INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC 7811-6

Third edition
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Identification cards — Recording technique —

Part 6: Magnetic stripe — High coercivity

Cartes d'identification — Technique d'enregistrement —

Partie 6: Bandeau magnétique — Haute coercitivité

Reference number
ISO/IEC 7811-6:2008(E)

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Contents

Foreword v

1 Scope 1

2 Conformance 1

3 Normative references 1

4 Terms and definitions 2

5 Physical characteristics of the identification card 4
5.1 Magnetic stripe area warpage 4
5.2 Surface distortions 4

6 Physical characteristics of the magnetic stripe 5
6.1 Height and surface profile of the magnetic stripe area 5
6.1.1 Surface profile of the magnetic stripe area 5
6.1.2 Height of the magnetic stripe area 7
6.2 Surface roughness 7
6.3 Adhesion of stripe to card 7
6.4 Wear of magnetic stripe from read/write head 7
6.5 Resistance to chemicals 7

7 Performance characteristics for the magnetic material 7
7.1 General 7
7.2 Testing and operating environment 8
7.3 Signal amplitude requirements for magnetic media 8

8 Encoding technique 10

9 Encoding specification, general 11
9.1 Angle of recording 11
9.2 Nominal bit density 11
9.3 Signal amplitude requirements for tracks 1, 2 and 3 11
9.4 Bit configuration 12
9.5 Direction of recording 12
9.6 Leading and trailing zeroes 12

10 Encoding specifications 13
10.1 Alphanumeric track, track 1 13
10.1.1 Average bit density 13
10.1.2 Flux transition spacing variation 13
10.1.3 Coded character set 14
10.1.4 Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card 16
10.2 Numeric track, Track 2 16
10.2.1 Average bit density 16
10.2.2 Flux transition spacing variation 16
10.2.3 Coded character set 17
10.2.4 Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card 17
10.3 Numeric track, Track 3 17
10.3.1 Average bit density 17
10.3.2 Flux transition spacing variation 17
10.3.3 Coded character set 17
10.3.4 Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card 18

11 Error detection 18
11.1 Parity 18
11.2 Longitudinal redundancy check (LRC) 18

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12 Location of encoded tracks 18

Annex A (informative) **Read compatibility of magnetic stripes (ISO/IEC 7811-2 and ISO/IEC 7811-6) 20**

Annex B (normative) **Signal amplitude measurements 21**

Annex C (informative) **Magnetic stripe abrasivity 22**

Annex D (informative) **Static magnetic characteristics 23**

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. 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.

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.

ISO/IEC 7811-6 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Cards and personal identification*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/IEC 7811-6:2001). It also incorporates the Amendment ISO/IEC 7811-6:2001/Amd.1:2005. The major changes from the second edition are as follows.

— Wherever possible, the same definitions, criteria and test methods are used in ISO/IEC 7811-2 and ISO/IEC 7811-6.

— The algorithm defined in Figure 7 of ISO/IEC 7811-6:2001 has been changed to produce more consistent results (incorporated from ISO/IEC 7811-6:2001/Amd.1:2005).

NOTE The requirements given in ISO/IEC 7811-4:1995 and ISO/IEC 7811-5:1995 were moved to Part 6 in the second edition.

Notes in this part of ISO/IEC 7811 are only used for giving additional information intended to assist in the understanding or use of the document. They do not contain provisions or requirements to which it is necessary to conform in order to claim compliance with this part of ISO/IEC 7811.

ISO/IEC 7811 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Identification cards — Recording technique*:

— *Part 1: Embossing*

— *Part 2: Magnetic stripe — Low coercivity*

— *Part 6: Magnetic stripe — High coercivity*

— *Part 7: Magnetic stripe — High coercivity, high density*

— *Part 8: Magnetic stripe — Coercivity of 51,7 kA/m (650 Oe)*

— *Part 9: Tactile identifier mark*

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Identification cards — Recording technique —

Part 6: Magnetic stripe — High coercivity

1 Scope

ISO/IEC 7811 defines the characteristics for identification cards as defined in Clause 4 of this part of ISO/IEC 7811 and the use of such cards for international interchange.

This part of ISO/IEC 7811 specifies requirements for a high coercivity magnetic stripe (including any protective overlay) on an identification card, the encoding technique and coded character sets. It takes into consideration both human and machine aspects and states minimum requirements.

Coercivity influences many of the quantities specified in this part of ISO/IEC 7811 but is not itself specified. The main characteristic of the high coercivity magnetic stripe is its improved resistance to erasure. This is achieved with minimal probability of damage to other magnetic stripes by contact while retaining read compatibility with magnetic stripes as defined in ISO/IEC 7811-2.

ISO/IEC 7811 provides criteria to which cards are to perform. No consideration is given within ISO/IEC 7811 to the amount of use, if any, experienced by the card prior to test. Failure to conform to specified criteria should be negotiated between the involved parties.

ISO/IEC 10373-2 specifies the test procedures used to check cards against the parameters specified in this part of ISO/IEC 7811.

NOTE Numeric values in the SI and/or Imperial measurement system in this part of ISO/IEC 7811 may have been rounded off and therefore are consistent with, but not exactly equal to, each other. Either system may be used, but the two should not be intermixed or reconverted. The original design was made using the Imperial measurement system.

2 Conformance

A prerequisite for conformance with this part of ISO/IEC 7811 is conformance with ISO/IEC 7810. An identification card is in conformance with this part of ISO/IEC 7811 if it meets all mandatory requirements specified herein. Default values apply if no others are specified.

3 Normative references

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

ISO/IEC 4287, *Geometrical Product Specifications (GPS) — Surface texture: Profile method — Terms, definitions and surface texture parameters*

ISO/IEC 7810, *Identification cards — Physical characteristics*

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ISO/IEC 10373-1, *Identification cards — Test methods — Part 1: General characteristics*

ISO/IEC 10373-2, *Identification cards — Test methods —Part 2: Cards with magnetic stripes*

4 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 7810 and the following apply.

4.1
primary standard
set of reference cards established and maintained by the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) that represent the values of U_R and I_R designated RM7811-6

4.2
secondary standard
reference card designated RM7811-6 that is related to the primary standard as stated in the calibration certificate supplied with each card

NOTE Secondary standards can be ordered from Q-Card, 301 Reagan Street, Sunbury, PA 17801, USA. The source of secondary standards will be maintained at least until 2010.

4.3
unused un-encoded card
card possessing all the components required for its intended purpose, which has not been subjected to any personalization or testing operation, and which has been stored in a clean environment with no more than 48 h exposure to daylight and at temperatures between 5 °C and 30 °C and humidity between 10 % and 90 % without experiencing thermal shock

4.4
unused encoded card
card according to 4.3 that has only been encoded with all the data required for its intended purpose (e.g. magnetic encoding, embossing, electronic encoding)

4.5
returned card
card according to 4.4 after it has been issued to the card holder and returned for the purpose of testing

4.6
flux transition
location of the greatest rate of change with distance of the magnetisation

4.7
reference current
I_R
minimum recorded current amplitude under the given test conditions that causes, on the reference card, a readback signal amplitude equal to 80 % of the reference signal amplitude U_R, at a density of 8 flux transitions per millimetre (200 flux transitions per inch) as shown in Figure 6

4.8
reference flux level
F_R
flux level in the test head that corresponds to the reference current I_R

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4.9
test recording currents
two recording currents defined by:

I_{min} = recording current corresponding to 2,8 F_R

I_{max} = recording current corresponding to 3,5 F_R

4.10
individual signal amplitude
U_i
base-to-peak amplitude of a single readback voltage signal

4.11
average signal amplitude
U_A
sum of the absolute value of the amplitude of each signal peak (U_i) divided by the number of signal peaks (n) for a given track over the length of the magnetic stripe area

4.12
reference signal amplitude
U_R
maximum value of the average signal amplitude of a reference card corrected to the primary standard

4.13
physical recording density
number of flux transitions per unit length recorded on a track

4.14
bit density
number of data bits stored per unit of length (bits/mm or bpi)

4.15
bit cell
distance between two clocking flux transitions

NOTE See Figure 11.

