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**Packaging — Distribution packaging  
— Graphical symbols for handling and  
storage of packages**

*Emballages — Emballages de distribution — Symboles graphiques  
pour la manutention et le stockage des emballages*





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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

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## 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. [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)

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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 122, *Packaging*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 780:1997), which has been technically revised.

All the 17 graphical symbols in this International Standard have already been modified to accord with IEC 80416-1:2008, *Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment — Part 1: Creation of graphical symbols for registration* and submitted to TC 145/SC 3 for registration on ISO 7000, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment — Registered symbols*.

Some of the major modification points are indicated as follows:

a) Title:

New: Packaging – Distribution packaging – Graphical symbols for handling and storage of packages

Old: Packaging – Pictorial marking for handling of goods

“Distribution packaging” is preferred to “transport packaging” in this standard. The reason is that “transport packaging” does not include “stored” packages, for example, in the practice of “transport packaging for dangerous goods”. ISO 780 concerns with packages during storage as well as those during transport.

“Pictorial marking” is replaced by “graphical symbols” to coincide with TC 145's way of addressing pictorial marking.

b) Introduction:

Statements on safety issue and hand-written symbols have been added.

c) Handling instructions:

The order of the graphical symbols has been re-arranged in the following order.

1) Graphical symbols used for large-sized packages.

- 2) Graphical symbols used for middle and small-sized packages:
  - For all types of handling;
  - For manual handling;
  - For handling using machines.
- 3) Graphical symbols used for both transport and storage.
- 4) Graphical symbols used for storage.

To make this standard easier to use, the layout of the table has been changed and each graphical symbol has its Reference No. to ISO 7000, Meaning, Requirement, Note and example of application.

## Introduction

Packages are often marked with handling instructions in the language of the country of origin. While this may safeguard the consignment in the areas using the same language, it is of little value for goods consigned to, or through, countries using different languages, and of no value at all if people handling the packages are illiterate.

Graphical symbols offer the best possibility of conveying the consignor's intention and their adoption will; therefore, undoubtedly reduce loss and damage through incorrect handling. Moreover, graphical symbols help ensure safety of workers, who cannot grasp such important information as structure, gravity centre, property, and strength of a package while handling distribution packages.

The graphical symbols specified are in accordance with the rules of ISO/TC 145/SC 3, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment*.

The use of graphical symbols does not provide any guarantee of satisfactory handling; safely and properly protective packaging is therefore of primary importance.

Distribution packages could deteriorate as time passes and sometimes cannot withstand normal handling before they reach the final destination. In such case, according to the provisions of the distribution contract, we need to decide whether to stop shipping and storing them or to continue to use them by putting proper graphical symbols on them. In any case, handwritten symbols are partially accepted in this standard so that the proper symbols can be added to do the needful on the spot.

# Packaging — Distribution packaging — Graphical symbols for handling and storage of packages

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a set of graphical symbols conventionally used for marking of distribution packages in their physical distribution chain to convey handling instructions. The graphical symbols should be used only when necessary.

This International Standard is applicable to packages containing any kind of goods, but does not include instructions specific to handling of dangerous goods.

## 2 Normative references

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

ISO 2331, *Fork lift trucks — Hook-on type fork arms — Vocabulary*

ISO 4306-1, *Cranes — Vocabulary — Part 1: General*

ISO 5053, *Powered industrial trucks — Terminology*

ISO 7000, *Graphical symbols for use on equipment — Registered symbols*

ISO 21067, *Packaging — Vocabulary*

## 3 Graphical Symbols

### 3.1 General

In order to ensure safe, proper and efficient handling of distribution packages, display, colour, size, number and position of graphical symbols shall be considered.

### 3.2 Display of graphical symbols

For large packages, graphical symbols should preferably be stencilled directly on the package or may appear on a label. It is recommended that the graphical symbols should be printed, painted or otherwise reproduced as specified in this International Standard. They need not be framed by border lines.

The graphical design of each symbol shall have only one meaning; symbols are purposely designed so that they can also be stencilled without changing the graphics. The change of the graphics, however, is accepted to facilitate the forming of stencil.

### 3.3 Colour of graphical symbols

The colour used for graphical symbols shall be black.

