BS ISO 19027:2016



BSI Standards Publication

Design principles for communication support board using pictorial symbols



BS ISO 19027:2016 BRITISH STANDARD

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 19027:2016.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CH/173, Assistive products for persons with disability.

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

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© The British Standards Institution 2016. Published by BSI Standards Limited 2016

ISBN 978 0 580 86772 9

ICS 13.180

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 January 2016.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date Text affected

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 19027:2016 ISO 19027

First edition 2016-01-15

Design principles for communication support board using pictorial symbols

Principes de conception pour le conseil de support de communication utilisant des symboles illustrés



BS ISO 19027:2016 **ISO 19027:2016(E)**



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2016, Published in Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401 CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland Tel. +41 22 749 01 11 Fax +41 22 749 09 47 copyright@iso.org www.iso.org

| Con | tent | S | Page |
|---|---------------|---|----------|
| Forew | ord | | iv |
| Introd | luctio | 1 | v |
| 1 | Scope | | 1 |
| 2 | Term | s and definitions | 1 |
| 3 | Basic 3.1 | configuration of a communication support board Board Indication item | 1 |
| | | | |
| 4 | Princ | iples of designing pictorial symbols | 5 |
| Annex | | formative) Example of creation of original forms of pictorial symbols — pattern | 10 |
| Annex | B (inf | ormative) Combination of pictorial symbols, photos and illustrations | 12 |
| Annex | c C (inf | ormative) Classification 1 of communication support boards | 14 |
| Annex | D (inf | formative) Classification 2 of communication support boards | 19 |
| Annex E (informative) Examples of typefaces | | | 23 |
| Bibliography | | | 24 |

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established 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. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 173, *Assistive products for persons with disability*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Accessible design*.

Introduction

This International Standard provides design principles for usable communication support boards that assist in transcending regional/cultural and linguistic barriers and is of substantial benefit for those persons who is to rely on a visual strategy to express their communicative intent.

A communication support board is a tool designed for the use of visual symbols (such as pictorial symbols) to facilitate communication and social interaction when expressive/receptive communication is limited due to physical or linguistic barriers.

Pictorial symbols, as visual expressions internationally, remove communication barriers in daily life when the characteristics of the pictorial symbols are easy to understand and able to be applied regardless of regional/cultural differences.

There are several user groups of pictorial symbols ranging from those who have poor or no communication abilities to those who require enhanced communication support.

It is important that the symbols used for the communication board correspond with the symbols visible in the environment to facilitate communication for the individual using the communication board in society.

In addition, the usage of communication support boards encourages inclusiveness in society for the user.

Design principles for communication support board using pictorial symbols

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies basic configurations for communication support boards, which are necessary to facilitate communication. A variety of communication support boards can be designed for specific communication purposes.

This International Standard specifies basic elements common to different types of formats/media, such as simple boards, book style or digital media. This International Standard does not regulate any specific design or any specific pictorial symbols for communication support boards.

As for design principles of pictorial symbols, this International Standard introduces examples of design principles applicable when designing and developing pictorial symbols.

NOTE Examples of basic pattern used to create pictorial symbols are shown in <u>Annex A</u>. Examples of communication support boards using pictorial symbols are shown in <u>Annexes B</u> and <u>C</u>.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1

graphical symbol

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

[SOURCE: ISO 17724:2003]

2.2

pictorial symbol

visual figure which comprises representational and abstract symbols, sometimes used in multiple combinations

2.3

communication support board

tool to support persons who have difficulties communicating

Note 1 to entry: It can be used in various situations and places, such as for private, public and educational usage.

Note 2 to entry: This includes difficulties communicating orally or when language is a barrier to express communicative intent.

3 Basic configuration of a communication support board

3.1 Board

a) Size

Size should be suitable for the intended users and intended usage.

b) Material

A communication support board can be made of paper or plastic.

