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CHARACTER SET FOR HANDPRINTING

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CATEGORY: HARDWARE STANDARD
SUBCATEGORY: CHARACTER RECOGNITION

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 Part 6 of Title 15 Code of Federal Regulations. The entire series constitutes the FEDERAL INFORMATION PROCESSING STANDARDS REGISTER.

The 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 reference source is cited.

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

RICHARD W. ROBERTS, *Director*

Abstract

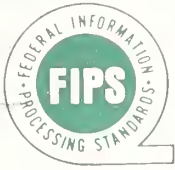
This FIPS PUB announces the adoption of the American National Standard X3.45-1974, Character Set for Handprinting as a Federal Standard. This standard provides the description, scope, and application rules for a character set for handprinting. A major purpose of this standard is to reduce the cost of data input into ADP systems which use Optical Character Recognition (OCR) equipment.

Key words: Character sets; character shape; character sizes; Federal Information Processing Standards; handprinting; Optical Character Recognition.

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Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 33

1974 October 1



ANNOUNCING THE STANDARD FOR Character Set for Handprinting

Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are issued by the National Bureau of Standards pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended, Public Law 80-306 (79 Stat. 1127), and as implemented by Executive Order 11717 (38 FR 12315, dated May 11, 1973), and Part 6 of Title 15 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations).

Name of Standard. Character Set for Handprinting (FIPS PUB 33).

Category of Standard. Federal Government Hardware Standard, Character Recognition

Explanation. This FIPS PUB announces the adoption of the American National Standard X3.45-1974, Character Set for Handprinting as a Federal Standard. This standard provides the description, scope, and application rules for a character set for handprinting. A major purpose of this standard is to reduce the cost of data input into ADP systems which use Optical Character Recognition (OCR) equipment.

The standard can also provide an optional method for improved man-to-man communications in a data processing environment.

Approving Authority. Secretary of Commerce.

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

Cross Index. American National Standard Character Set for Handprinting (ANSI X3.45-1974).

Applicability. The standard is applicable to all ADP systems using OCR systems as integral input/output media processing of handprinted data.

Specifications. The standard adopts in whole the American National Standard X3.45-1974, Character Set for Handprinting.

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.

Qualifications. The American National Standard Character Set for Handprinting describes a set of characters and associated procedural rules for use in numeric handprinted characters.

Additional standards and information sources are required to describe the full set of necessary characteristics of an installed, operating OCR system. In general, these cover the topics of OCR Forms, OCR Print Quality, and OCR Tutorial Papers.

The set of characters and associated procedural rules described in this standard may also provide a method of improved man-to-man communication. Such an application of the standard is optional; however, it is urged that the use of the standard for such man-to-man communications be carefully considered for its contribution to increased efficiency and ease of operation wherever handprinted characters are involved in a data processing environment.

Waiver Procedure. Heads of agencies may waive the provisions of the implementation schedule. Proposed waivers relating to procurement of nonconforming character sets will be coordinated in advance with the National Bureau of Standards. Letters should be addressed to the Associate Director for ADP Standards, Institute 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 effective until a reply is received from the National Bureau of Standards, however, the final decision for the granting of a waiver is a responsibility of the agency head.

Where to Obtain Copies of the Specifications.

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 Standards Publication 33.

b. Others may obtain copies from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, New York 10018. Refer to American National Standard X3.45-1974, Character Set for Handprinting. Price is \$5.75 a copy. (Discounts available on quantity orders. See ANSI catalog.)