If the colour of the package is such that the black symbol would not show clearly, a panel of a suitable contrasting colour, preferably white, shall be provided as a background.

Care shall be taken to avoid the use of colours such as red, orange or yellow, which could result in confusion with the labelling of dangerous goods.

### 3.4 Size of graphical symbols

For normal purposes the overall height of the graphical symbols shall be 100mm, 150mm or 200mm.

Depending on the size or shape of the package; however, the size of the graphical symbols may be larger or smaller provided that the visibility of the graphical symbols is retained.

Different horizontal/vertical ratio may be applied to enhance the visibility of the graphical symbols provided that the original meaning is retained.

### 3.5 Number of graphical symbols

For graphical symbols No. 1, 2, 3, 8, and 13, how many graphical symbols shall be placed for a package is specified in [Clause 4](#).

A package shall have a minimum number of types of graphical symbols as needed.

### 3.6 Position of graphical symbols

For graphical symbols No. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 13, at which position graphical symbols shall be placed on a package is specified in [Clause 4](#).

## 4 Meaning and requirements of the graphical symbols

### 4.1 General

Meaning and requirements for each symbol shall be indicated on distribution packages by using the corresponding graphical symbols given in [Tables 1 to 4](#).

For graphical symbols No. 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 15, 16 and 17, the prohibition symbol may be hand written.

For graphical symbols No. 15 and 16, the number “n” may be corrected by hand.

NOTE Distribution packages will deteriorate as time passes and sometimes cannot withstand normal handling before they reach the final destination. In such case, according to the provisions of the distribution contract, we need to decide whether to stop shipping and storing them or to continue to use them by putting proper graphical symbols on them. In any case, handwritten symbols are partially accepted in this standard so that the proper symbols can be added to do the needful on the spot.

### 4.2 Graphical symbols used for large-sized packages

See [Table 1](#).

### 4.3 Graphical symbols used for middle and small-sized packages

- For all types of handling: See [Table 2](#).
- For manual handling: See [Table 3](#).
- For mechanical handling: See [Table 4](#).

### 4.4 Graphical symbols used for both transport and storage

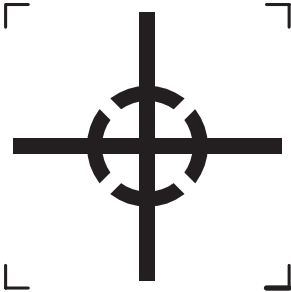
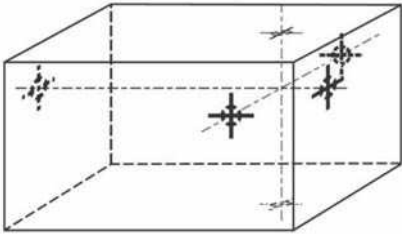
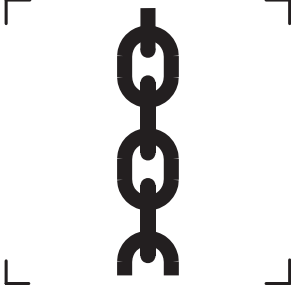
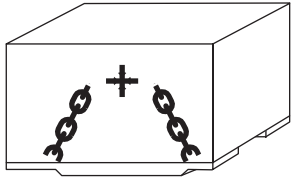
See [Table 5](#).

### 4.5 Graphical symbols used for storage


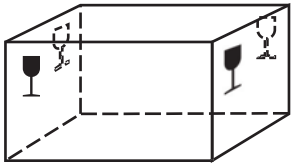
See [Table 6](#).