BS ISO 19027:2016 **ISO 19027:2016(E)**

In case of paper, surface lamination is recommended to facilitate writing necessary matters and erasing such when needed.

c) Formats/media

There are various types of formats/media that can be used:

- 1) a single page communication support board;
- 2) a book-style is more practical especially when several pages are required;
- 3) digital media.

When the communication support board is composed of several pages, it is recommended to be classified by category, such as transport facilities, food and drink, sequences of daily life, etc.

NOTE Examples of communication support boards are given in Annex C.

d) Background colour

It is advisable to use white background. However, a coloured background of a board, exclusive of the symbols, can be used for effect.

When multiple symbols are being displayed on a single board, then it is advisable to use white background for the board, to contrast with the background of individual symbols which are mostly in black.

NOTE Examples of coloured backgrounds are given in Figure C.6.

3.2 Indication item

a) Title

A title should be located at the upper part of a communication support board so that the intended use might be easily understood. It should be presented in the first screen in digital media. The title can consist of pictorial symbols and/or text.

b) Typeface

A typeface for use on a communication support board should be carefully chosen, based on the following guidelines:

- 1) sans serif typeface or typeface with very small serifs;
- 2) regular or bold weight.

NOTE Examples of typefaces are shown in Annex E.

c) Language

When text is needed, it should be written in the official language/languages of the country. In order to facilitate the usage of a communication support board, text could be translated in English. In case of using multi-languages, it should be limited to four languages on a single board.

In digital media, change of multiple languages should be realized by changing screen or configuration.

d) Pictorial symbols

- 1) The design of symbols on one board should be consistent.
- 2) Symbols should be in contrast to the background and responsive to safety colours.
- 3) Pictorial symbols should be clear, crisp and bold.

When using pictures or photos in any case, they should be of high quality.

e) Layout of pictorial symbols

- 1) Framing pictorial symbols within the same category in one box should be distinguished from other information (e.g. text or symbols) and arranged sequentially.
- 2) In order to make each symbol clear and recognizable, the number of pictorial symbols should be appropriate according to size of formats/media.

NOTE Examples are shown in Figure C.4.

- 3) Pictorial symbols, regarding safety and emergency, which have high priority, should be arranged in the uppermost section of a communication support board.
- 4) Combination of pictorial symbols and graphical symbols can be used.
- 5) Combination of pictorial symbols, photos and illustrations can be used.
- 6) Animation features can be used in digital media.
- 7) Pictorial symbols to indicate common answers and phrases on individual boards, such as 'Yes', 'No' and 'No idea', should be placed to facilitate conversation.

NOTE Examples of combination of pictorial symbols, photos and illustrations are given in Annex B.

f) Captions

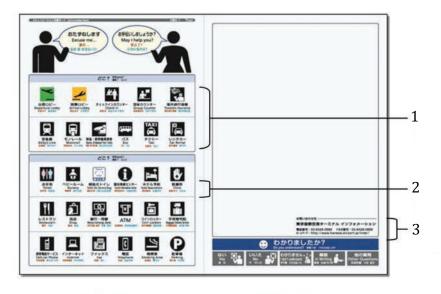
When using captions to explain the meaning of pictorial symbols, they should be located at upper or lower areas of pictorial symbols.

g) Blank space

Blank space to write supplemental issues can be provided at the front or the back of communication support board.

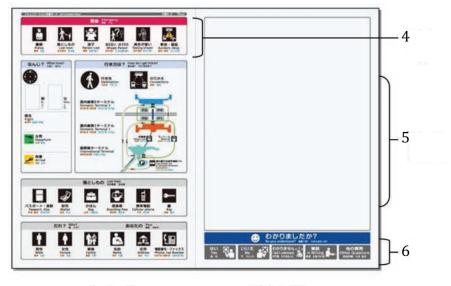
h) Publisher

Information about the publisher and where inquiries can be made should be placed at the lower part or at the back of a communication support board. In digital media, it should be presented on the last screen.



