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**Information technology — Automatic  
identification and data capture  
techniques — PDF417 bar code  
symbology specification**

*Technologies de l'information — Techniques automatiques  
d'identification et de capture des données — Spécifications pour la  
symbologie de code à barres PDF417*



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# Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Symbols, operations and abbreviated terms</b> .....	<b>3</b>
4.1 Symbols.....	3
4.2 Mathematical operations.....	4
4.3 Abbreviated terms.....	4
<b>5 Requirements</b> .....	<b>4</b>
5.1 Symbology characteristics.....	4
5.1.1 Basic characteristics.....	4
5.1.2 Summary of additional features.....	5
5.2 Symbol structure.....	6
5.2.1 PDF417 symbol parameters.....	6
5.2.2 Row parameters.....	6
5.2.3 Codeword sequence.....	7
5.3 Basic encodation.....	8
5.3.1 Symbol character structure.....	8
5.3.2 Start and stop characters.....	9
5.4 High level (data) encodation.....	9
5.4.1 Function codewords.....	10
5.4.2 Text Compaction mode.....	12
5.4.3 Byte Compaction mode.....	17
5.4.4 Numeric Compaction mode.....	19
5.4.5 Advice to select the appropriate compaction mode.....	20
5.4.6 Treatment of PDF417 reserved codewords.....	20
5.5 Extended Channel Interpretation.....	21
5.5.1 Encoding the ECI assignment number.....	22
5.5.2 Pre-assigned and default Extended Channel Interpretations.....	22
5.5.3 Encoding ECI sequences within compaction modes.....	23
5.5.4 Post-decode protocol.....	25
5.6 Determining the codeword sequence.....	25
5.7 Error detection and correction.....	25
5.7.1 Error correction level.....	25
5.7.2 Error correction capacity.....	26
5.7.3 Defining the error correction codewords.....	26
5.8 Dimensions.....	27
5.8.1 Minimum width of a module (X).....	27
5.8.2 Row height (Y).....	27
5.8.3 Quiet zones.....	27
5.9 Defining the symbol format.....	27
5.9.1 Defining the aspect ratio of the module.....	27
5.9.2 Defining the symbol matrix of rows and columns.....	28
5.10 Generating the error correction codewords.....	29
5.11 Low level encodation.....	30
5.11.1 Clusters.....	31
5.11.2 Determining the symbol matrix.....	31
5.11.3 Determining the values of the left and right row indicators.....	32
5.11.4 Row encoding.....	32
5.12 Compact PDF417.....	32
5.13 Macro PDF417.....	32

5.13.1	Compaction modes and Macro PDF417 .....	33
5.13.2	ECIs and Macro PDF417 .....	33
5.14	User guidelines .....	33
5.14.1	Human readable interpretation .....	33
5.14.2	Autodiscrimination capability .....	33
5.14.3	User-defined application parameters .....	33
5.14.4	PDF417 symbol quality .....	34
5.15	Reference decode algorithm .....	34
5.16	Error detection and error correction procedure .....	34
5.17	Transmitted data .....	34
5.17.1	Transmitted data in the basic (default) interpretation .....	34
5.17.2	Transmission protocol for Extended Channel Interpretation (ECI) .....	35
5.17.3	Transmitted data for Macro PDF417 .....	36
5.17.4	Transmission of reserved codewords using the ECI protocol .....	36
5.17.5	Symbology identifier .....	36
5.17.6	Transmission using older protocols .....	36
<b>Annex A (normative) Encoding/decoding table of PDF417 symbol character bar-space sequences .....</b>		<b>37</b>
<b>Annex B (normative) The default character set for Byte Compaction mode .....</b>		<b>60</b>
<b>Annex C (normative) Byte Compaction mode encoding algorithm .....</b>		<b>61</b>
<b>Annex D (normative) Numeric Compaction mode encoding algorithm .....</b>		<b>63</b>
<b>Annex E (normative) User selection of error correction level .....</b>		<b>65</b>
<b>Annex F (normative) Tables of coefficients for calculating PDF417 error correction codewords .....</b>		<b>66</b>
<b>Annex G (normative) Compact PDF417 .....</b>		<b>70</b>
<b>Annex H (normative) Macro PDF417 .....</b>		<b>71</b>
<b>Annex I (normative) Testing PDF417 symbol quality .....</b>		<b>79</b>
<b>Annex J (normative) Reference decode algorithm for PDF417 .....</b>		<b>80</b>
<b>Annex K (normative) Error correction procedures .....</b>		<b>84</b>
<b>Annex L (normative) Symbology identifier .....</b>		<b>86</b>
<b>Annex M (normative) Transmission protocol for decoders conforming with original PDF417 standards .....</b>		<b>87</b>
<b>Annex N (informative) Algorithm to minimise the number of codewords .....</b>		<b>93</b>
<b>Annex O (informative) Guidelines to determine the symbol matrix .....</b>		<b>95</b>
<b>Annex P (informative) Calculating the coefficients for generating the error correction codewords - worked example .....</b>		<b>99</b>
<b>Annex Q (informative) Generating the error correction codewords - worked example .....</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Annex R (informative) Division circuit procedure for generating error correction codewords .....</b>		<b>104</b>
<b>Annex S (informative) Additional guidelines for the use of PDF417 .....</b>		<b>106</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>		<b>108</b>

## 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.

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 document 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)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC 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](http://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 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/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/IEC 15438:2006), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

## Introduction

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

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. It is the intent and understanding of ISO/IEC that the symbology presented in this International Standard is entirely in the public domain and free of all user restrictions, licences and fees.

# Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — PDF417 bar code symbology specification

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements for the bar code symbology known as PDF417. It specifies PDF417 symbology characteristics, data character encodation, symbol formats, dimensions, error correction rules, reference decoding algorithm, and a number of application parameters.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 646, *Information technology — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*

ISO/IEC 15415, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbol print quality test specification — Two-dimensional symbols*

ISO/IEC 15424, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Data Carrier Identifiers (including Symbology Identifiers)*

ISO/IEC 19762-1, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) techniques — Harmonized vocabulary — Part 1: General terms relating to AIDC*

ISO/IEC 19762-2, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) techniques — Harmonized vocabulary — Part 2: Optically readable media (ORM)*

ISO/IEC 24723, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — GS1 Composite bar code symbology specification*