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**RECTANGULAR HOLES
IN TWELVE-ROW
PUNCHED CARDS**

U.S.
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COMMERCE

National
Bureau
of
Standards

CATEGORY: HARDWARE STANDARD
SUBCATEGORY: INTERCHANGE CODES
AND MEDIA

Foreword

The Federal Information Processing Standards Publication Series of the National Bureau of Standards is the official publication relating to standards adopted and promulgated under the provisions of Public Law 89-306, and under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-86. The entire series constitutes the FEDERAL INFORMATION PROCESSING STANDARDS REGISTER.

This series is used to announce Federal Information Processing Standards, and to provide standards information of general interest and an index of relevant standards publications and specifications. Publications that announce adoption of standards provide the necessary policy, administrative, and guidance information for effective standards implementation and use. The technical specifications of the standard are usually attached to the publication, otherwise a source of copies is cited.

Comments covering Federal Information Processing Standards and Publications are welcomed, and should be addressed to the National Bureau of Standards, Center for Computer Sciences and Technology, Office of Information Processing Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234. Such comments will be either considered by NBS or forwarded to the responsible activity as appropriate.

LEWIS M. BRANSCOMB, *Director*

Abstract

This publication provides information on the size, location and dimensional tolerances of rectangular holes in 12-row, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide punched cards. It applies to card reading and punching equipment used in data processing, communications and similar operations in the Federal government. This Federal standard adopts in whole a revised version of American National Standard X3.21-1967, Rectangular Holes in 12-Row Punched Cards.

Key words: American Standard Code for Information Interchange; ASCII; card punch; card reader; data communications; data interchange; data processing; electric accounting machine; EAM cards; Federal Information Processing Standard; Hollerith punched cards; information interchange; information processing; punched cards; rectangular holes.

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ANNOUNCING THE STANDARD FOR
**RECTANGULAR HOLES IN TWELVE-ROW
PUNCHED CARDS**

Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are issued by the National Bureau of Standards under the direction of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 89-306 and OMB Circular No. A-86.

Name of Standard. Rectangular Holes in Twelve-Row Punched Cards. (FIPS 13)

Category of Standard. Hardware Standard, Interchange Codes and Media.

Explanation. This standard specifies the size and location of rectangular holes in 12-row, 3¼ inch wide punched cards.

Approving Authority. Office of Management and Budget.

Maintenance Agency. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards (Center for Computer Sciences and Technology).

Cross Index.

- a. American National Standard X3.21-1967, Rectangular Holes in Twelve-Row Punched Cards.
- b. FIPS PUB 1, Code for Information Interchange.
- c. FIPS PUB 7, Implementation of the Code for Information Interchange and Related Media Standards.
- d. FIPS 14, Hollerith Punched Card Code (adopting hole patterns for the 128 ASCII characters from the 256 given in e. below).
- e. American National Standard X3.26-1970, Hollerith Punched Card Code.
- f. American National Standard X3.11-1969 (Revised), Specifications for General Purpose Paper Cards for Information Processing.

Applicability. This standard applies to all devices which punch or read rectangular holes in 3¼ inch wide 12-row punched cards used in data processing, communications, and similar operations. This standard does not apply to other types of equipment such as those which punch round holes or cards of other width dimension.

Implementation Schedule. All applicable equipment ordered on or after the date of this FIPS PUB must be in conformance with this standard unless a waiver has been obtained in accordance with the procedure described below. Exceptions to this standard are made in the following cases:

- a. For equipment installed or on order prior to the date of this FIPS PUB.
- b. Where procurement actions are into the solicitation phase (i.e., Request for Proposals or Invitation for Bids have been issued) on the date of this FIPS PUB.

Waiver Procedure. Heads of agencies may waive the provisions of the implementation schedule. Proposed waivers relating to the procurement of punched card equipment will be coordinated in advance with the National Bureau of Standards. Letters should be addressed to the Director, Center for Computer Sciences and Technology, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234. They should describe the nature of the waiver and set forth the reasons therefor.

Sixty days should be allowed for review and response by the National Bureau of Standards. The waiver is not to be made until a reply from the National Bureau of Standards is received; however, the final decision for granting the waiver is a responsibility of the agency head.

Specifications. This Federal standard adopts in whole American National Standard X3.21-1967, Rectangular Holes in Twelve-Row Punched Cards, which has been developed and approved by the American National Standards Institute.

Qualifications. None.

Special Information. The hole patterns for punching the 128 characters of the Federal Standard Code for Information Interchange (FIPS 1) are contained in FIPS 14, Hollerith Punched Card Code.

Where to Obtain Copies of the Specifications of the Standard.

a. Federal Government activities should obtain copies from established sources within each agency. When there is no established source, purchase orders should be submitted to the General Services Administration, Specifications Activity, Printed Materials Supply Division, Building 197, Washington Navy Yard Annex, Washington, D.C. 20407. Refer to Federal Information Processing Standard Number 13 (FIPS 13). (Price 40 cents a copy.)

b. Others may obtain copies from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, New York 10018. Refer to ANSI X3.21-1967, Rectangular Holes in Twelve-Row Punched Cards. (Price \$2.25 a copy. Discounts are available on quantity orders. See ANSI catalog.)