Left side Right side

Front page



Left side

Right side

Back page

Key

- $1 \quad \ \ combination \ of \ pictorial \ symbols \ and \ graphical \ symbols$
- 2 captions to explain the meaning of pictorial symbols
- 3 information about the publisher and where inquiries can be made
- $4 \quad \ \ high \ priority \ pictorial \ symbols \ shoul \ be \ arranged \ in \ the \ uppermost \ section$
- 5 blank space to write supplemental issues
- 6 common answer and phrases

Figure 1 — Layout sample

4 Principles of designing pictorial symbols

The following principles relate to the design of pictorial symbols.

a) Consistency

When creating new pictorial symbols, consistency should be maintained with existing pictorial symbols and pictorial symbols of the same category. If conventional symbols, which are widely used in society, are applicable as pictorial symbols, it is imperative that harmonization between them should be examined. If the symbols are accepted as International Standards, then special consideration should be made to avoid confusion with other pictorial symbols (see Figures 2 and 3).





NOTE See ISO 7001.

Figure 2 — Telephone

Figure 3 — Telephone

b) Solid colour or silhouette

In principle, a pictorial symbol should be drawn in white on black background (see Figures 4 and 5). However, drawing in black on white background can be used.



Figure 4 — Black background

Figure 5 — Objects drawn in white (Pharmacy)

c) Simple expressions

A pictorial symbol should be drawn simply and clearly. It should express essential characteristics so as to be readily identified by the observer to facilitate communication (see Figures 6 and 7).



Figure 6 — Dog



Figure 7 — Have a stomach ache

d) Contrast expressions

Paired concepts (e.g. big and small) can be illustrated together to enhance comprehensibility (see Figures 8 and 9).

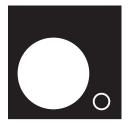


Figure 8 — Big



Figure 9 — Small

e) Clarification of main themes

When a part of a group is illustrated in a pictorial symbol, the principal objects should be the focus in white, while the other objects can be drawn with white lines (see Figures 10 and 11).



Figure 10 — Friend



Figure 11 — Riding teacher

f) Detailed expressions

It is important to pay attention to typical characteristics for communication purposes, such as a pedal of a bicycle, an engine of a motorbike, stems of a persimmon and a tomato when illustrating similar objects in a category (see Figures 12, 13, 14 and 15).



Figure 12 — Bicycle



Figure 13 — Motorcycle



Figure 14 — Persimmon



Figure 15 — Tomato

g) Thickness of lines

For one pictorial symbol, preferably no more than two kinds of thickness should be used to draw lines (see Figures 16 and 17). Details of drawing pictorial symbols are shown in Annex A.



Figure 16 — Amusement park



Figure 17 — Supermarket

h) Natural description

Pictorial symbols representing living creatures or nature should maintain the essential characteristics (see Figures 18 and 19).



Figure 18 — River



Figure 19 — Bird

Pictorial symbols of human characteristics should be representative of natural human forms (see Figures 20 and 21).



Figure 20 — Man



Figure 21 — Running

i) Motion expressions

As a technique to express motion in pictorial symbols, arrows can be used (see Figures 22 and 23). Animation features can be used in digital media.



Figure 22 — To take



Figure 23 — To put

j) Combinations of symbols

When designing pictorial symbols, already established pictorial symbols can be combined in the same frame, such as "children" combined with "school" means "pre-school" (see <u>Figure 24</u>). Other combined examples are shown as Figures 25, 26, 27 and 28.



Figure 24 — Pre-school



Figure 25 — School-friend



Figure 26 — Wheelchair dancing



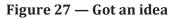




Figure 28 — Parking garage

k) Identification of locations

Drawing symbols of the items or activities within a stylized format of a building helps to identify the location where these items can be obtained and to differentiate the items from these locations.

NOTE Examples of items from locations are as follows:

- medication from pharmacy (Figure 5);
- shopping cart/grocery from supermarket (Figure 17);
- outdoor parking from a parking garage (Figure 28).

