



BSI Standards Publication

## Graphical symbols for diagrams

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Part 1: General, qualifying and generic symbols

## National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee GEL/3, Documentation and graphical symbols.

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

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# TECHNICAL REPORT



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## Graphical symbols for diagrams – Part 1: General, qualifying and generic symbols

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
3/1488/DTR	3/1539/RVDTR

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Report is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at [www.iec.ch/members\\_experts/refdocs](http://www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs). The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at [www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications](http://www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications).

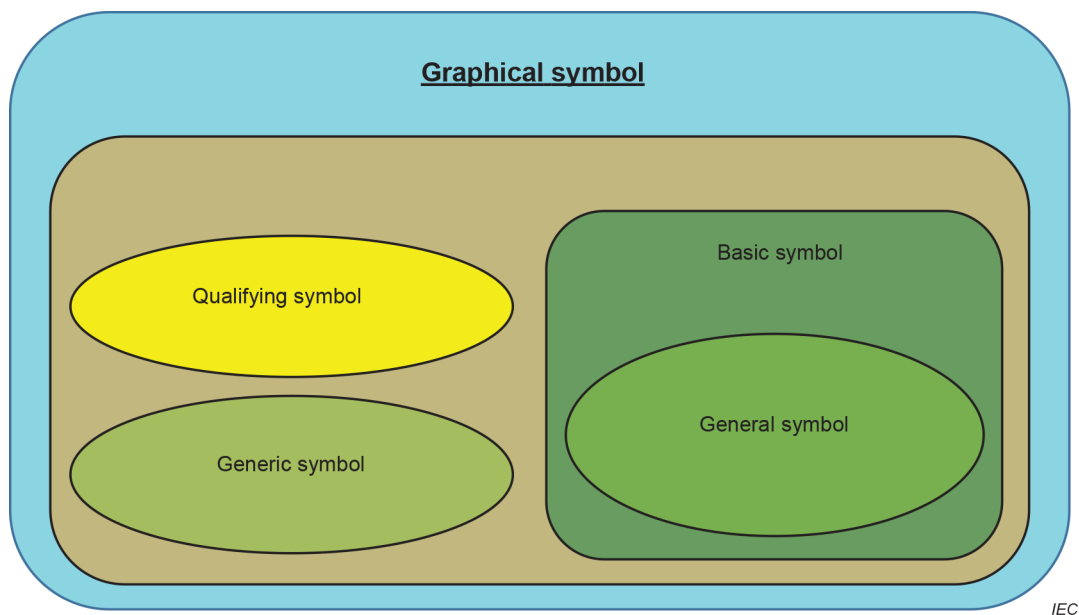
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## INTRODUCTION

Initial work was done by TC 3 Maintenance Team 60617 with the aim to clarify the terminology used in the naming of some of the graphical symbols for diagrams standardized in IEC 60617. This document also highlights improved naming of some graphical symbols categorized according to the concepts of generic symbol, general symbol and qualifying symbol, where the symbol "name" is recognized as giving a short description of the meaning of the graphical symbol for diagrams. Figure 1 provides the relationship among types of graphical symbols for diagrams.



**Figure 1 – Relationship among types of graphical symbols for diagrams**

## GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS FOR DIAGRAMS –

### Part 1: General, qualifying and generic symbols

#### 1 Scope

This document contains, by way of example, a collection of generic symbols, general symbols and qualifying symbols for diagrams taken from IEC 60617. Some of the wording of entries in the IEC 60617 database are annotated and/or modified for the purpose of clarification. Existing symbols in the IEC 60617 database are classified according to the classification proposed in this document.

#### 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

#### 3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

##### 3.1

##### **graphical symbol**

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

Note 1 to entry: The graphical symbol may represent objects of interest, such as products, functions or requirements for manufacturing, quality control, etc.

Note 2 to entry: A graphical symbol is not to be confused with the simplified representation of products which is normally drawn to scale and which can look like a graphical symbol.

[SOURCE: ISO 81714-1:2010, 3.1]

##### 3.2

##### **basic symbol**

graphical symbol representing a defined concept, applicable for use in diagrams

Note 1 to entry: A basic symbol can be:

- used alone; or
- qualified by qualifying symbols or other basic symbols; or
- used as a qualifier to another basic symbol.

##### 3.3

##### **general symbol**

basic symbol that forms the basis for other basic symbols representing the same main concept but with different specific characteristics