4.16
subinterval
distance that is nominally half of the distance between two clocking flux transitions

NOTE See Figure 11.

4.17
demagnetisation current
I_d
D.C. current value that reduces the average signal amplitude to 80 % of the reference signal amplitude (U_R) on a secondary reference card that has been encoded at a density of 20 ft/mm (500 ftpi) at a current of I_{min}

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5 Physical characteristics of the identification card

The identification card shall conform to the specification given in ISO/IEC 7810.

WARNING — The attention of card issuers is drawn to the fact that information held on the magnetic stripe may be rendered ineffective through contamination by contact with dirt and certain commonly used chemicals including plasticizers. It should also be noted that any printing or screening placed on top of the magnetic stripe must not impair the function of the magnetic stripe.

5.1 Magnetic stripe area warpage

Application of a 2,2 N (0.5 lbf) load evenly distributed on the front face opposite the magnetic stripe shall bring the entire stripe within 0,08 mm (0.003 in) of the rigid plate.

5.2 Surface distortions

There shall be no surface distortions, irregularities or raised areas on both the front and the back of the card in the area shown in Figure 1 that might interfere with the contact between the magnetic head and magnetic stripe.

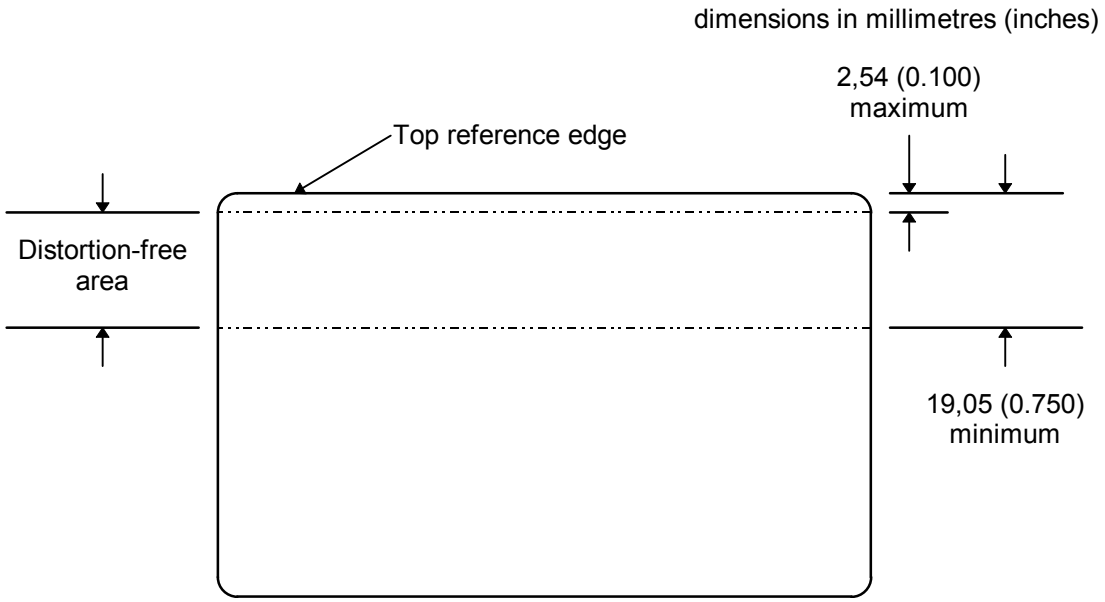


Figure 1 — Distortion-free area on card with magnetic stripe

If a raised signature panel area is located on the front or back of the card, then it shall be no closer to the top edge of the card than 19,05 mm (0.750 in).

NOTE Raised areas and distortions on other areas of the card may cause card transport problems with magnetic stripe processing equipment resulting in reading or writing errors.

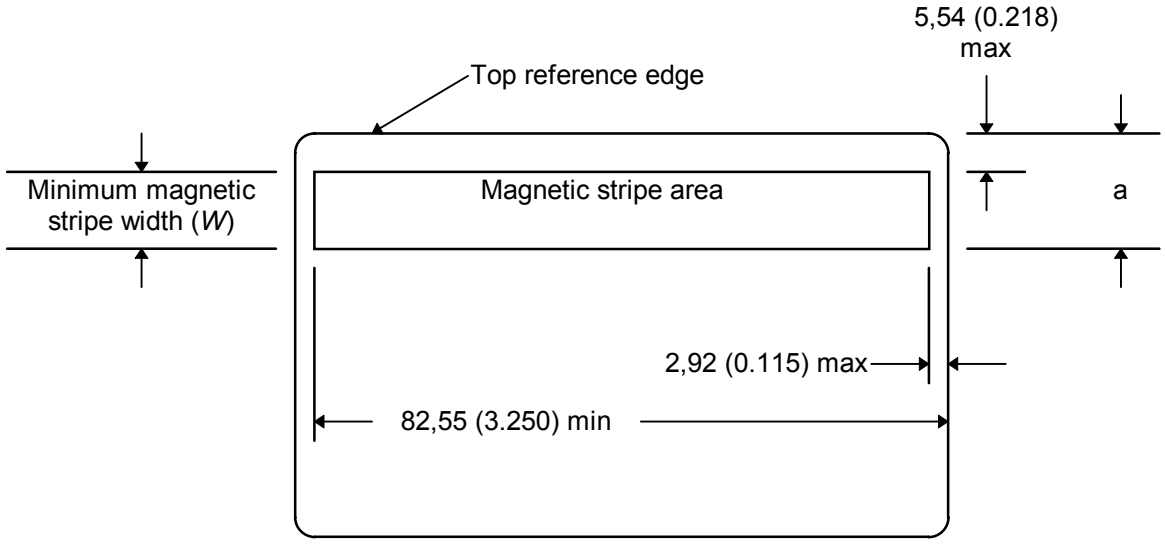
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6 Physical characteristics of the magnetic stripe

6.1 Height and surface profile of the magnetic stripe area

The magnetic stripe area is located on the back of the card as shown in Figure 2.

dimensions in millimetres (inches)



For use of tracks 1 and 2: a = 11,89 (0.468) min
For use of tracks 1, 2, and 3: a = 15,95 (0.628) min

NOTE In the case of the magnetic stripe area used for track 1 and 2, the dimension a as shown in Figure 2 of the magnetic media could be less than the maximum dimension b as shown in Figure 12 for the location of track 2 data on the card. It is desirable that the magnetic stripe area extend beyond the limits of the encoded track.

Figure 2 — Location of magnetic material for ID-1 type card

6.1.1 Surface profile of the magnetic stripe area

The maximum vertical deviation (a) of the transverse surface profile of the magnetic stripe area is shown below. See Figure 3, Figure 4, and Figure 5. The slope of the surface profile curve shall be limited to: $-4a/W < \text{slope} < 4a/W$.