Annex A

(informative)

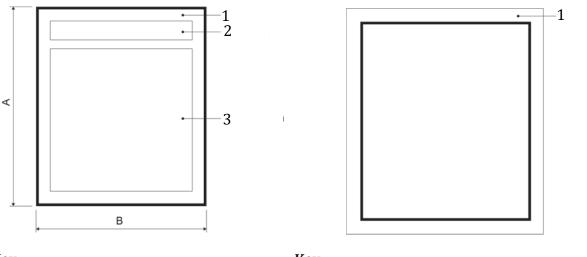
Example of creation of original forms of pictorial symbols — Basic pattern

A.1 General

This Annex specifies basic patterns used to create new pictorial symbols.

A.2 Basic pattern

Basic patterns are depicted in Figures A.1 and A.2.



Key Key

- 1 basic area 1 frame
- 2 text area
- 3 subject area

Figure A.1 — Basic pattern

Figure A.2 — Basic pattern with frame

A.3 Creation principles

A.3.1 Basic area

Using the basic pattern for the creation of pictorial symbols, specific formats are identified (see Figures A.1 and A.2). The pictorial symbols should be drawn in a square $A \times B$ with the border of at least 1 % of A.

A.3.2 Basic area with text

Text can be included in the basic area and should be placed above the pictorial symbol.

A.3.3 Basic area with added frame

A frame can be added around the basic area.

A.3.4 Line width of pictorial symbols

The basic line width for the creation of pictorial symbols should be a minimum of 1 mm. For practical use to strengthen intelligibility, visibility, readability and processing technology, the line width can be changed.

Annex B (informative)

Combination of pictorial symbols, photos and illustrations

To facilitate communication, pictorial symbols can be used in combination with photos and illustrations. Symbols can also be replaced with photos and illustrations (see <u>Figures B.1</u>, <u>B.2</u>, <u>B.3</u>, and <u>B.4</u>).











Figure B.1 — We are looking for spiders and ants



Figure B.2 — Doctor photo



Figure B.3 — Currency illustration



Figure B.4 — Currency photo

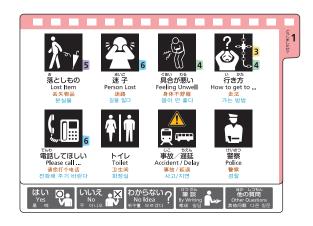
Annex C

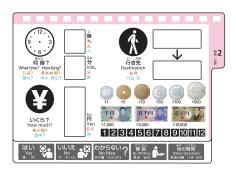
(informative)

Classification 1 of communication support boards

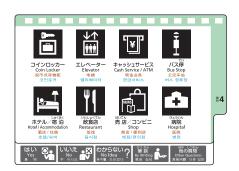
This Annex provides design examples of communication support boards as described in this International Standard.











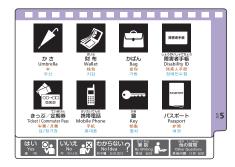
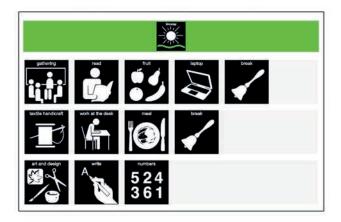
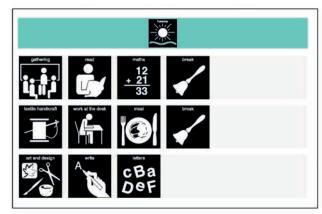
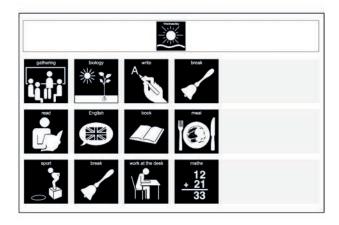
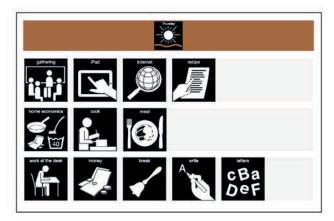


