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**Information technology — International  
string ordering and comparison —  
Method for comparing character strings  
and description of the common template  
tailorable ordering**

**AMENDMENT 3**

*Technologies de l'information — Classement international et  
comparaison de chaînes de caractères — Méthode de comparaison de  
chaînes de caractères et description du modèle commun et adaptable  
d'ordre de classement*

**AMENDEMENT 3**

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Amendment 3 to ISO/IEC 14651:2001 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Coded character sets*.



# Information technology — International string ordering and comparison — Method for comparing character strings and description of the common template tailorable ordering

## AMENDMENT 3

*Page 2, Clause 3*

Replace the normative references with the following:

ISO/IEC 10646:2003, *Information technology — Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS)*

ISO/IEC 10646:2003/Amd.1:2005 *Information technology — Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set — Amendment 1: Glagolitic, Coptic, Georgian and other characters*

*Page 17, subclause 6.5*

Replace 6.5 with the following:

### **6.5 Name of the Common Template Table and name declaration**

Whenever the Common Template Table is referred externally as a base point in a given context, whether in a process, contract, or procurement requirement, it shall be referenced using the name ISO14651\_2005\_TABLE1. If another name is used due to practical constraints, a declaration of conformance shall indicate how the correspondence between this other name and the name ISO14651\_2005\_TABLE1 is taken care of.

The use of a defined name is necessary to manage the different stages of development of this table. This follows from the nature of the reference character repertoire, for which development will be ongoing for a number of years or even decades.

Replace Annex A with the following:

## **Annex A** (normative)

### **Common Template Table**

In order to minimize formatting problems and the risk of errors in reproduction, the common template table is provided separately in a machine-readable file as a normative component of this International Standard. The file name for this language version is different from the normative reference name specified in clause 6.5 of this International Standard due to the existence of file versions commented in other natural languages. The file for this language version can also be retrieved on the ITTF web site at the following URL:

[http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651\\_2005\\_TABLE1\\_en.txt](http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651_2005_TABLE1_en.txt)

There is an official French version of the file which only differs in its comments (its technical content is identical), and its name is: [http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651\\_2005\\_TABLE1\\_fr.txt](http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651_2005_TABLE1_fr.txt)

NOTE 1 This amendment deprecates, but does not preclude specific reference to, the previous tables, which contained and still contains respectively ordering information From the full repertoire of ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000 and ISO/IEC 10646-2:2001. The previous tables can be found at the following URLs:

[ordering information on the repertoire of characters as defined in ISO/IEC 10646-1:1993 including Amendments 1-9]  
[http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651\\_2000\\_TABLE1.htm](http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651_2000_TABLE1.htm)

[ordering information on the combined repertoire of characters of ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000 and ISO/IEC 10646-2:2001]  
[http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651\\_2002\\_TABLE1\\_en.txt](http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651_2002_TABLE1_en.txt)

[ordering information on the repertoire of characters as defined in ISO/IEC 10646:2003]  
[http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651\\_2003\\_TABLE1\\_en.txt](http://www.iso.org/ittf/ISO14651_2003_TABLE1_en.txt)

The current Common Template Table reflects the repertoire of characters as defined in ISO/IEC 10646:2003 including its Amendment 1.

NOTE 2 The repertoire targeted by this Amendment 3 to ISO/IEC 14651:2001 is equivalent to the repertoire of *The Unicode Standard Version 4.1*, published by *The Unicode Consortium*.

When ordering data applicable to other amendments of ISO/IEC 10646:2003 becomes available, this International Standard and specifically its Common Template Table will be amended accordingly to cover the ordering of the additional characters and scripts. To meet cultural requirements of specific communities, delta declarations will have to be applied to the amended table as defined in this International Standard.

**ISO\_14651\_2005\_TABLE1** is the name that is used for referring to this table in this version of this International Standard.

Include the following new section at the end of Annex B:

### B.5. Example 5 – A tailoring for Khmer

The Khmer script is mainly used in Cambodia. The tailoring given below is not included in the CTT (see annex A) itself in order to keep the CTT simple, especially for rare letterforms. E.g. the Khmer ROBAT for which the tailoring below may not be desirable for efficiency reasons, since this letter occurs very rarely, but the tailoring for handling it correctly may affect the efficiency of collation also for texts that do not contain any ROBAT.

reorder-after <MAX>

% Khmer:

collating-symbol <S1794\_S17C9> % KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN MUUSIKATOAN

collating-symbol <S1794\_S17CA> % KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN TRIISAP

collating-symbol <S17BB\_S17C6> % KHMER VOWEL SIGN U, KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT

collating-symbol <S17B6\_S17C6> % KHMER VOWEL SIGN AA, KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT

collating-symbol <C1780>..<<C179C>

% Declaration of Khmer contractions

collating-element <U1794\_17C9> from "<U1794><U17C9>" % KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN MUUSIKATOAN

collating-element <U1794\_17CA> from "<U1794><U17CA>" % KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN TRIISAP

collating-element <SW\_17CC\_1780>..<<SW\_17CC\_17A2> from "<U1780>..<<U17A2><U17CC>"