When the bending stiffness value (see ISO/IEC 7810) for the card is 20 mm or more then the surface profile limits are:

Minimum stripe width	As shown in Figure 3A	As shown in Figure 3B
W = 6,35 mm (0.25 in)	$a \leq 9{,}5$ μm (375 μin)	$a \leq 5{,}8$ μm (225 μin)
W = 10,28 mm (0.405 in)	$a \leq 15{,}4$ μm (607 μin)	$a \leq 9{,}3$ μm (365 μin)

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When the bending stiffness value (see ISO/IEC 7810) for the card is less than 20 mm then the surface profile limits are:

Minimum stripe width	As shown in Figure 3A	As shown in Figure 3B
W = 6,35 mm (0.25 in)	a ≤ 7,3 μm (288 μin)	a ≤ 4,5 μm (175 μin)
W = 10,28 mm (0.405 in)	a ≤ 11,7 μm (466 μin)	a ≤ 7,3 μm (284 μin)

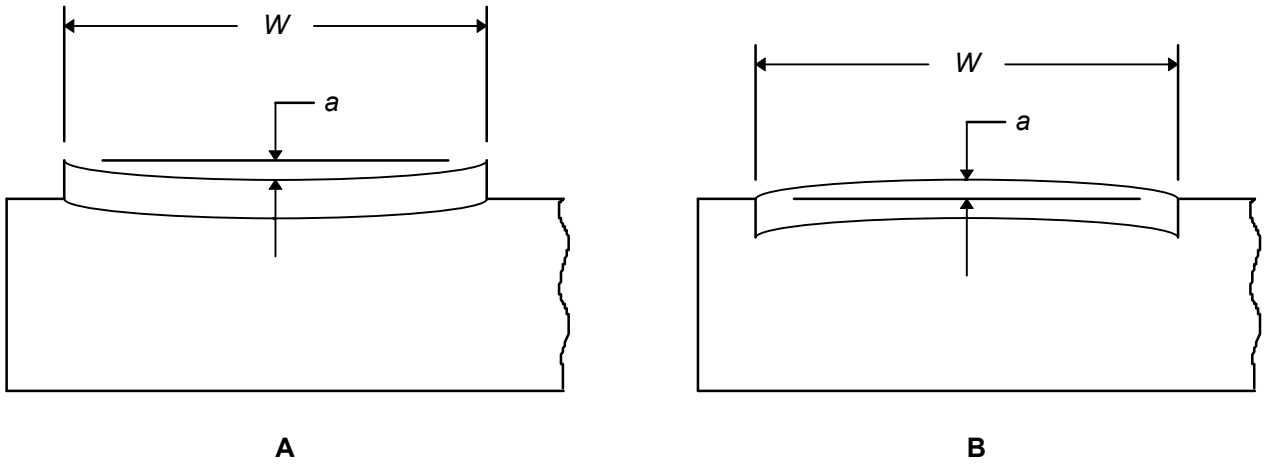


Figure 3 — Surface profile

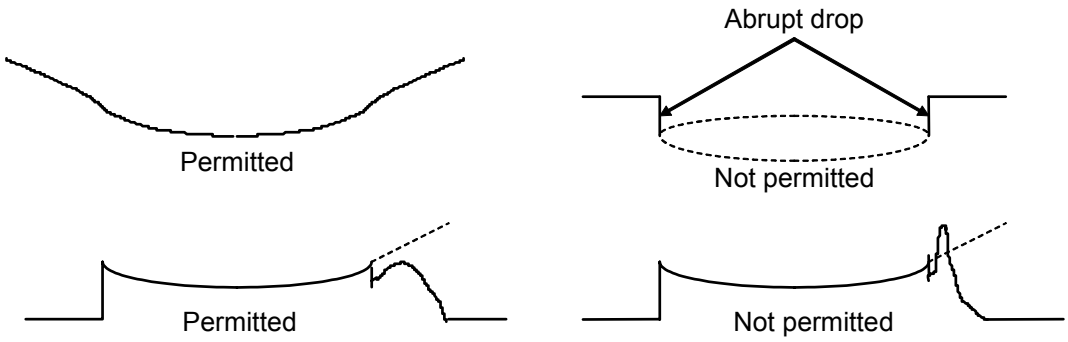


Figure 4 — Surface profile examples



Irregular profiles as shown may result in poor quality encoding.

Figure 5 — Irregular surface profile examples

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6.1.2 Height of the magnetic stripe area

The vertical deviation (h) of the magnetic stripe area relative to the adjacent surface of the card shall be:

-0,005 mm (-200 µin) $\leq h \leq$ 0,038 mm (1500 µin)

Spiking in the profile caused by the material "squirt out" in hot stamping is not part of the stripe. It shall not extend above the magnetic stripe area height (h) as defined above.

6.2 Surface roughness

The average surface roughness (R_a) of the magnetic stripe area shall not exceed 0,40 µm (15.9 µin) in both the longitudinal and transverse directions when measured according to ISO/IEC 4287.

6.3 Adhesion of stripe to card

The stripe shall not separate from the card under normal use.

6.4 Wear of magnetic stripe from read/write head

Average signal amplitude (U_A) and individual signal amplitude (U_i) are measured before and after 2000 wear cycles and shall result in:

$$U_{A\ after} \geq 0{,}60\ U_{A\ before} \quad \text{and} \quad U_{i\ after} \geq 0{,}80\ U_{A\ after}$$

6.5 Resistance to chemicals

Average signal amplitude (U_A) and individual signal amplitude (U_i) are measured before and after short-term exposure as defined in ISO/IEC 10373-1 and shall result in:

$$U_{A\ after} \geq 0{,}90\ U_{A\ before} \quad \text{and} \quad U_{i\ after} \geq 0{,}90\ U_{A\ after}$$

Average signal amplitude (U_A) and individual signal amplitude (U_i) are measured before and after long-term exposure (24 hours) to acid and alkaline artificial perspiration, as defined in ISO/IEC 10373-1.

$$U_{A\ after} \geq 0{,}90\ U_{A\ before} \quad \text{and} \quad U_{i\ after} \geq 0{,}90\ U_{A\ after}$$

7 Performance characteristics for the magnetic material

7.1 General

The purpose of this section is to enable magnetic interchangeability between card and processing systems. Media coercivity is not specified. The media's performance criteria, regardless of coercivity, is specified in 7.3.

This method uses a reference card whose material is traceable to the primary standard (see Clause 4). All signal amplitude results from the use of the secondary reference card must be corrected by the factor supplied with the secondary reference card. Test methods given in ISO/IEC 10373-2 shall be used.

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7.2 Testing and operating environment

The testing environment for signal amplitude measurements is 23 °C ± 3 °C (73 °F ± 5 °F) and 40 % to 60 % relative humidity. When tested under otherwise identical conditions, the average signal amplitude measured at 8 ft/mm (200 ftpi) shall not deviate from its value in the above test environment by more than 15 % after 5 min exposure over the following operating environment range:

temperature	-35 °C to 50 °C (-31 °F to 122 °F)
relative humidity	5 % to 95 %

7.3 Signal amplitude requirements for magnetic media

The requirements for recording characteristics of the card are shown in Table 1, and Figure 6 and Figure 7. The media's performance requirements specified in 7.3 shall be met in order to achieve improved resistance to erasure, and to enable magnetic interchange between card and processing systems. The properties in Annex D are intended as guidelines for magnetic material. Annex D is informative and shall not be used as performance criteria for cards.

Table 1 — Signal amplitude requirements for unused unencoded cards

Description	**Density** ft/mm (ftpi)	**Test recording current**	**Signal amplitude result**	**Requirement**
Signal amplitude	8 (200)	I_{min}	U_{A1}	$0{,}8\ U_R \le U_{A1} \le 1{,}2\ U_R$
Signal amplitude	8 (200)	I_{min}	U_{i1}	$U_{i1} \le 1{,}26\ U_R$
Signal amplitude	8 (200)	I_{max}	U_{A2}	$U_{A2} \ge 0{,}8\ U_R$
Signal amplitude	20 (500)	I_{max}	U_{i2}	$U_{i2} \ge 0{,}65\ U_R$
Resolution	20 (500)	I_{max}	U_{A3}	$U_{A3} \ge 0{,}7\ U_{A2}$
Erasure	0	I_{min}, DC	U_{A4}	$U_{A4} \le 0{,}03\ U_R$
Extra pulse	0	I_{min}, DC	U_{i4}	$U_{i4} \le 0{,}05\ U_R$
Demagnetisation	0	I_d, DC	U_{A5}	$U_{A5} \ge 0{,}64\ U_R$
Demagnetisation	0	I_d, DC	U_{i5}	$U_{i5} \ge 0{,}54\ U_R$
Waveform	3 (75)	I_{max}	U_{i6}, U_{A6}	$U_{i6} \le 0{,}07\ U_{A6}$
U_{i6} is the absolute value of the largest signal amplitude in the U_{i6} measurement area as shown in Figure 7.				
The slope of the saturation curve shall never be positive between I_{min} and I_{max}.				
NOTE It is not permissible to combine the above requirements mathematically. These values are for unencoded card tests and are **not** applicable for encoded cards.				

