

ECMA-10, Data Interchange on Punched Tape

Introduction

i. This standard relates to punched tapes used for data interchange among data processing systems.

It confines itself to those factors and properties for reading such tapes, punching and other properties having been borne in mind.

This standard does not refer to pre folded tape.

ii. Wherever possible the properties and dimensions of the punched tape have been defined precisely, or specific testing methods called for.

However, it is recognized that certain requirements of tape can, at the present time, only be described in general terms.

iii. Only tape with a width of 25.40 mm or 17.46 mm nominal is to be considered standard for data interchange. The last mentioned tape is only intended for the possible representation of 4 bit subsets (see par. 3 3.5).

iv. Punched tape for data interchange must be straight and its edges parallel. No deformation or notches on the edges of the tape can be permitted.

v. This standard is divided into three sections.

The first section deals with the properties of un-punched tape.

The second section is confined to the properties of punched tape to be used for data interchange.

The third section describes the implementation of codes on punched tape.

In appendix 1, which is not part of the standard, recommendations are given concerning handling of punched tape.

Appendix 2 describes the method of testing light transmission of tape.