Table 1 — Graphical symbols used for large-sized packages

Symbol number and title	No.1 CENTRE OF GRAVITY
<p><i>Example of application:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0627</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i></p> <p>This is the centre of gravity of the distribution packages which will be handled as a single unit.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Heavy packages shall be marked with this symbol.</li> <li>— Where possible, this graphical symbol shall be placed on all six sides but at least on the four lateral sides relating to the actual location of the centre of gravity.</li> <li>— This graphical symbol shall be applied to in correct positions in order to convey the meaning clearly and fully.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE 1</b> When heavy cargo tips over during handling for shipping, it could damage not only the product but also workers, causing a fatal accident.</p> <p><b>NOTE 2</b> To determine the position of the wire rope slings on the package, it is necessary to find the centre of gravity of the package as well as to know the reinforced structure of the sheathed crate.</p>
<p><i>Example of application:</i></p> 	
Symbol number and title	No.2 SLING HERE
<p><i>Example of application:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0625</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i></p> <p>Slings shall be placed where indicated for lifting the distribution packages.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Heavy packages shall be marked with this symbol.</li> <li>— This graphical symbol(s) shall be placed on two opposite faces of the package.</li> <li>— The graphical symbol(s) shall be placed so that the package can be kept in a horizontal position.</li> <li>— This graphical symbol shall be applied to in correct positions and in appropriate places in order to convey the meaning clearly and fully.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE</b> When a sheathed crate is lifted up with a crane while the wire rope slings are not properly positioned, the upper frame member of the crate or the skid base collapses, causing a crucial falling accident.</p>
<p><i>Example of application</i></p> 	

**Table 2 — Graphical symbols used for middle and small-sized packages, for all types of handling**

Symbol number and title	No. 3 FRAGILE, HANDLE WITH CARE
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0621</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Contents of the distribution packages are fragile therefore it shall be handled with care.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— In principle, this graphical symbol should be placed either near the left-hand or the right-hand upper corner on all four upright sides of the package.</li> <li>— If there is not enough space for the graphical symbols to be located on all four sides of the package, they shall be placed at least on the upper corners of two panels.</li> <li>— The use of the graphical symbol shall be limited to fragile products that cannot be protected by normal packaging.</li> <li>— This symbol should be used in the orientation shown.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Example of application:</i></p>  <p>This is an example of the symbols placed near the left-hand upper corner on four upright side.</p>	

**Table 3 — Graphical symbols used for middle and small-sized packages, for manual handling**



Symbol number and title	No. 4 USE NO HAND HOOKS
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0622</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Hand hooks are prohibited for handling the distribution packages.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> <li>— The prohibition symbol may be hand written.</li> </ul>
Symbol number and title	No. 5 DO NOT USE HAND TRUCK HERE
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0629</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Hand trucks shall not be placed on this side when handling the distribution packages.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> <li>— The prohibition symbol may be hand written.</li> </ul>

Table 4 — Graphical symbols for mechanical handling



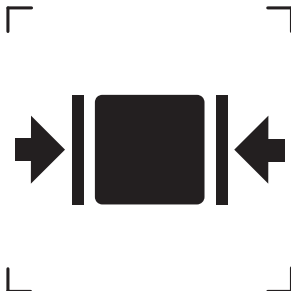
Symbol number and title	No. 6 USE NO FORKS
<p data-bbox="384 327 603 356"><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="807 327 1158 356"><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.2406</p> <p data-bbox="807 371 922 400"><i>Meaning:</i> Distribution packages should not be handled or moved by a fork-type of lifting devices.</p> <p data-bbox="807 490 986 519"><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="807 535 1495 595">— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> <li data-bbox="807 607 1433 636">— The prohibition symbol may be hand written.</li> </ul>
Symbol number and title	No. 7 DO NOT CLAMP AS INDICATED
<p data-bbox="384 719 603 748"><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="807 719 1158 748"><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.2404</p> <p data-bbox="807 763 922 792"><i>Meaning:</i> Distribution packages should not be handled by the clamps on the sides indicated when handling with clamp-type lifting devices.</p> <p data-bbox="807 904 986 934"><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="807 949 1495 1010">— This graphical symbol shall be used when it is necessary to indicate the location that shall NOT be clamped.</li> <li data-bbox="807 1021 1433 1050">— The prohibition symbol may be hand written.</li> </ul>
Symbol number and title	No. 8 CLAMP AS INDICATED
<p data-bbox="384 1111 603 1140"><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="807 1111 1158 1140"><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0631</p> <p data-bbox="807 1155 922 1184"><i>Meaning:</i> Clamps shall be placed on the sides indicated for handling the distribution packages using clamp-type lifting devices.</p> <p data-bbox="807 1274 986 1303"><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="807 1319 1495 1379">— Only appropriately marked packages should be handled by clamps</li> <li data-bbox="807 1391 1495 1509">— This graphical symbol shall be positioned on the opposite faces of the distribution package so that it is in the visual range of the clamp truck operator when approaching to carry out operation</li> <li data-bbox="807 1520 1495 1581">— This graphical symbol shall not be marked on those faces of the package intended to be gripped by the clamps.</li> <li data-bbox="807 1592 1495 1653">— This graphical symbol shall be used when it is necessary to indicate the location that shall be clamped.</li> </ul>

