

ECMA

EUROPEAN COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

STANDARD ECMA-124

DESIGNATION OF UNRECORDED FLEXIBLE DISK CARTRIDGES

December 1987

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FLEXIBLE DISK CARTRIDGES**

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BRIEF HISTORY

Since the beginning of their activity in the field of standardization of flexible disk cartridges ECMA has issued ten standards for such cartridges specifying cartridges of three different sizes, viz. 200 mm, 130 mm and 90 mm. It can be foreseen that in a not too distant future further smaller sizes may be considered.

Some of these cartridges whilst having the same size do not have the same magnetic characteristics and, therefore, should be used only with the physical recording density and the number of tracks for which they have been designed.

In practice, however, they are offered commercially to end users in packages bearing indications (e.g. 1D, DD, HD, etc.) which are clear for those skilled in the art but quite obscure to the average buyer. As a consequence discussions took place in the German and USA Standardization Institutes, DIN and ANSI, as well as in ECMA/TC19 on how to remedy for this situation and several proposals were considered.

At their meeting of 21st-24th September 1987, ISO/TC97/SC11 discussed this problem and arrived at a consensus on a type designation to be used nationally and internationally. Previous investigations, in particular within the Japanese Standard Committee for SC11, have shown that manufacturers of flexible disk cartridges would be willing to print the proposed designation in addition to the presently used identifiers which would remain during a transition period. The proposed designation is explicit in that it specifies not only a type, but indicates the main parameters as well.

In the interests of users it is desirable that the scheme described be implemented now and as a whole. However, as the suppliers of flexible disk cartridges, drives and systems have already developed their own designations for cartridges, and their own procedures for marking packages, it would be expensive to implement the whole scheme immediately. It is expected that suppliers will introduce the specified marking of cartridges and packages, and the references in manuals, as soon as the re-ordering of cases, packaging and printing makes this economically possible.

In order to introduce these designations as soon as possible, ISO/TC97/SC11 adopted unanimously a resolution requesting ECMA to produce a corresponding ECMA standard and to submit it to the ISO fast-track procedure. The present ECMA standard has been developed as an answer to this request.

Adopted as an ECMA Standard by the General Assembly of 10th December 1987.

1. SCOPE

This ECMA Standard specifies an identifier to appear on each flexible disk cartridge and the minimum information to appear on packages of unrecorded flexible disk cartridges.

2. FIELD OF APPLICATION

The information according to this ECMA Standard shall appear on cartridges and on packages of unrecorded flexible disk cartridges available to end users. Drives for FDCs should bear the indication of the Type(s) of FDC they can handle. Manuals for drives and systems should also include this information.

3. REFERENCES

- ECMA-54 : Data Interchange on 200 mm Flexible Disk Cartridges using Two-Frequency Recording at 13262 ftprad on One Side, 2nd Edition.
- ECMA-66 : Data Interchange on 130 mm Flexible Disk Cartridges Using Two-Frequency Recording at 7958 ftprad on One Side.
- ECMA-69 : Data Interchange on 200 mm Flexible Disk Cartridges Using MFM Recording at 13262 ftprad on Both Sides.
- ECMA-70 : Data Interchange on 130 mm Flexible Disk Cartridges Using MFM Recording at 7958 ftprad on Both Sides, 1,9 Tracks per mm.
- ECMA-78 : Data Interchange on 130 mm Flexible Disk Cartridges Using MFM Recording at 7958 ftprad on Both Sides, 3,8 Tracks per mm.
- ECMA-99 : Data Interchange on 130 mm Flexible Disk Cartridges using MFM Recording at 13262 ftprad on Both Sides, 3,8 Tracks per mm.
- ECMA-100 : Data Interchange on 90 mm Flexible Disk Cartridges using MFM Recording at 7958 ftprad on Both Sides, 5,3 Tracks per mm.
- ECMA-125 : Data Interchange on 90 mm Flexible Disk Cartridges Using MFM Recording at 15916 ftprad on 80 Tracks on Each Side.

4. SPECIFICATION OF THE IDENTIFIER

Identifier shall consist of the word Type followed by three digits XYZ.

- Digit X shall identify FDCs of the same size.

X = 1 shall identify FDCs of 200 mm

X = 2 shall identify FDCs of 130 mm

X = 3 shall identify FDCs of 90 mm

Further values of X will be defined when needed.

- Digits YZ shall be a serial number starting with 01.

5. INFORMATION ON PACKAGES

The information on packages shall contain the following :

- the identifier,
- a statement that the FDC are the subject of an identified ECMA Standard,
- the size,
- the number of recordable sides,
- the number of tested tracks per side,
- the unformatted capacity expressed in number of bytes.

This information shall be presented as shown and preferably within a frame.

ECMA Type XYZ	
This FDC is the subject of Standard ECMA-...	
Size :	... mm (...in)
Recordable sides :	...
Tested tracks per side	: ...
Unformatted capacity	: ... bytes

6. ALLOCATION OF TYPE NUMBERS

In each new ECMA Standard for flexible disk cartridges the identifier number shall be specified.

7. PUBLISHED ECMA STANDARDS

The ECMA Standards already issued shall be identified as follows (See App.).

- Type 101 : ECMA-54 (ISO 5654)
- Type 102 : ECMA-69 (ISO 7065)
- Type 201 : ECMA-66 (ISO 6596)
- Type 202 : ECMA-70 (ISO 7487)
- Type 203 : ECMA-78 (ISO 8378)
- Type 204 : ECMA-99 (ISO 8630)

- Type 301 : ECMA-100 (ISO 8860)
- Type 302 : ECMA-125 (ISO/DIS 9529)

APPENDIX

INFORMATION ON FLEXIBLE DISK CARTRIDGES ACCORDING TO
PUBLISHED ECMA STANDARDS.

Type	Standard	Size in mm	Number of recordable sides	Tested Tracks per side	Unformatted capacity Mbytes
101	ECMA-54	200	1	80	0,4
102	ECMA-69	200	2	80	1,6
201	ECMA-66	130	1	40	0,1
202	ECMA-70	130	2	40	0,5
203	ECMA-78	130	2	80	1,0
204	ECMA-99	130	2	80	1,6
301	ECMA-100	90	2	80	1,0
302	ECMA-125	90	2	80	2,0

