
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



2636

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**Information processing – Conventions for incorporating
flowchart symbols in flowcharts**

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up has the right to be represented on that Committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Technical Committees are circulated to the Member Bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 2636 was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 97, *Computers and information processing*, and circulated to the Member Bodies in April 1972.

It has been approved by the Member Bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Ireland	Spain
Belgium	Italy	Sweden
Canada	Japan	Switzerland
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	Thailand
Denmark	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Portugal	U.S.A.
France	Romania	U.S.S.R.
Germany	South Africa, Rep. of	

No Member Body expressed disapproval of the document.

Information processing – Conventions for incorporating flowchart symbols in flowcharts

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard specifies conventions for incorporating the flowchart symbols as given in ISO/R 1028 in information processing flowcharts.

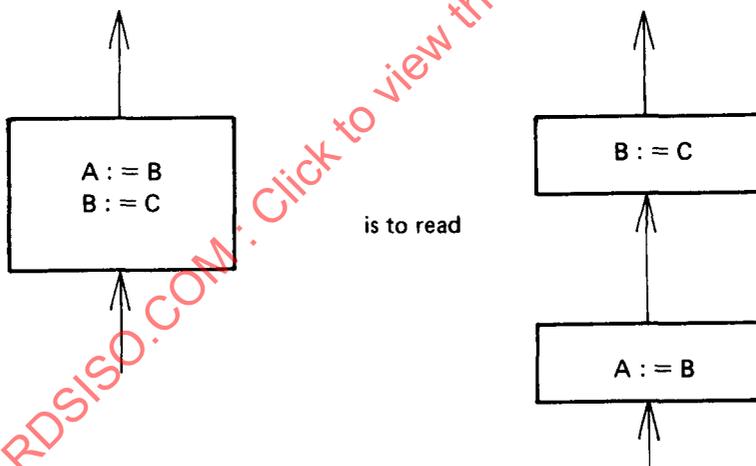
2 REFERENCE

ISO/R 1028, *Flowchart symbols for information processing.*

3 FLOWCHART TEXT

Descriptive information associated with each symbol shall be presented so as to be read from left to right and from top to bottom regardless of the flow direction.

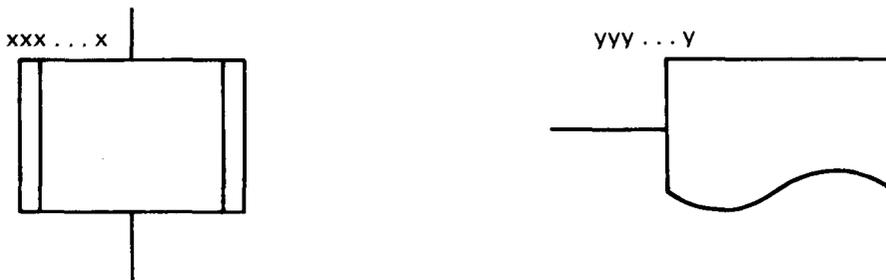
Example :



4 IDENTIFICATION OF SYMBOLS (OTHER THAN FLOWCHART TEXT)

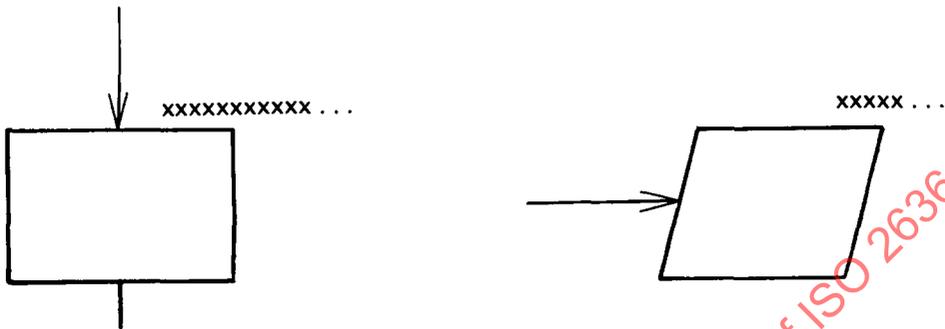
4.1 Symbol name

This is an identifier associated with a symbol which identifies the symbol for reference purposes in other elements of documentation (for example, a program listing). A symbol name shall be placed above and to the left of the symbol, as shown below.