Table 5 — Graphical symbols used for both transport and storage

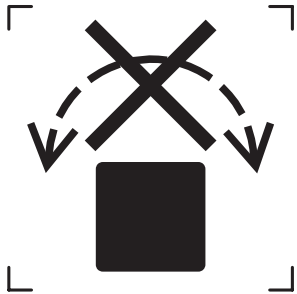

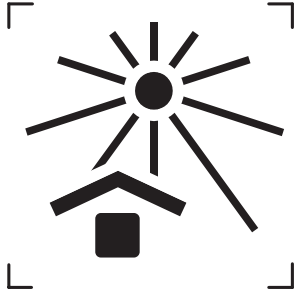

Symbol number and title	No. 9 DO NOT ROLL
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.2405</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Distribution packages shall not be rolled or turned over.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> <li>— The prohibition symbol may be hand written.</li> </ul>
Symbol number and title	No. 10 KEEP AWAY FROM RAIN
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0626</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Distribution packages shall be kept away from rain and be kept in dry conditions.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> <li>— This symbol should be used in the orientation shown.</li> </ul>
Symbol number and title	No. 11 KEEP AWAY FROM SUNLIGHT
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0624</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Distribution packages shall not be exposed to sunlight.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> <li>— This symbol should be used in the orientation shown.</li> </ul>
Symbol number and title	No. 12 PROTECT FROM RADIOACTIVE SOURCES
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.2401</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Contents of the distribution packages can deteriorate or can be rendered totally unusable by penetrating ionizing radiation.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> <li>— This symbol should be used in the orientation shown.</li> </ul>

Table 5 — Graphical symbols used for both transport and storage

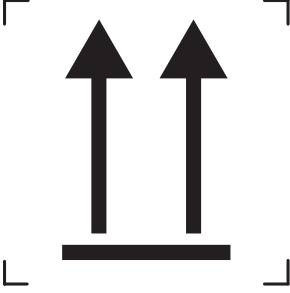
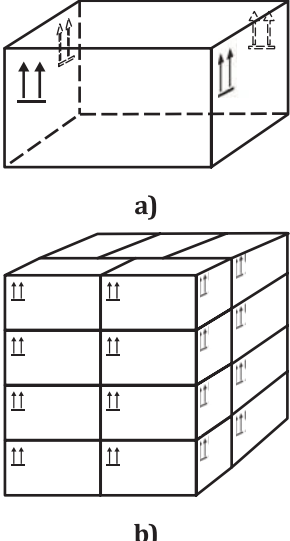