Figure C.1 — Examples of communication support boards in public transportation, Japan









 $\label{eq:communication} \textbf{Figure C.2-Examples of communication support boards, school schedule, Monday to} \\ \textbf{Thursday, Sweden}$



Figure C.3 — Examples of communication support boards at check-in counters of the airport, Japan

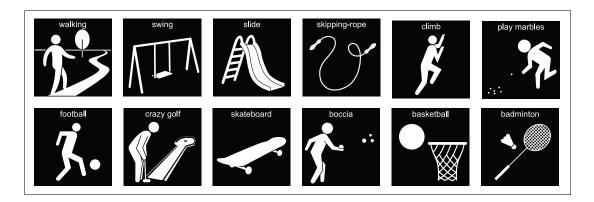


Figure C.4 — Example of communication support board for choosing recess activities, Sweden

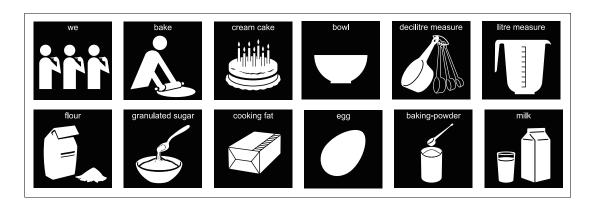
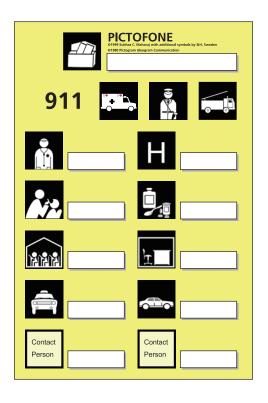


Figure C.5 — Example of communication support board for baking cake, Sweden



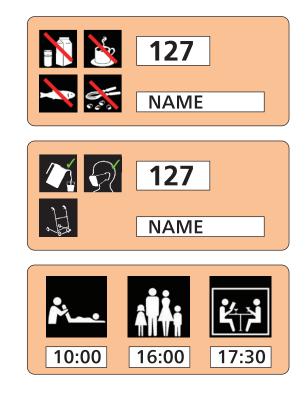
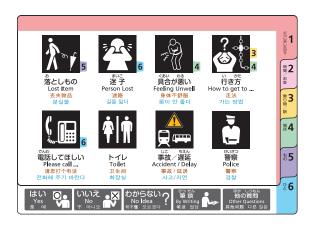


Figure C.6 — Examples of communication support boards at hospitals in the community and in health facilities, Canada



 $Figure \ C.7 - Example \ of communication \ support \ boards \ in \ digital \ media, \ Japan$



Figure C.8 — Another example of communication support boards in digital media, Japan

Annex D (informative)

Classification 2 of communication support boards

This Annex provides design examples of communication support boards not using the principles of designing pictorial symbols presented in this International Standard.







Figure D.1 — Examples of communication support boards at public institutions, Japan



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Figure \ D.2 -- Examples \ of communication \ support \ boards \ at \ police \ stations \ and \ police \ boxes, \\ Japan \end{tabular}$

