

FEDERAL INFORMATION
PROCESSING STANDARDS PUBLICATION

1980 NOVEMBER 7



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / National Bureau of Standards



OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION (OCR) INKS

CATEGORY: HARDWARE STANDARD

SUBCATEGORY: CHARACTER RECOGNITION

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Foreword

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Abstract

The objective of this standard is to define the spectral band for read inks and to provide spectrophotometric curves for red and blue nonread inks that are used by optical readers in order to facilitate the interchange of information among compatible OCR equipment.

This standard adopts in whole the American National Standard for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Inks, ANSI X3.86-1980.

KEY WORDS: American National Standard; Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS); interchange of machine readable information; Optical Character Recognition (OCR); OCR-A; OCR-B; nonread inks; read inks.

Nat.Bur.Stand. (U.S.), Fed.Info.Process.Stand.Publ.(FIPS PUB) 85, 4 pages.
(1980)
CODEN:FIPPAT

For sale by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161.

Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 85

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ANNOUNCING THE STANDARD FOR



OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION (OCR) INKS

Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are issued by the National Bureau of Standards pursuant to section 111(f)(2) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, Public Law 89-306 (79 Stat. 1127), Executive Order 11717 (38 FR 12315, dated May 11, 1973) and Part 6 of Title 15 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

1. **Name of Standard.** Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Inks.
2. **Category of Standard.** Hardware Standard, Character Recognition.
3. **Explanation.** This standard defines the spectral band for read inks and provides spectrophotometric curves for red and blue nonread inks.
4. **Approving Authority.** Secretary of Commerce.
5. **Maintenance Agency.** U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards (Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology).
6. **Cross Index.** American National Standard for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Inks, ANSI X3.86-1980.
7. **Related Documents.**
 - a. Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) 32, Optical Character Recognition Character Sets.
 - b. Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) 40, Guideline for Optical Character Recognition Forms.
 - c. American National Standard for Character Set for Optical Character Recognition (OCR-A), ANSI BSR X3.17-1981.
 - d. American National Standard for Character Set for Optical Character Recognition (OCR-B), ANSI X3.49-1975.
8. **Applicability.** This standard is applicable to the acquisition and use of inks and preprinted forms by Federal agencies that will be read by optical character recognition techniques where the interchange of machine readable information between different systems may be required.

Users of existing materials are encouraged to employ this standard. Materials not in accordance with this standard should be evaluated periodically by Federal agencies because information to be read by optical

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character recognition techniques which has inadequate image quality causes misreading (errors).

9. **Specifications.** This standard adopts in whole the American National Standard for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Inks (ANSI X3.86-1980).

10. **Qualifications.** None.

11. **Implementation Schedule.** All applicable inks and preprinted forms 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 materials in stock or on order prior to the effective date of this standard.

b. Where procurement actions are in the solicitation phase (i.e., Requests for Proposals or Invitations for Bids have been issued) prior to the effective date of this standard.

12. **Waivers.** Heads of agencies may request that the requirements of this standard be waived in instances where it can be clearly demonstrated that there are appreciable performance or cost advantages to be gained and that the overall interests of the Federal Government are best served by granting the requested waiver. Such waiver requests will be reviewed by and are subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce. The waiver request must address the criteria stated above as the justification for the waiver.

Forty-five days should be allowed for review and response by the Secretary of Commerce. Waiver requests shall be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, and labeled as a Request for a Waiver to a Federal Information Processing Standard. No agency shall take any action to deviate from the standard prior to the receipt of a waiver approval from the Secretary of Commerce. No agency shall begin any process of implementation or acquisition of non-conforming equipment unless it has already obtained such approval.

13. **Where to Obtain Copies.** Copies of this publication are for sale by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161. (Sale of the included specifications document is by arrangement with the American National Standards Institute.) When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 85 (FIPS-PUB - 85), and title. Payment may be made by check, money order, or deposit account.