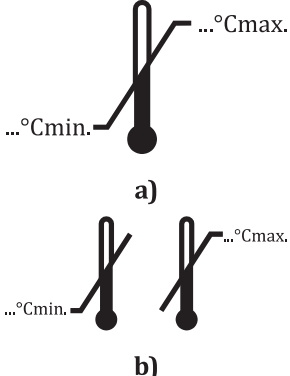
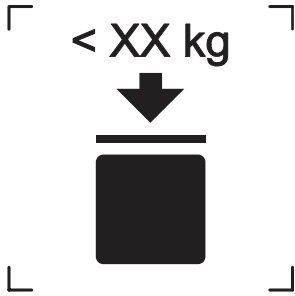
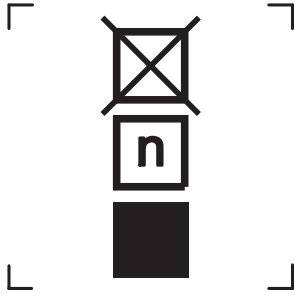
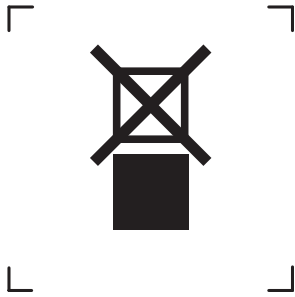
Symbol number and title	No. 13 THIS WAY UP
<p data-bbox="387 331 608 360"><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p>  <p data-bbox="352 678 643 707"><i>Example of application:</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="810 331 1158 360"><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0623</p> <p data-bbox="810 376 927 405"><i>Meaning:</i></p> <p data-bbox="810 421 1489 479">This is the correct upright position of the distribution packages for transport and/or storage.</p> <p data-bbox="810 495 991 524"><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="810 539 1489 622">— In principle, this graphical symbol should be placed either near the left-hand or the right-hand upper corner on all four upright sides of the package. See example a).</li> <li data-bbox="810 638 1489 721">— If there is not enough space for the graphical symbols to be located on all four sides of the package, they shall be placed at least on the upper corners of two panels.</li> <li data-bbox="810 736 1489 819">— When distribution packages are formed into a unit load, graphical symbol shall be located so as to ensure they are visible. See example b).</li> <li data-bbox="810 835 1489 896">— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> <li data-bbox="810 911 1489 940">— This symbol shall be used in the orientation shown.</li> </ul>
Symbol number and title	No.14 TEMPERATURE LIMITS
<p data-bbox="387 1326 608 1355"><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p>  <p data-bbox="352 1673 643 1702"><i>Example of application:</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="810 1326 1158 1355"><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0632</p> <p data-bbox="810 1370 927 1400"><i>Meaning:</i></p> <p data-bbox="810 1415 1489 1473">Distribution packages shall be stored, transported, and handled within temperature limits indicated.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1489 991 1518"><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="810 1534 1489 1594">— This graphical symbol shall be used only for the distribution packages that requires temperature control.</li> <li data-bbox="810 1610 1489 1668">— The use of this graphical symbol shall be limited to the case where it is necessary.</li> </ul>

Table 6 — Graphical symbols used for storage

Symbol number and title	No. 15 STACKING LIMIT BY MASS
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.0630</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Maximum stacking load which may be stacked on the distribution packages</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Maximum load mass permitted to be stacked on the bottom package shall be indicated to ensure safe stacking and also to improve loading and storage efficiency.</li> <li>— In order to ensure quality of shipping and storing of distribution packages, it is recommendable that the figure indicating the maximum load mass permitted to be stacked on the bottom package be corrected by hand on site if deterioration of the packages is detected.</li> <li>— The figure “XX” may be corrected by hand.</li> <li>— This symbol shall be used in the orientation shown.</li> </ul>
Symbol number and title	No. 16 STACKING LIMIT BY NUMBER
<p><i>Graphical symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.2403</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Maximum number of identical transport packages/items which may be stacked on the bottom package, where “n” is the limiting number.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Maximum number of packages permitted to be stacked on the bottom package shall be indicated to ensure safe stacking and also to improve loading and storage efficiency.</li> <li>— In order to ensure quality of shipping and storing of distribution packages, it is recommendable that the number indicating the maximum number of packages permitted to be stacked on the bottom package be corrected by hand on site if deterioration of the packages is detected.</li> <li>— The number “n” may be corrected by hand.</li> <li>— The prohibition symbol may be hand written.</li> <li>— This symbol shall be used in the orientation shown.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE</b> The number “n” does not include the bottom package.</p>
Symbol Number and title	No. 17 DO NOT STACK
<p><i>Graphical Symbol:</i></p> 	<p><i>Reference:</i> ISO 7000, No.2402</p> <p><i>Meaning:</i> Stacking of the distribution packages is not allowed and no load shall be placed on the distribution packages.</p> <p><i>Requirements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— In order to ensure quality of shipping and storing of distribution packages, it is recommendable that the prohibition symbol be added by hand on site if deterioration of the packages is detected.</li> <li>— The prohibition symbol may be hand written.</li> <li>— This symbol shall be used in the orientation shown.</li> </ul>

## Bibliography

- [1] IEC 80416-1:2008, *Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment — Part 1: Creation of graphical symbols for registration*
- [2] ISO 80416-2:2001, *Basic principles for graphical symbols for use on equipment — Part 2: Form and use of arrows*