4.2 Symbol description

This is any other information (for example, for description, elaboration or other cross-referencing, to provide improved understanding of the function of that part of the system). A symbol description shall be placed above and to the right of the symbol, as shown below.



5 CONNECTOR REFERENCING

5.1 A connector used to represent the point at which a flowline is broken is called an outconnector.

A connector used to identify the continuation of a flowline which has been broken is called an inconnector.

5.2 A common identifier, such as an alphabetic character, number or mnemonic label, shall be placed within the outconnector and its associated inconnector.

Outconnector



Inconnector



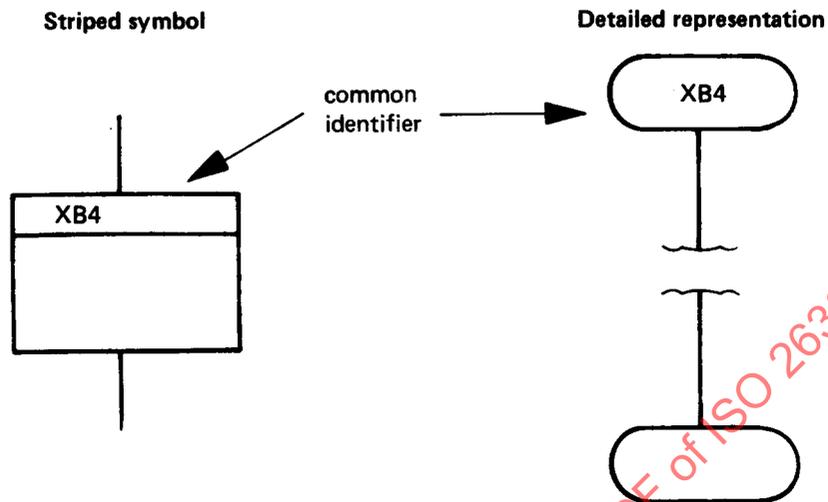
6 SYMBOL STRIPING

6.1 Striping is a means of indicating that a more detailed representation of the symbol to which it applied is to be found elsewhere in the same set of flowcharts. (This representation differs from a predefined process symbol which need not be represented in detail in the same set of flowcharts.)

6.2 A striped symbol is one in which a horizontal line is drawn within and near the top of the symbol, and a reference to the detailed representation is placed between that line and the top line of the symbol. (The length of the line is not specified.)

6.3 The symbol terminal shall be used as the first and last symbols of the detailed representation. The first terminal symbol contains an identification which also appears in the striped symbol, as indicated in 6.2.

Example :

