOR FOUR (FS - FILE SEPARATOR)	49
8.3.74	JFY - JUSTIFY	49
8.3.75	LF - LINE FEED	49
8.3.76	LS0 - LOCKING-SHIFT ZERO	49
8.3.77	LS1 - LOCKING-SHIFT ONE	50
8.3.78	LS1R - LOCKING-SHIFT ONE RIGHT	50
8.3.79	LS2 - LOCKING-SHIFT TWO	50
8.3.80	LS2R - LOCKING-SHIFT TWO RIGHT	50
8.3.81	LS3 - LOCKING-SHIFT THREE	50
8.3.82	LS3R - LOCKING-SHIFT THREE RIGHT	50
8.3.83	MC - MEDIA COPY	51
8.3.84	MW - MESSAGE WAITING	51
8.3.85	NAK - NEGATIVE ACKNOWLEDGE	51
8.3.86	NBH - NO BREAK HERE	51
8.3.87	NEL - NEXT LINE	51
8.3.88	NP - NEXT PAGE	52
8.3.89	NUL - NULL	52
8.3.90	OSC - OPERATING SYSTEM COMMAND	52
8.3.91	PEC - PRESENTATION EXPAND OR CONTRACT	52
8.3.92	PFS - PAGE FORMAT SELECTION	53
8.3.93	PLD - PARTIAL LINE FORWARD	53
8.3.94	PLU - PARTIAL LINE BACKWARD	53
8.3.95	PM - PRIVACY MESSAGE	54
8.3.96	PP - PRECEDING PAGE	54
8.3.97	PPA - PAGE POSITION ABSOLUTE	54
8.3.98	PPB - PAGE POSITION BACKWARD	54
8.3.99	PPR - PAGE POSITION FORWARD	54
8.3.100	PTX - PARALLEL TEXTS	54
8.3.101	PU1 - PRIVATE USE ONE	55
8.3.102	PU2 - PRIVATE USE TWO	55
8.3.103	QUAD - QUAD	55
8.3.104	REP - REPEAT	56
8.3.105	RI - REVERSE LINE FEED	56
8.3.106	RIS - RESET TO INITIAL STATE	56
8.3.107	RM - RESET MODE	56
8.3.108	SACS - SET ADDITIONAL CHARACTER SEPARATION	57
8.3.109	SAPV - SELECT ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATION VARIANTS	57
8.3.110	SCI - SINGLE CHARACTER INTRODUCER	58
8.3.111	SCO - SELECT CHARACTER ORIENTATION	58
8.3.112	SCP - SELECT CHARACTER PATH	59
8.3.113	SCS - SET CHARACTER SPACING	59
8.3.114	SD - SCROLL DOWN	60
8.3.115	SDS - START DIRECTED STRING	60
8.3.116	SEE - SELECT EDITING EXTENT	60
8.3.117	SEF - SHEET EJECT AND FEED	61
8.3.118	SGR - SELECT GRAPHIC RENDITION	61
8.3.119	SHS - SELECT CHARACTER SPACING	63
8.3.120	SI - SHIFT-IN	63
8.3.121	SIMD - SELECT IMPLICIT MOVEMENT DIRECTION	63
8.3.122	SL - SCROLL LEFT	63
8.3.123	SLH - SET LINE HOME	64
8.3.124	SLL - SET LINE LIMIT	64
8.3.125	SLS - SET LINE SPACING	64
8.3.126	SM - SET MODE	65
8.3.127	SO - SHIFT-OUT	65