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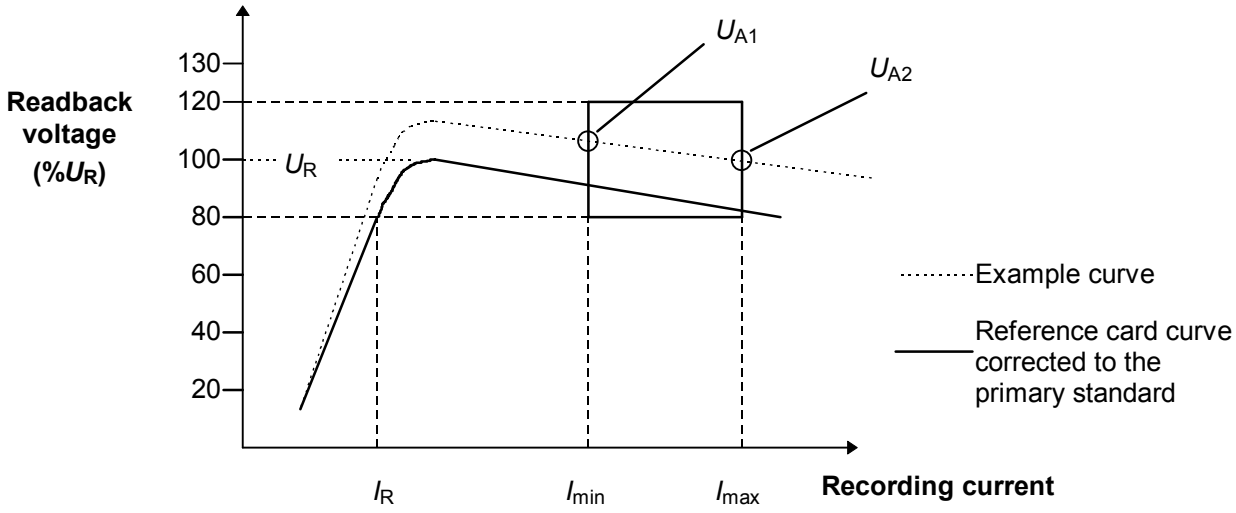
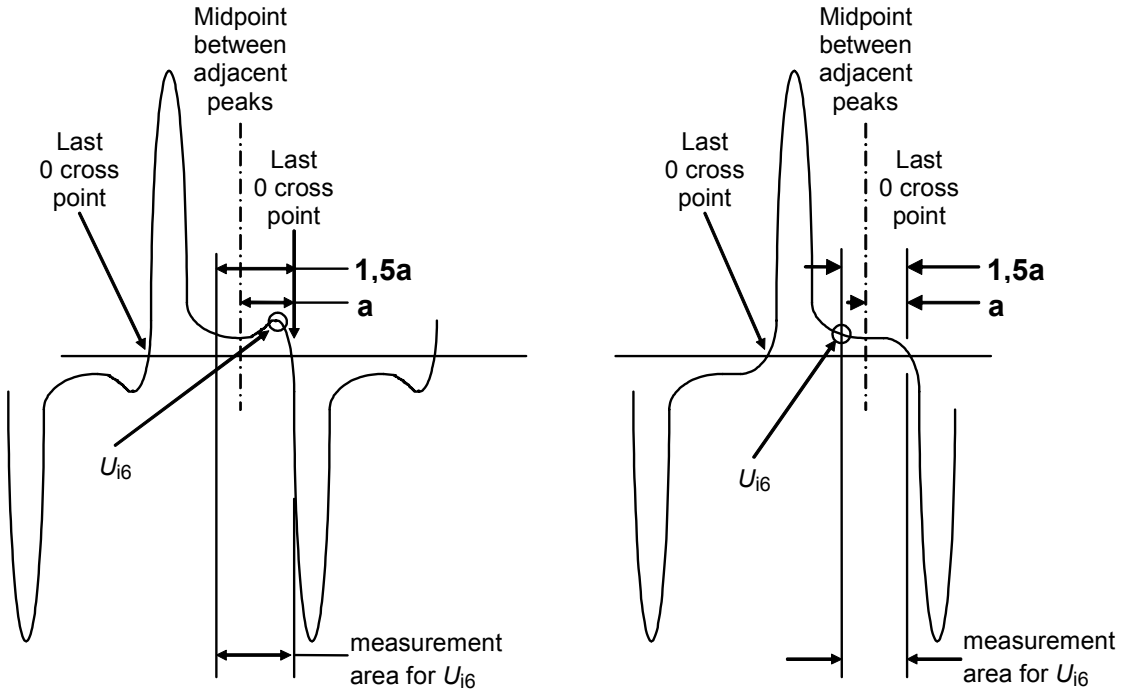


Figure 6 — Saturation curve example showing tolerance area at 8 ft/mm (200 ftpi)

NOTE The curve defines the primary standard response (on a card). The window parameters define a card that will be functional in the machine readable environment.



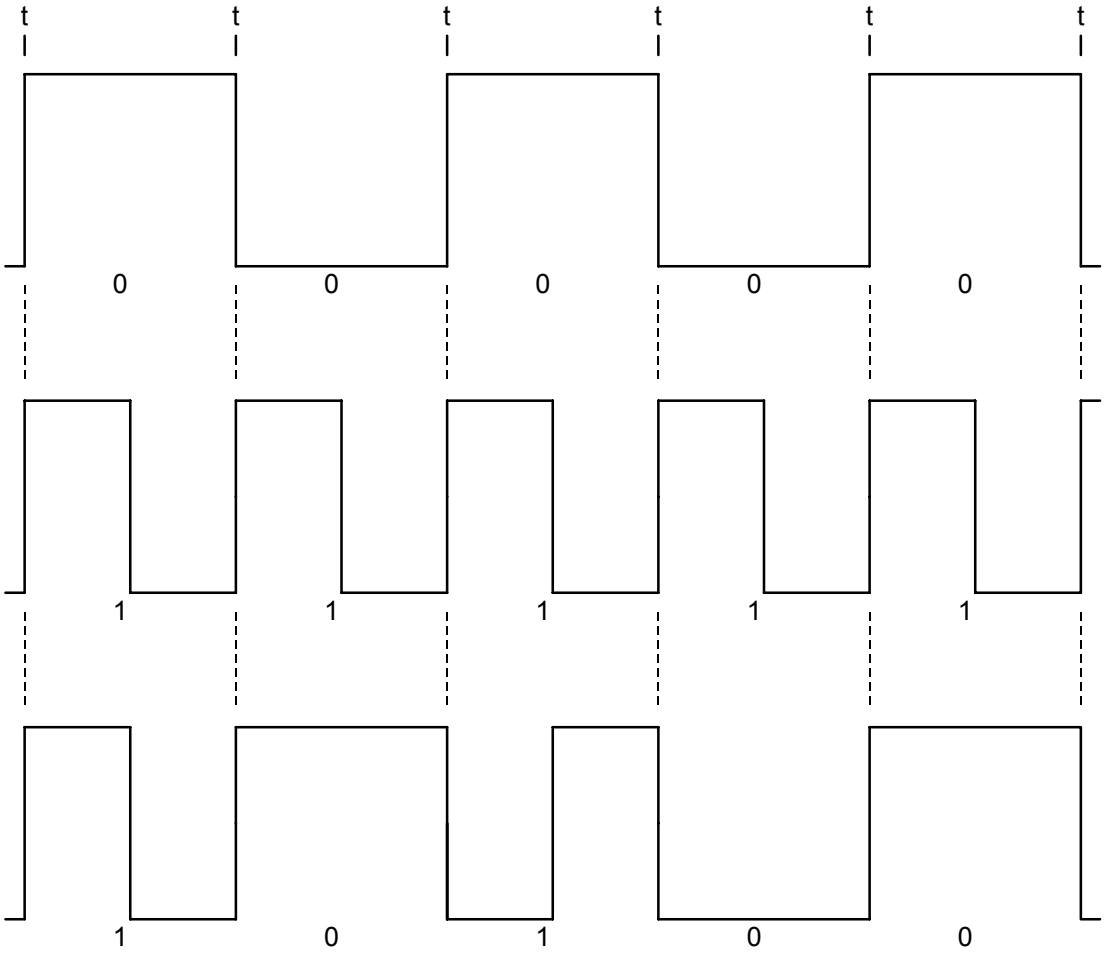
1.	Find midpoint between 2 adjacent peaks.
2.	Find 0 crossing point for waveform between midpoint and adjacent peak.
3.	The measurement area is 1,5 times a (the distance between the midpoint and 0 cross point).
4.	Find the largest signal amplitude level in the measurement area defined in the figure.
5.	The absolute value of this level is the U_{i6} for the waveform.