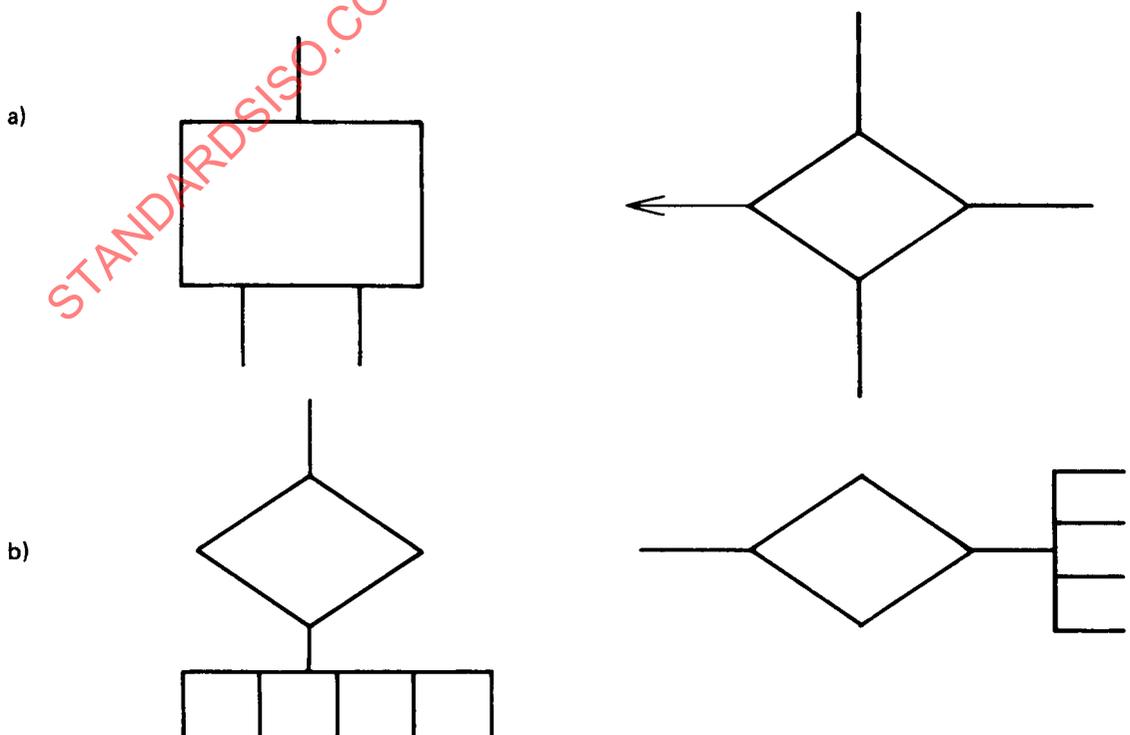


7 MULTIPLE EXIT

7.1 Multiple exits from a symbol shall be shown

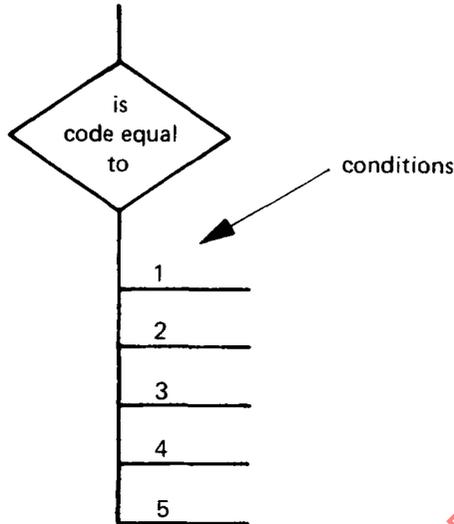
- a) by several flowlines from the symbol to other symbols, or
- b) by a single flowline from the symbol which then branches into the appropriate number of flowlines.

Examples :



7.2 Each exit from a symbol shall be identified to show the logic path which it represents.

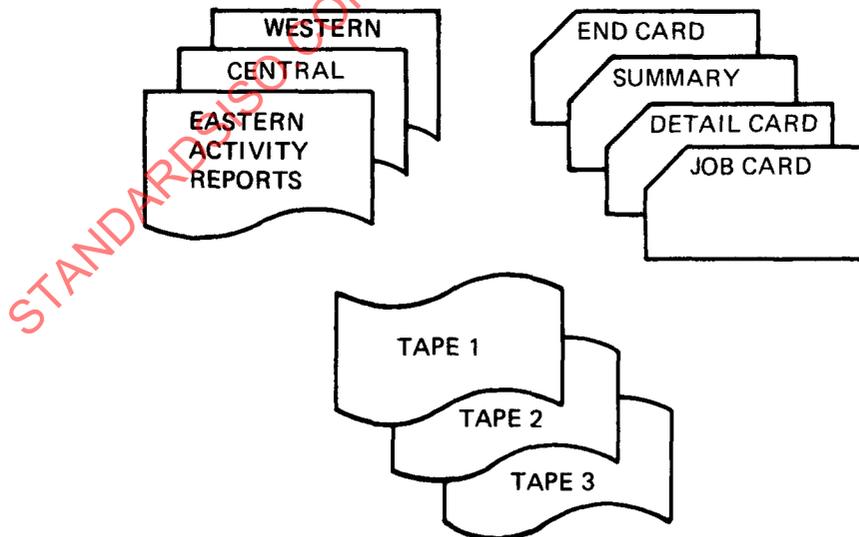
Example :



It may be appropriate to support the flowchart by a reference to a decision table, in which the logic paths and their associated conditions are represented.

8 REPETITIVE REPRESENTATION OF THE SAME MEDIA

8.1 As an alternative to a single symbol with appropriate text, the same data media symbols may be shown in an overlay pattern, as shown below, to illustrate the use or creation of multiple media for files; for example, number of copies, types of printed reports, types of punched card formats.



8.2 The overlay pattern shall be drawn from front to back with the first symbol as the entire data media symbol. The centre lines of the second symbol must be offset up or down from the horizontal centre line and to the right or left of the vertical centre line of the first symbol. Similarly, the third symbol shall be offset in the same direction from the second symbol, the fourth from the third, and so on for any remaining symbols.