8.3.128 SOH - START OF HEADING	65
8.3.129 SOS - START OF STRING	66
8.3.130 SPA - START OF GUARDED AREA	66
8.3.131 SPD - SELECT PRESENTATION DIRECTIONS	66
8.3.132 SPH - SET PAGE HOME	67
8.3.133 SPI - SPACING INCREMENT	67
8.3.134 SPL - SET PAGE LIMIT	68
8.3.135 SPQR - SELECT PRINT QUALITY AND RAPIDITY	68
8.3.136 SR - SCROLL RIGHT	68
8.3.137 SRCS - SET REDUCED CHARACTER SEPARATION	68
8.3.138 SRS - START REVERSED STRING	69
8.3.139 SSA - START OF SELECTED AREA	69
8.3.140 SSU - SELECT SIZE UNIT	69
8.3.141 SSW - SET SPACE WIDTH	70
8.3.142 SS2 - SINGLE-SHIFT TWO	70
8.3.143 SS3 - SINGLE-SHIFT THREE	70
8.3.144 ST - STRING TERMINATOR	70
8.3.145 STAB - SELECTIVE TABULATION	71
8.3.146 STS - SET TRANSMIT STATE	71
8.3.147 STX - START OF TEXT	71
8.3.148 SU - SCROLL UP	71
8.3.149 SUB - SUBSTITUTE	71
8.3.150 SVS - SELECT LINE SPACING	71
8.3.151 SYN - SYNCHRONOUS IDLE	72
8.3.152 TAC - TABULATION ALIGNED CENTRED	72
8.3.153 TALE - TABULATION ALIGNED LEADING EDGE	72
8.3.154 TATE - TABULATION ALIGNED TRAILING EDGE	72
8.3.155 TBC - TABULATION CLEAR	73
8.3.156 TCC - TABULATION CENTRED ON CHARACTER	73
8.3.157 TSR - TABULATION STOP REMOVE	73
8.3.158 TSS - THIN SPACE SPECIFICATION	74
8.3.159 VPA - LINE POSITION ABSOLUTE	74
8.3.160 VPB - LINE POSITION BACKWARD	74
8.3.161 VPR - LINE POSITION FORWARD	74
8.3.162 VT - LINE TABULATION	74
8.3.163 VTS - LINE TABULATION SET	75

## Annexes

A - Formator functions and editor functions	77
B - Coding examples	79
C - Text composition considerations	81
D - Implementation-dependent features	82
E - Text area formats	83
F - Differences between the third and the second edition of ISO/IEC 6429	85
G - Bibliography	88

## 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. 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.

International Standard ISO/IEC 6429 was prepared by the European Computer Manufacturers Association (as Standard ECMA-48) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC1, *Information technology*, in parallel with its approval by national bodies of ISO and IEC.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 6429:1988), which has been technically revised.

Annexes A, B, C, D, E, F and G of this International Standard are for information only.

## **Introduction**

**This International Standard constitutes a repertoire of a large number of control functions the definitions and coded representations of which are thus standardized. For each application the required selection of control functions can be made from this repertoire.**

**This third edition of ISO/IEC 6429 contains the control functions already standardized in the second edition and, in addition, new control functions needed for handling bi-directional texts, i.e. texts comprising parts written with a left-to-right script and parts written with a right-to-left script. ECMA Technical Report TR/53 gives further information and examples of handling such texts. The inclusion of these specialized control functions has required a corresponding adjustment of the definitions of some of the other control functions. Moreover, the concept of "device" had to be revised.**

# Information technology – Control functions for coded character sets

## 1 Scope

This International Standard defines control functions and their coded representations for use in a 7-bit code, an extended 7-bit code, an 8-bit code or an extended 8-bit code, if such a code is structured in accordance with International Standard ISO 2022.

This International Standard specifies technical means to handle bi-directional texts in character-imaging devices in the case of

- texts in a single script of which specific parts need to be presented in an opposite direction (for example, numbers in Arabic or Hebrew text);
- texts in different scripts presented in opposite directions (like texts in Latin and Arabic or texts in Latin and Hebrew);
- texts like the above with a horizontal line orientation and a top-to-bottom line progression.

The control functions defined in this International Standard are intended to be used embedded in character-coded data for interchange, in particular with character-imaging devices.