Figure 7 — Waveform measurements

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8 Encoding technique

The encoding technique for each track is known as two-frequency recording. This method allows for serial recording of self-clocking data. The encoding comprises data and clocking transitions together. A flux transition occurring between clocks signifies that the bit is a "one" and the absence of a flux transition between clocking transitions signifies that the bit is a "zero" (see Figure 8).



t, indicates self-clocking (timing) intervals

Figure 8 — Examples of two-frequency encoding

The data shall be recorded as a synchronous sequence of characters without intervening gaps.

NOTE Recording with a write current which is less than I_{min} may result in poor quality encoding.

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9 Encoding specification, general

9.1 Angle of recording

The angle of recording shall be normal to the nearest edge of the card parallel to the magnetic stripe with a tolerance of ± 20 min. The angle of recording (α) is determined by measuring the angle of the head gap when the reading amplitude is maximum (see Figure 9).

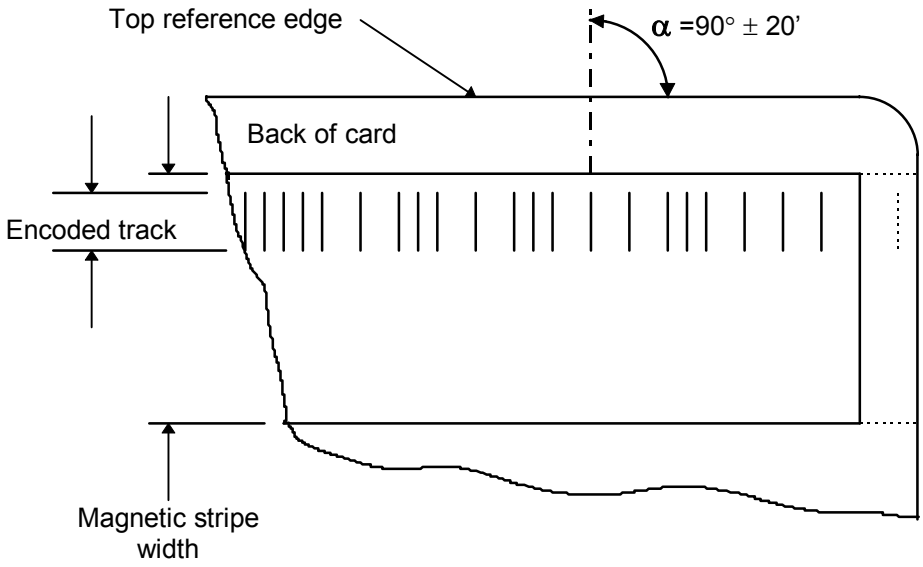


Figure 9 — Angle of recording

9.2 Nominal bit density

The nominal bit density for each of the tracks shall be:

for track 1 8,27 bits/mm (210 bpi),

for track 2 2,95 bits/mm (75 bpi),

for track 3 8,27 bits/mm (210 bpi).

9.3 Signal amplitude requirements for tracks 1, 2 and 3

The requirements for signal amplitude on tracks 1, 2 and 3 shall be as follows:

Unused encoded cards: $0{,}64\ U_R \leq U_i \leq 1{,}36\ U_R$

Returned cards: $0{,}52\ U_R \leq U_i \leq 1{,}36\ U_R$

There shall be no signal peaks between the minimum requirement (0,64 U_R for Unused encoded cards or 0,52 U_R for Returned cards) and 0,07 U_R.

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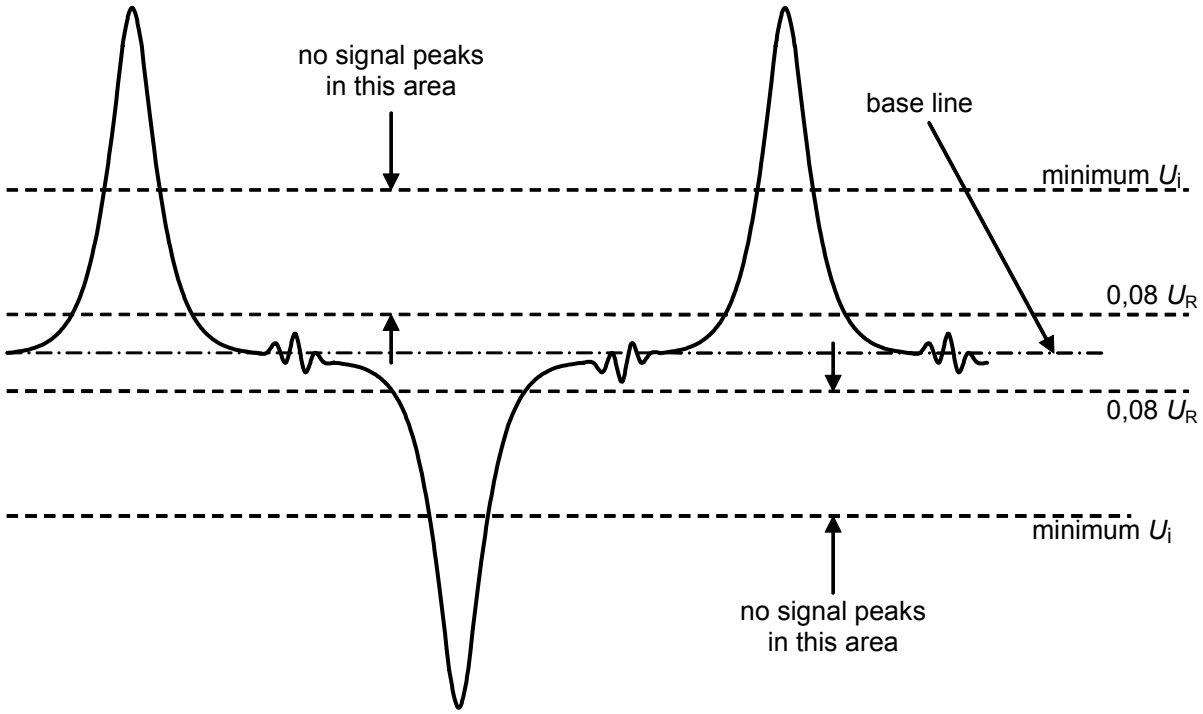


Figure 10 — Flux transition spacing variation

NOTE The requirements above specify the interchange signal amplitude limits for each of the encoded track locations at the specified bit densities. Signal amplitude requirements specified in Table 1 reflect the magnetic media limits at the specified recording frequency and recording test currents.

9.4 Bit configuration

In the bit configuration for each character on the magnetic area, the least significant bit (2^0) shall be encoded first and the parity bit last.

9.5 Direction of recording

The encoding shall begin from the right-hand side viewed from the side with the magnetic stripe and with the stripe at the top.

9.6 Leading and trailing zeroes

The lead-in up to the first data bit shall be recorded with zeroes and the space after the last bit shall also be recorded with zeroes. Zeroes prior to 3,30 mm (0.130 in) or after 82,17 mm (3.235 in) from the right edge of the card when viewed from the back are not required to meet the specifications given herein.

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10 Encoding specifications

10.1 Alphanumeric track, track 1

10.1.1 Average bit density

The average bit density (B_a) shall be 8,27 bits/mm (210 bpi) ± 8 % measured in a longitudinal direction parallel to the top reference edge.