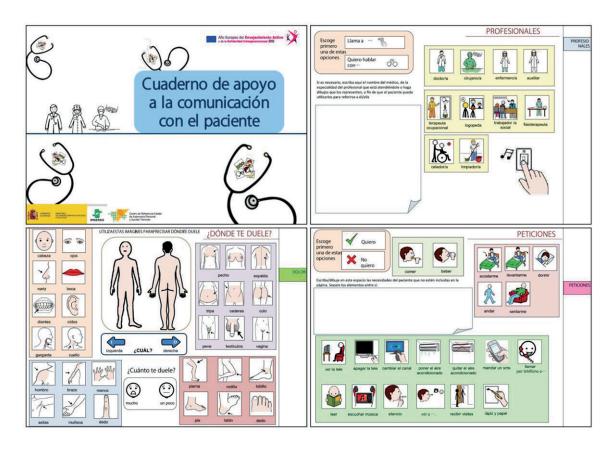


Figure D.3 — Examples of communication support boards in Spanish hospitals

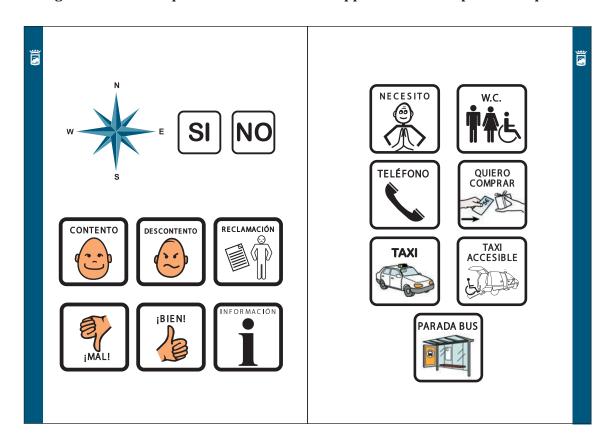


Figure D.4 — Examples of communication support board in Malaga (Spain)

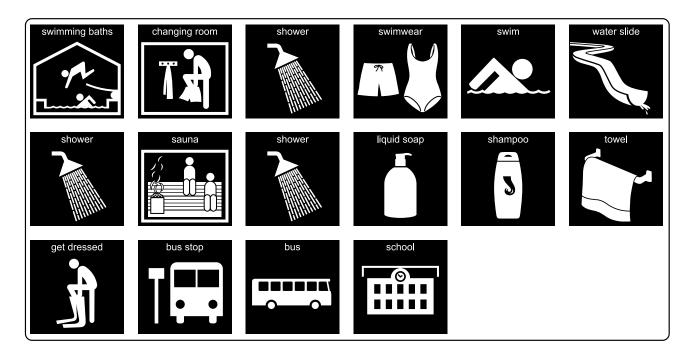


Figure D.5 — Example of communication support board for swimming, Sweden



Figure D.6 — Example of presentation of pictorial symbols, illustrations and photos on PDA

Annex E (informative)

Examples of typefaces

This Annex provides examples of sans serif typefaces that are easy to read.

ABCDEFGHIJKKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

ABCDEFGHIJKKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

コミュニケーション支援ボード 名前住所電話日月火水木金土 あいうえおかきくけこ

コミュニケーション支援ボード 名前住所電話日月火水木金土 あいうえおかきくけこ

Bibliography

- [1] ISO 3864-1, Graphical symbols Safety colours and safety signs Part 1: Design principles for safety signs and safety markings
- [2] ISO 3864-2, Graphical symbols Safety colours and safety signs Part 2: Design principles for product safety labels
- [3] ISO 7000, Graphical symbols for use on equipment Registered symbols
- [4] ISO 7001, Graphical symbols Public information symbols
- [5] ISO 7010, Graphical symbols Safety colours and safety signs Registered safety signs
- [6] ISO 17724:2003, Graphical symbols Vocabulary
- [7] ISO 22727, Graphical symbols Creation and design of public information symbols Requirements
- [8] ISO 80416-2, Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment Part 2: Form and use of arrows
- [9] IEC 80416-1, Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment Part 1: Creation of graphical symbols for registration
- [10] IEC 80416-3, Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment Part 3: Guidelines for the application of graphical symbols
- [11] JIS Z 8210:2002, Public information symbols
- [12] IIS T 0103:2005, Design principles of pictorial symbols for communication support
- [13] JIS S 0101:2000, Graphical warning symbols for consumers
- [14] FUJISAWA K. Communication with visual symbols: Japanese version application of PIC edition (Shikaku shinboru de comyunikeshon: Nihonban PIC katsuyo hen). Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 2001
- [15] Shimizu H. Psychology of visual symbols (Shikaku shinboru no shinrigaku). Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 2003
- [16] Communication support board in public transportation, source: Foundation for Promoting Personal Mobility and Ecological Transportation, 2008
- [17] ANA Communication support board, source: All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd., 2009
- [18] Libro de comunicación para Espacios Deportivos, source: Ayuntamiento de Málaga, Spain, 2010
- [19] Communication support boards, source: Maharaj, S.C. PictoFone (1982) George Reed Foundation, Regina Sk. Canada. & PICTOVIEW Room Displays (2002)
- [20] Communication support board, source: Meiji Yasuda Mental Health Foundation, 2003
- [21] Communication support board in police version, source: Meiji Yasuda Mental Health Foundation, 2008
- [22] Caderno de apoio á comunicación co paciente, source: CEAPAT IMSERSO, Spain, 2010
- [23] Source of PDA quotation Picture to Speech Communication project, MINDS Clementi Training & Development Centre Singapore