In general, the control functions are defined by their effects on a character-imaging input/output device. It is, therefore, necessary to make certain assumptions about the architecture of such a device. These assumptions are as unrestrictive as possible; they are specified in clause 6.

In addition to being performed the control functions may need to be represented by a graphic symbol.

The structure of this International Standard is open-ended, so that more control functions can be included in future editions.

Other standards specifying control functions may define more restricted definitions of them than those in this International Standard.

The devices to which this International Standard applies can vary greatly from each other depending on the application for which a device has been specifically designed. It is technically and economically impractical for one device to implement all the facilities specified in this International Standard. The intention is that in any type of device only a limited selection of the facilities appropriate to the application will be implemented.

## 2 Conformance

### 2.1 Types of conformance

Full conformance to a standard means that all of its requirements are met. Conformance will only have a unique meaning if the standard contains no options. If there are options within the standard they must be clearly identified, and any claim of conformance must include a statement that identifies those options that have been adopted.

This International Standard is of a different nature since it specifies a large number of facilities from which different selections may be made to suit individual applications. These selections are not identified in this International Standard, but must be identified at the time that a claim of conformance is made. Conformance to such an identified selection is known as limited conformance.

The facilities selected for a particular application may be registered according to ISO 2375 for ease of reference in information interchange.

### 2.2 Conformance of information interchange

A CC-data-element within coded information for interchange is in conformance with this International Standard if the coded representations of control functions within that CC-data-element satisfy the following conditions:

- a) a coded representation of a control function that is specified in this International Standard shall always represent that control function;
- b) a control function that is specified in this International Standard shall always be represented by the coded representation that is specified in this International Standard for that control function;
- c) any coded representation that is reserved for future standardization by this International Standard shall not appear.

c) any coded representation that is reserved for future standardization by this International Standard shall not appear.

Coded representations of control functions and modes not specified in this International Standard may appear in interchanged information subject to the above conditions (see 5.4, 5.4.1 and 7.4).

### 2.3 Conformance of devices

A device is in conformance with this International Standard if it conforms to the requirements of 2.3.1, and either or both 2.3.2 and 2.3.3. Any claim of conformance shall identify the document which contains the description specified in 2.3.1.

#### 2.3.1 Device description

A device that conforms to this International Standard shall be the subject of a description that:

- i) identifies, by reference to the clauses of, or to the control functions specified in this International Standard, the selection of control functions, the coded representations of which the device can originate or can receive and interpret;
- ii) identifies the means by which the user may supply the corresponding control functions, or may recognize them, as specified respectively in 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 below.

#### 2.3.2 Originating devices

An originating device shall be capable of transmitting within a CC-data-element the coded representations of an identified selection of control functions, and of their parameter values (including mode selection parameters), conforming to this International Standard.

Such a device shall allow the user to supply any control function that he chooses from among the identified selection for the purpose of transmitting its coded representation over the coding interface.

#### 2.3.3 Receiving devices

A receiving device shall be capable of receiving within a CC-data-element and interpreting the coded representations of an identified selection of control functions, and of their parameter values (including mode selection parameters), conforming to this International Standard.

If the identified selection contains a control sequence for which a default value for a parameter is specified in this International Standard, the identified selection shall include the default value both in explicit and in implicit representations.

Such a device shall make available to the user any control function that is within the identified selection, and the coded representation of which is received over the coding interface, in such a form that the user can recognize it from among the control functions within the identified selection.

## 3 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the edition indicated was valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 1745:1975, *Information processing - Basic mode control procedures for data communication systems.*

ISO 2022:1986, *Information processing - ISO 7-bit and 8-bit coded character sets - Code extension techniques.*

ISO 2375:1985, *Data processing - Procedure for registration of escape sequences.*

ISO 8613-6:1989, *Information processing - Text and office systems - Office Document Architecture (ODA) and interchange format - Part 6: Character content architectures.*