10.1.2 Flux transition spacing variation

Flux transition spacing variations are shown in Table 2 for unused encoded cards and in Table 3 for returned cards. See also Figure 11.

Table 2 — Flux transition spacing variation for unused encoded cards-Track 1 and 3

Term	Description	Requirement	Variation
B_a	Average length between clocking flux transitions	111 µm (4381 µin) ≤ B_a ≤ 131 µm (5143 µin)	± 8 %
B_{in}	Individual length between clocking flux transitions	109 µm (4286 µin) ≤ B_{in} ≤ 133 µm (5238 µin)	± 10 %
B_{in+1}	Adjacent bit-to-bit variation	0,90 B_{in} ≤ B_{in+1} ≤ 1,10 B_{in}	± 10 %
S_{in}	Subinterval length	53 µm (2095 µin) ≤ S_{in} ≤ 68 µm (2667 µin)	± 12 %
S_{in+1}	Adjacent subinterval length	0,88 $B_{in}/2$ ≤ S_{in+1} ≤ 1,12 $B_{in}/2$	± 12 %
B_{in+1} or S_{in+1} is the length between flux transitions immediately following and adjacent to B_{in}.			

Table 3 — Flux transition spacing variation for returned cards-Track 1 and 3

Term	Description	Requirement	Variation
B_a	Average length between clocking flux transitions	111 µm (4381 µin) ≤ B_a ≤ 131 µm (5143 µin)	± 8 %
B_{in}	Individual length between clocking flux transitions	103 µm (4048 µin) ≤ B_{in} ≤ 139 µm (5476 µin)	± 15 %
B_{in+1}	Adjacent bit-to-bit variation	0,85 B_{in} ≤ B_{in+1} ≤ 1,15 B_{in}	± 15 %
S_{in}	Subinterval length	48,4 µm (1905 µin) ≤ S_{in} ≤ 72,6 µm (2857 µin)	± 20 %
S_{in+1}	Adjacent subinterval length	0,70 $B_{in}/2$ ≤ S_{in+1} ≤ 1,30 $B_{in}/2$	± 30 %
B_{in+1} or S_{in+1} is the length between flux transitions immediately following and adjacent to B_{in}.			
NOTE This table shows only the limits within which cards will function normally and does not imply any guarantee of flux transition spacing during valid term for issued card.			

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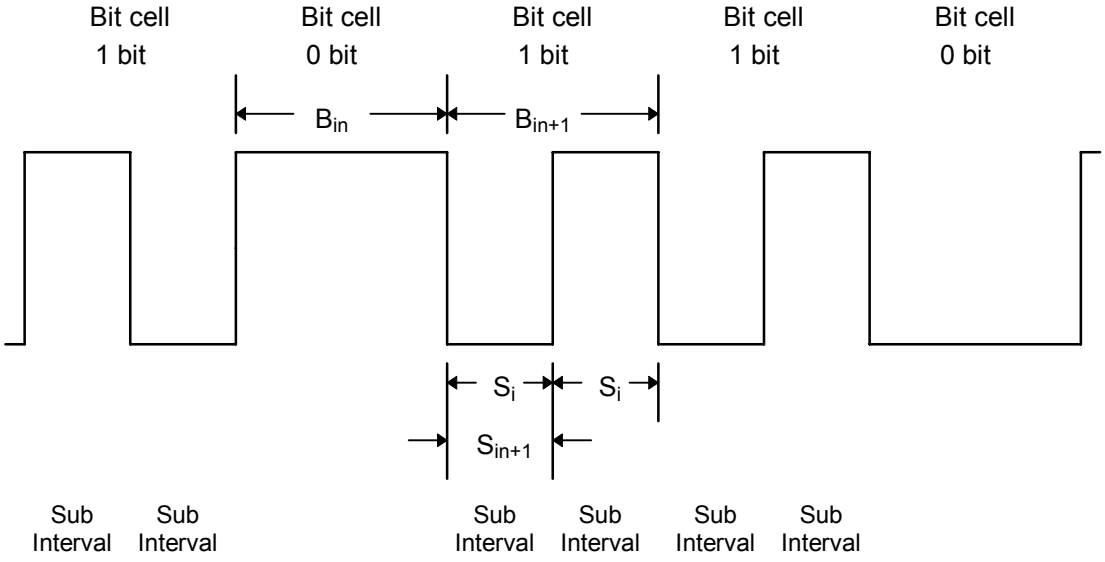


Figure 11 — Flux transition spacing variation

10.1.3 Coded character set

The coded character set for track 1 shall be 7 bit alphanumeric as shown in Table 4.

The 14 characters **! " & ' * + , : ; < = > @ _** are available for hardware control purposes and may not be used for information (data content).

The 3 characters **[\ ]** are reserved for additional national characters when required. They must not be used internationally.

The character **#** is reserved for optional additional graphic symbols.

The 3 characters **% ^ ?** shall have the following meaning:

- **%** start sentinel
- **^** field separator
- **?** end sentinel

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Table 4 — Coded character set for 7 bit alphanumeric

	Char.	Binary								Char	Binary						
		P	2^5	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0			P	2^5	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
	space	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		**@**	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	!	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		**A**	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
	“	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		**B**	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
	#	1	0	0	0	0	1	1		**C**	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
	$	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		**D**	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
	%	1	0	0	0	1	0	1		**E**	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
	&	1	0	0	0	1	1	0		**F**	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
	‘	0	0	0	0	1	1	1		**G**	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
	(	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		**H**	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
	)	1	0	0	1	0	0	1		**I**	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
	*****	1	0	0	1	0	1	0		**J**	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
	+	0	0	0	1	0	1	1		**K**	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
	,	1	0	0	1	1	0	0		**L**	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
	-	0	0	0	1	1	0	1		**M**	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
	.	0	0	0	1	1	1	0		**N**	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
	/	1	0	0	1	1	1	1		**O**	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		**P**	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1		**Q**	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0		**R**	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	1		**S**	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0		**T**	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
	5	0	0	1	0	1	0	1		**U**	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
	6	0	0	1	0	1	1	0		**V**	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
	7	1	0	1	0	1	1	1		**W**	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
	8	1	0	1	1	0	0	0		**X**	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	1		**Y**	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
	:	0	0	1	1	0	1	0		**Z**	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
	;	1	0	1	1	0	1	1		**[**	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
	<	0	0	1	1	1	0	0		****	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
	=	1	0	1	1	1	0	1		**]**	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
	>	1	0	1	1	1	1	0		**^**	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
	?	0	0	1	1	1	1	1		**_**	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

NOTE This coded character set is identical to the coded character set in ISO/IEC 7811-2 (derived from ASCII.)

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10.1.4 Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card

The data characters, control characters, start and end sentinels, and longitudinal redundancy check character shall together not exceed 79 characters.

10.2 Numeric track, Track 2

10.2.1 Average bit density

The average bit density (B_a) shall be 2,95 bits/mm (75 bpi) ± 5 % measured in a longitudinal direction parallel to the top reference edge.

10.2.2 Flux transition spacing variation

Flux transition spacing variations are shown in Table 5 for unused encoded cards and in Table 6 for returned cards. See also Figure 11.

Table 5 — Flux transition spacing variation for unused encoded cards-Track 2

Term	Description	Requirement	Variation
B_a	Average length between clocking flux transitions	322 µm (12667 µin) $\leq B_a \leq$ 356 µm (14000 µin)	± 5 %
B_{in}	Individual length between clocking flux transitions	315 µm (12400 µin) $\leq B_{in} \leq$ 363 µm (14267 µin)	± 7 %
B_{in+1}	Adjacent bit-to-bit variation	0,90 $B_{in} \leq B_{in+1} \leq$ 1,10 B_{in}	± 10 %
S_{in}	Subinterval length	153 µm (6000 µin) $\leq S_{in} \leq$ 186 µm (7333 µin)	± 10 %
S_{in+1}	Adjacent subinterval length	0,88 $B_{in}/2 \leq S_{in+1} \leq$ 1,12 $B_{in}/2$	± 12 %
B_{in+1} or S_{in+1} is the length between flux transitions immediately following and adjacent to B_{in}.			

