

PD IEC/TR 62964:2015



BSI Standards Publication

**Graphical symbols for use
on equipment — Graphical
symbols for multimedia
equipment — Current
practice**

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National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee GEL/3, Documentation and graphical symbols.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2015

ISBN 978 0 580 88966 0

ICS 01.080.20; 33.160.60

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This Published Document was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 May 2015.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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TECHNICAL REPORT



Graphical symbols for use on equipment – Graphical symbols for multimedia equipment – Current practice

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 01.080.20; 33.160.60

ISBN 978-2-8322-2644-5

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	5
1 Scope	6
2 Normative references	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Current practice	7
4.1 General.....	7
4.2 Current practice for control	7
4.3 Current practice for indication	10
Bibliography.....	14
Table 1 – Current practice for controls	8
Table 2 – Current practice for indication	11

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR USE ON EQUIPMENT –
GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR MULTIMEDIA EQUIPMENT –
CURRENT PRACTICE**

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IEC TR 62964, which is a Technical Report, has been prepared by subcommittee 3C: Graphical symbols for use on equipment, of IEC technical committee 3: Information structures and elements, identification and marking principles, documentation and graphical symbols.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
3C/1953/DTR	3C/2006/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this Technical Report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

In this Technical Report, the following type is used:

– *terms defined in Clause 3: in italic type*

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

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INTRODUCTION

The first edition of IEC 60417, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*, was published in 1973. Since then the publication has been maintained and updated continuously, mainly by adding new graphical symbols in order to meet the requirements of technical committees and subcommittees within the IEC as well as ISO/IEC JTC 1 together with industries.

This Technical Report thus includes classical graphical symbols targeted to specific application areas as well as basic graphical symbols for general application.

In the era of information communication technology (ICT), new graphical symbols for use on such equipment as multimedia equipment have been in strong demand for standardization. These graphical symbols are not only printed, engraved, embossed, or moulded on the equipment, but also used on screens and displays. In the latter case, the appearance of a graphical symbol is dynamically changed to indicate a state of the equipment.

This Technical Report intends to highlight current tendency and practice of using graphical symbols for use on equipment.

GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR USE ON EQUIPMENT – GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR MULTIMEDIA EQUIPMENT – CURRENT PRACTICE

1 Scope

This Technical Report provides the result of a study of some of the *graphical symbols* for use on *equipment* standardized in IEC 60417 being primarily intended to:

- identify the *equipment* or a part of the *equipment* (e.g. a control or display);
- indicate a functional state (e.g. on, off, alarm);
- designate connections (e.g. terminals, filling points for materials);
- provide information on packaging (e.g. identification of contents, instructions for handling);
- provide instruction for the operation of the *equipment* (e.g. limitations of use);

in the focus of contemporary use of *graphical symbols* for use on multimedia *equipment*, and new possible meanings to be envisaged as well as new *graphical symbols* not yet standardized in IEC 60417.

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.

None.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 equipment

associated assemblies intended to achieve a defined final objective

[SOURCE: IEC 80416-1:2008, 3.3]

3.2 graphical symbol

visually perceptible figure with a particular meaning used to transmit information independently of language

[SOURCE: IEC 80416-1:2008, 3.4]

3.3 glyph

recognizable abstract graphic symbol which is independent of any specific design

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 9541-1:2012, 3.12]