British Standards Institution (BSI)

BSI is the national body responsible for preparing British Standards and other standards-related publications, information and services.

BSI is incorporated by Royal Charter. British Standards and other standardization products are published by BSI Standards Limited.

About us

We bring together business, industry, government, consumers, innovators and others to shape their combined experience and expertise into standards -based solutions.

The knowledge embodied in our standards has been carefully assembled in a dependable format and refined through our open consultation process. Organizations of all sizes and across all sectors choose standards to help them achieve their goals.

Information on standards

We can provide you with the knowledge that your organization needs to succeed. Find out more about British Standards by visiting our website at bsigroup.com/standards or contacting our Customer Services team or Knowledge Centre.

Buying standards

You can buy and download PDF versions of BSI publications, including British and adopted European and international standards, through our website at bsigroup.com/shop, where hard copies can also be purchased.

If you need international and foreign standards from other Standards Development Organizations, hard copies can be ordered from our Customer Services team.

Subscriptions

Our range of subscription services are designed to make using standards easier for you. For further information on our subscription products go to bsigroup.com/subscriptions.

With **British Standards Online (BSOL)** you'll have instant access to over 55,000 British and adopted European and international standards from your desktop. It's available 24/7 and is refreshed daily so you'll always be up to date.

You can keep in touch with standards developments and receive substantial discounts on the purchase price of standards, both in single copy and subscription format, by becoming a **BSI Subscribing Member**.

PLUS is an updating service exclusive to BSI Subscribing Members. You will automatically receive the latest hard copy of your standards when they're revised or replaced.

To find out more about becoming a BSI Subscribing Member and the benefits of membership, please visit bsigroup.com/shop.

With a **Multi-User Network Licence (MUNL)** you are able to host standards publications on your intranet. Licences can cover as few or as many users as you wish. With updates supplied as soon as they're available, you can be sure your documentation is current. For further information, email bsmusales@bsigroup.com.

BSI Group Headquarters

389 Chiswick High Road London W4 4AL UK

Revisions

Our British Standards and other publications are updated by amendment or revision.

We continually improve the quality of our products and services to benefit your business. If you find an inaccuracy or ambiguity within a British Standard or other BSI publication please inform the Knowledge Centre.

Copyright

All the data, software and documentation set out in all British Standards and other BSI publications are the property of and copyrighted by BSI, or some person or entity that owns copyright in the information used (such as the international standardization bodies) and has formally licensed such information to BSI for commercial publication and use. Except as permitted under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 no extract may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise – without prior written permission from BSI. Details and advice can be obtained from the Copyright & Licensing Department.

Useful Contacts:

Customer Services

Tel: +44 845 086 9001

Email (orders): orders@bsigroup.com
Email (enquiries): cservices@bsigroup.com

Subscriptions

Tel: +44 845 086 9001

Email: subscriptions@bsigroup.com

Knowledge Centre

Tel: +44 20 8996 7004

Email: knowledgecentre@bsigroup.com

Copyright & Licensing

Tel: +44 20 8996 7070 Email: copyright@bsigroup.com