Table 6 — Flux transition spacing variation for returned cards-Track 2

Term	Description	Requirement	Variation
B_a	Average length between clocking flux transitions	322 µm (12667 µin) $\leq B_a \leq$ 356 µm (14000 µin)	± 5 %
B_{in}	Individual length between clocking flux transitions	288 µm (11333 µin) $\leq B_{in} \leq$ 390 µm (15333 µin)	± 15 %
B_{in+1}	Adjacent bit-to-bit variation	0,85 $B_{in} \leq B_{in+1} \leq$ 1,15 B_{in}	± 15 %
S_{in}	Subinterval length	136 µm (5333 µin) $\leq S_{in} \leq$ 203 µm (8000 µin)	± 20 %
S_{in+1}	Adjacent subinterval length	0,70 $B_{in}/2 \leq S_{in+1} \leq$ 1,30 $B_{in}/2$	± 30 %
B_{in+1} or S_{in+1} is the length between flux transitions immediately following and adjacent to B_{in}.			
NOTE This table shows only the limits within which cards will function normally and does not imply any guarantee of flux transition spacing during valid term for issued card.			

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10.2.3 Coded character set

The coded character set for track 2 shall be 5 bit numeric as shown in Table 7.

The 3 characters **: < >** are available for hardware control purposes and shall not be used for data content.

The 3 characters **; = ?** shall have the following meaning:

- **;** start sentinel
- **=** field separator
- **?** end sentinel

Table 7 — Coded character set for 5 bit numeric

	Char.	Binary						Char.	Binary				
		P	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0			P	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
	0	1	0	0	0	0		**8**	0	1	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	0	1		**9**	1	1	0	0	1
	2	0	0	0	1	0		**:**	1	1	0	1	0
	3	1	0	0	1	1		**;**	0	1	0	1	1
	4	0	0	1	0	0		**<**	1	1	1	0	0
	5	1	0	1	0	1		**=**	0	1	1	0	1
	6	1	0	1	1	0		**>**	0	1	1	1	0
	7	0	0	1	1	1		**?**	1	1	1	1	1
NOTE This coded character set is identical to the coded character set in ISO/IEC 7811-2 (derived from ASCII.)													

10.2.4 Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card

The data characters, control characters, start and end sentinels, and longitudinal redundancy check character shall together not exceed 40 characters.

10.3 Numeric track, Track 3

10.3.1 Average bit density

The average bit density (B_a) shall be 8,27 bits/mm (210 bpi) ± 8 % measured in a longitudinal direction parallel to the top reference edge.

10.3.2 Flux transition spacing variation

Flux transition spacing variations are shown in Table 2 for unused encoded cards and in Table 3 for returned cards. See also Figure 11.

10.3.3 Coded character set

The coded character set for track 3 shall be 5 bit numeric as shown in Table 7.

The 3 characters **: < >** are available for hardware control purposes and shall not be used for data content.

The 3 characters **; = ?** shall have the following meaning:

- **;** start sentinel
- **=** field separator
- **?** end sentinel

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10.3.4 Maximum number of characters for ID-1 type card

The data characters, control characters, start and end sentinels, and longitudinal redundancy check character shall together not exceed 107 characters.

11 Error detection

Two techniques of error detection, as described below, shall be encoded. In both techniques, the leading and trailing zeroes shall not be regarded as data characters.

11.1 Parity

A parity bit for each encoded character shall be used. The value of the parity bit is defined such that the total quantity of one bits recorded, for each character, including the parity bit, shall be odd.

11.2 Longitudinal redundancy check (LRC)

The longitudinal redundancy check (LRC) character shall appear for each data track. The LRC character shall be encoded so that it immediately follows the end sentinel when the card is read in a direction giving the start sentinel first, followed by data and the end sentinel. The bit configuration of the LRC character shall be identical to the bit configuration of the data characters.

The LRC character shall be calculated using the following procedure:

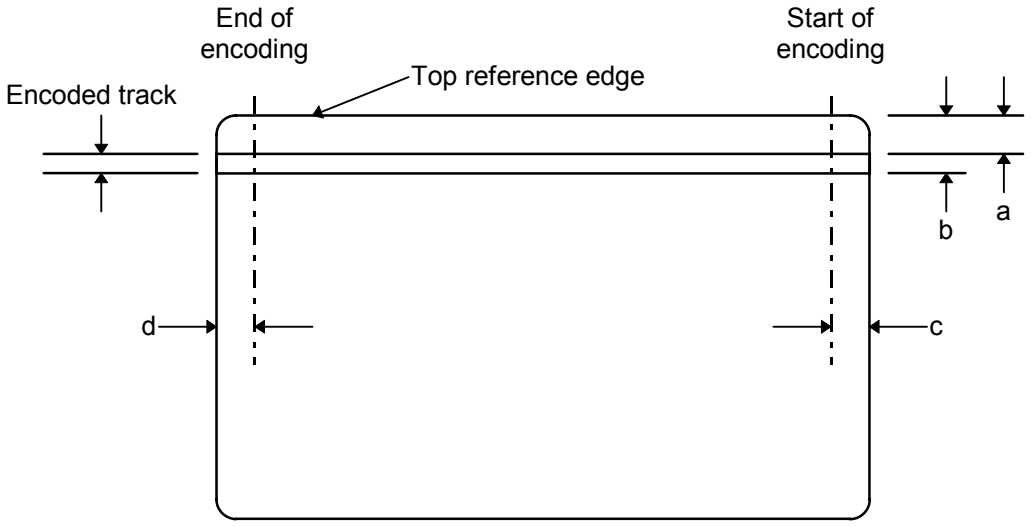
The value of each bit in the LRC character, excluding the parity bit, is defined such that the total count of one bits encoded in the corresponding bit location of all characters of the data track, including the start sentinel, data, end sentinel, and LRC characters, shall be even.

The LRC characters parity bit is not a parity bit for the individual parity bits of the data track, but is only the parity bit for the LRC character encoded as described in 11.1.

12 Location of encoded tracks

Each encoded track shall be located between the two lines as shown in Figure 12. The start of encoding is located at the centreline of the first “one” bit in the start sentinel. The end of encoding is located at the centreline of the last bit in the longitudinal redundancy check character (the last bit is the parity bit).

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dimensions in millimetres (inches)

Term	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3
a	5,79 (0.228) maximum	8,33 (0.328) minimum 9,09 (0.358) maximum	11,63 (0.458) minimum 12,65 (0.498) maximum
b	8,33 (0.328) minimum 9,09 (0.358) maximum	11,63 (0.458) minimum 12,65 (0.498) maximum	15,19 (0.598) minimum 15,82 (0.623) maximum
c	7,44 ± 1,00 (0.293 ± 0.039)	7,44 ± 0,50 (0.293 ± 0.020)	7,44 ± 1,00 (0.293 ± 0.039)
d	6,93 (0.252) minimum	6,93 (0.252) minimum	----
NOTE All tracks have a minimum width of 2,54 (0.100).			

Figure 12 — Location of encoded tracks

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Annex A
(informative)

Read compatibility of magnetic stripes (ISO/IEC 7811-2 and ISO/IEC 7811-6)

The purpose of this annex is to explain to users the limitations of the term 'read compatibility' as mentioned in the scope of this standard, and applied to ISO/IEC 7811-2 and ISO/IEC 7811-6.

Ideally, high coercivity magnetic stripes would have significantly improved resistance to erasure but would be identical in read-back signal characteristics to 'low coercivity' magnetic stripes (i.e. those magnetic stripes conforming to ISO/IEC 7811-2). In practice, however, the difference in magnetic characteristics between high and low coercivity magnetic stripes causes the read-back signal characteristics to differ sufficiently to make evaluation of relative read-back signal amplitude dependent on the measuring equipment.

In general, it is to be expected that read-back sub-systems with greater sensitivity to shorter recorded wavelengths will produce an increase in high coercivity read-back signal amplitudes relative to low coercivity read-back signal amplitudes.

Users of ISO/IEC 7811-6 should therefore take careful note of the fact that obtaining comparable read-back signal amplitudes from magnetic stripes conforming to ISO/IEC 7811-2 is dependent upon reproducing the exact conditions of measurement given in ISO/IEC 10373-2.

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Annex B
(normative)

Signal amplitude measurements

This test method in this annex will be superseded by the next edition of ISO/IEC 10373-2.

Table B.1 shows revised bandpass filter characteristics that shall be used for signal amplitude measurements performed in ISO/IEC 10373-2: 1998.

Table B.1 — Revised values for bandpass filter

Position	Cycles per mm (cycles per inch)	Flux transitions per mm (flux transitions per inch)
1	0,009 (0.23)	0,018 (0.46)
2	0,025 (0.63)	0,05 (1.27)
3	10,5 (267)	21,0 (533)
4	30,0 (762)	60,0 (1 524)

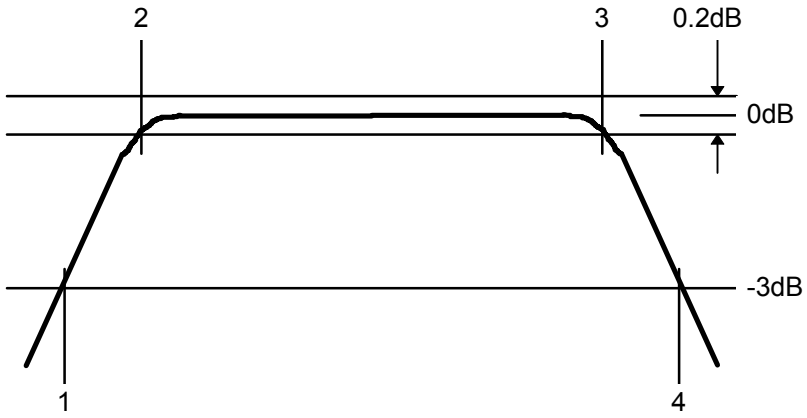


Figure B.1 — Bandpass filter

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Annex C
(informative)

Magnetic stripe abrasivity

The purpose of this annex is to explain why the abrasive properties of magnetic stripes as they relate to head life are not among the physical characteristics governed by this standard. The absence of any specification for abrasive properties reflects the difficulty of defining the parameters of abrasive wear and devising an accurate, repeatable test for measuring abrasive properties. Although no repeatable test methods are available, there are known technologies available for extending head life such as improved head materials, magnetic stripe formulation additives, or overcoats on magnetic stripe.

A quantified stripe abrasivity would seem to be an essential prerequisite to any attempt to predict magnetic head lifetimes. However, just as there is considerable variation in the abrasive nature of different magnetic stripes, there are a multitude of magnetic stripe reader/writer environments. The variety of combinations of influences and the complexity of the manner in which these affect abrasivity makes it extremely difficult to predict magnetic head lifetimes even when the environmental, mechanical and magnetic stripe conditions are specified.

Current equipment-specific abrasivity testing is done on a purely comparative basis. It is time consuming and usually expensive in terms of the number of cards used. The results of such tests are simply rankings that show one stripe to be some degree more or less abrasive than others under the specific conditions of test. There are no accurate absolute values and the rankings may change from one set of conditions to another.

Performing a successful read or write operation on a magnetic stripe requires the stripe and magnetic head to be in contact for the whole operation. The relative movement between the magnetic head and magnetic stripe produces wear of both. Initially the abrasivity of the magnetic stripe falls rapidly with the number of head passes, so that the abrasivity of a new unused magnetic stripe may be much greater than that of a magnetic stripe which has only been written once, but as the number of head passes increases the rate of change of abrasivity decreases.

The influences affecting magnetic stripe abrasivity are known to include temperature, humidity, head material (and its state of wear and finish), head pressure, card speed, the specific physical properties of the magnetic stripe surface in contact

with the head, surface roughness, and contamination on the magnetic stripe. Under field conditions dust, dirt and grease from the environment are deposited at the head/stripe interface often producing major discrepancies between abrasive wear measured under laboratory conditions and that actually achieved.

It may be seen, therefore, that not only are there difficulties involved in achieving an acceptable level of measurement uncertainty for abrasivity testing but that there are significant doubts regarding the applicability of the results of abrasivity tests on cards under laboratory conditions to predictions of performance in the real world. Unless these problems are resolved, there can be no useful standard specification and test.

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Annex D
(informative)

Static magnetic characteristics

D.1 Introduction

This annex gives definitions and values for certain static magnetic characteristics of high coercivity magnetic stripes. These parameters are useful in the manufacture of magnetic material and are not directly related to magnetic performance characteristics given in Table 1 for cards. There is no guarantee that magnetic stripes with values given in this informative annex will meet the mandatory requirements given in Table 1. However, magnetic stripes that do not comply with the suggested static magnetic values probably will not conform to Table 1 properties.

D.2 Definitions

D.2.1
maximum field, H_{max}
maximum absolute magnetic field strength applied as described by the test method

D.2.2
static M(H) loop
normal hysteresis loop for which the magnetic field strength is cycled between the extremes - H_{max} to + H_{max} at such a low rate of change that the loop is not influenced by the rate of change (see IEC 50(221))

D.2.3
coercivity, $H'_{cM} = H'_{cJ}$
continuously applied magnetic field which reduces the magnetisation to zero from a previous maximum magnetisation state in the opposite direction, the quantity of interest being that which is measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stripe (see IEC 50(221))

D.2.4
remanence, M_r
value of magnetisation (M) in a given direction at zero magnetic field (H=0) after the application and removal of the maximum field (H_{max}) in the same direction

D.2.5
remanence coercivity, H_r
applied magnetic field which when removed returns the material to a zero magnetisation state from a previous maximum magnetisation state in the opposite direction, the quantity of interest being that which is measured parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stripe

D.2.6
oersted, Oe
Gaussian cgs unit of magnetic field strength which is commonly used in the magnetic recording industry equal to approximately 79,578 A/m (relationship is informative, see annex A (informative) of ISO 31-5:1992)

D.2.7
static demagnetisation, S_{160}
reduction in remanent magnetisation under the influence of an opposing magnetic field; characterised by $(M_r - M^+(-160))/ M_r$

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D.2.8
longitudinal squareness, $SQ = M_r/M\ at\ (H_{max})$
ratio of the value of remanence (M_r) after the application and removal of the maximum field (H_{max}) to the magnetisation (M) at the maximum field applied (H_{max}) measured along the longitudinal axis of the stripe

D.2.9
remanence ratio, $R_M = (M_{rP} / M_{rL})$
ratio of the perpendicular remanence measured perpendicular to the surface of the magnetic stripe (M_{rP}) to the longitudinal remanence measured along the longitudinal direction of the magnetic stripe (M_{rL})

D.2.10
switching field by slope, SF_S
$(\ /H_2/-/H_1/)/\ H'_{cM}$ where $M(-/H_1/) = 0{,}5M_r$ and $M(-/H_2/) = -0{,}5\ M_r$; the difference between the field values at the intercept of the static magnetisation $M(H)$ loop with $M(H) = 0{,}5\ M_r$ and $M(H) = -0{,}5\ M_r$, divided by the coercivity

D.2.11
switching field by derivative, SF_D
the width at half height of the differentiated static magnetisation curve $M(H)$ divided by the coercivity value on the same curve

D.3 Recommended characteristics

The recommended static characteristics of high coercivity magnetic stripe are shown in Table D.1.

Table D.1 — Static characteristics of high coercivity magnetic material

Number	Parameter	Symbol	Value
1	Coercivity	H'_{cM}	335 kA/m (4200 Oe) maximum 200 kA/m (2500 Oe) minimum
2	Static demagnetisation	S_{160}	0,20 maximum
3	Longitudinal squareness	SQ	0,80 minimum
4	Remanence ratio	R_M	0,35 maximum
5	Switching field by slope	SF_S	0,30 maximum
6	Switching field by derivative	SF_D	0,50 maximum

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