% KHMER LETTER KA, KHMER SIGN ROBAT..KHMER LETTER QA, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

collating-element <SW\_17CC\_17A5>..<<SW\_17CC\_17B3> from "<U17A5>..<<U17B3><U17CC>"

% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QI, KHMER SIGN ROBAT..KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QAU□, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

collating-element <U17C6\_17BB> from "<U17BB><U17C6>" % KHMER VOWEL SIGN U, KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT (OM properly spelled)

collating-element <U17BB\_17C6> from "<U17C6><U17BB>" % KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT, KHMER VOWEL SIGN U (OM with the wrong sequence of the characters)

collating-element <U17C6\_17B6> from "<U17B6><U17C6>" % KHMER VOWEL SIGN AA, KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT (AM properly spelled)

collating-element <U17B6\_17C6> from "<U17C6><U17B6>" % KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT, KHMER VOWEL SIGN AA (AM with the wrong sequence of the characters)

collating-element <U17D2\_1780>..<<U17D2\_179C> from "<U17D2><U1780>..<<U179C>"

% COENG, KHMER LETTER KA..COENG, KHMER LETTER QA

collating-element <U17D2\_17A5>..<<U17D2\_17B3> from "<U17D2><U17A5>..<<U17B3>"

% COENG, KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QI..COENG, KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QAU

reorder-after <S1794> % KHMER LETTER BA

<S1794\_17C9> % KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN MUUSIKATOAN

<S1794\_17CA> % KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN TRIISAP

reorder-after <S17C5> KHMER VOWEL SIGN AU

<S17BB\_17C6> % KHMER VOWEL SIGN U, KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT

reorder-after <S17C6> KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT

<S17B6\_17C6> % KHMER VOWEL SIGN AA, KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT

reorder-after <S17D2>

<C1780>..<<C1794> % COENG, KHMER LETTER KA..COENG, KHMER LETTER BA

<C1795>..<<C179A> % COENG, KHMER LETTER PHA..COENG, KHMER LETTER RO

<C17AB> % COENG, KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL RY

<C17AC> % COENG, KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL RYY

<C179B> % COENG, KHMER LETTER LO

<C17AD> % COENG, KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL LY

<C17AE> % COENG, KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL LYY

<C179C>..<<C17A2> % COENG, KHMER LETTER VO..COENG, KHMER LETTER QA

reorder-after <SFFFF>

order\_start forward;forward;forward;forward

<U1794\_17C9> <S1794\_17C9>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<U1794\_17C9> % KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN MUUSIKATOAN



<U1794\_17CA> <S1794\_17CA>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<U1794\_17CA> % KHMER LETTER BA, KHMER SIGN TRIISAP

%% The ROBAT contractions should be used only in an "advanced" tailoring for

%% Khmer, since ROBAT is rather rarely used, and these contractions

%% may impact on the efficiency of the key computation even if ROBAT does not

%% occur, since these contractions begin with commonly used letters.

<SW\_17CC\_1780>..<<SW\_17CC\_17A2> "<S179A><S17D2><S1780>..<<S17A2>";  
 "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE>"; "<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";  
 <SW\_17CC\_1780>..<<SW\_17CC\_17A2>

% KHMER LETTER KA, KHMER SIGN ROBAT..KHMER LETTER QA, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW\_17CC\_17A5>..<<SW\_17CC\_17A6> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17B7>..<<S17B8>";  
 "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT1><BASE>"; "<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";  
 <SW\_17CC\_17A5>..<<SW\_17CC\_17A6> % KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QI, KHMER SIGN  
 ROBAT..KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QII, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW\_17CC\_17A7>  
 "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17BB>"; "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT1><BASE>";  
 "<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>"; <SW\_17CC\_17A7>

% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QU, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW\_17CC\_17A8>  
 "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17BB>"; "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT2><BASE>";  
 "<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>"; <SW\_17CC\_17A8>

% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QUK; KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW\_17CC\_17A9>  
 "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17BC>"; "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT1><BASE>";  
 "<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>"; <SW\_17CC\_17A9>

% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QUU; KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW\_17CC\_17AA>  
 "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17BC>"; "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT2><BASE>";  
 "<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>"; <SW\_17CC\_17AA>

% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QUUV; KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW\_17CC\_17AF>..<<SW\_17CC\_17B1> "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17C2>..<<S17C4>";  
 "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT1><BASE>"; "<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>";  
 <SW\_17CC\_17AF>..<<SW\_17CC\_17B1> % KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QE, KHMER SIGN  
 ROBAT..KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QOO TYPE ONE, KHMER SIGN ROBAT

<SW\_17CC\_17B2>  
 "<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17C4>"; "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT2><BASE>";  
 "<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>"; <SW\_17CC\_17B2>

% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QOO TYPE TWO; KHMER SIGN ROBAT

```
<SW_17CC_17B3>  
"<S179A><S17D2><S17A2><S17C5>"; "<BASE><VRNT1><BASE><BASE><VRNT1><BASE>";  
"<MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN><MIN>"; <SW_17CC_17B3>
```

% KHMER INDEPENDENT VOWEL QAU; KHMER SIGN ROBAT

%% Khmer OM and AAM (the NIKAHIT should be written after the vowel):

```
<U17BB_17C6> <S17BB_17C6>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<U17BB_17C6> % KHMER VOWEL SIGN U, KHMER  
SIGN NIKAHIT
```

```
<U17C6_17BB> <S17BB_17C6>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<U17C6_17BB> % KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT, KHMER  
VOWEL SIGN U
```

```
<U17B6_17C6> <S17B6_17C6>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<U17B6_17C6> % KHMER VOWEL SIGN AA, KHMER  
SIGN NIKAHIT
```

```
<U17C6_17B6> <S17B6_17C6>;<BASE>;<MIN>;<U17C6_17B6> % KHMER SIGN NIKAHIT, KHMER  
VOWEL SIGN AA
```

reorder-end

## A.2 Thai string ordering

### A.2.1 Thai ordering principles

- Words are ordered alphabetically, not phonetically. Consonants order is:

**ธน บพ ผฟ พฝ ภม ยร ถล ภาว ศษ สห พิ อส**

- 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

ᳵ is a long-legged variant of ᳴, used with the long-legged consonants ᳶ and ᳷: ᳶᳵ and ᳷ᳵ.

- No syllable structure or word boundary analysis is required, as Thai lexicons are ordered alphabetically, not phonetically. Note that Thai normally does not use any word separator, except, and exceptionally, zero width space.

- Tones and diacritics are ignored at level 1. At level 2 their order is:

**QUESTION**

- When Thai punctuation marks (๐ ๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙) are concerned, another level of weights is required for them. This corresponds to the fourth level in the Common Template Table. In string ordering, punctuation marks are less significant than any tone marks and diacritics, and must be ignored in all the first three levels. Note that PAIYANNOI (๑) and THAI CHARACTER MAIYAMOK (repeat mark ๑) are regarded and ordered as punctuation marks, not letters, despite their Unicode general category as “Lo” and “Lm” respectively. For example, “ข้างๆ, ข้างกบ, ข้างๆ คูๆ, ข้างจัน” is a valid order in the Royal Institute Dictionary. In the first level, the considered weights correspond to ขาง, ขางกบ, ขางค, and ขางจัน respectively.

- The ten Thai decimal digits (๐ ๑ ๒ ๓ ๔ ๕ ๖ ๗ ๘ ๙), each semantically equivalent to Arabic digit 0-9, respectively. Their weights are then equal to their corresponding Arabic digit in the first level, and are different in the second level, to distinguish script.

### A.2.2 Vowel/consonant rearrangement

Regarding the handling of pre-vowels, either a collation preparation or collating-element grouping (as in the tailoring in annex B.5 above) is required. The collation preparation scans the string once and swaps every leading Thai vowel with its succeeding character (ideally only if the succeeding character is a Thai consonant). The prepared string is then passed to the normal weight calculation process. Another way to manage this is by means of collating-element formation – the approach taken both by the CTT of this standard and by the collation weighting table of the Unicode Collation Algorithm (UTS #10). Every possible pair of leading vowel and consonant is defined as a collating-element, whose weight equals to that of the rearranged substring. In addition, since two ๑ in sequence look just like a ๑๑, two ๑ in sequence should be handled just like a ๑๑.

Note that the rearrangement of each leading vowel is simply performed with its immediate succeeding consonant. No consonant cluster analysis is needed. Indeed, doing so would result in ambiguities or yield a different order than that specified in the Royal Institute Dictionary. For example:

1. Ambiguities: The problem with ambiguity is illustrated by the word “เพลลา”. It has two potential pronunciations: either as a two-syllable word, “phe-la” (meaning “time”), or as a one-syllable word, “phlao” (meaning “axle” or “abate”). A rearrangement algorithm which follows the distinct pronunciation of the potential cluster ‘พล’ in this string would result in distinct keys, “เพลลา” and “พลเล”, and therefore different weights, which are equally legal. Both words need to have the same weight to be sortable, however.
2. Non-conforming ordering: To illustrate the difference in ordering caused by the treatment of consonant clusters, consider these words, shown in conforming order: “เพล, เพลง, เพล”. The correct rearrangement ignores any clusters and results in the following: “เพล, เพลง, เพล”, which sorts in the order shown. If, however, pairs of consonants that form legal clusters were grouped as single collation elements (regardless of actual pronunciation where the potential pronunciation is ambiguous), then the results of rearrangement would be “<พล>เล, <พล>เง, เพล”, which would yield the (non-conforming) ordering “เพล, เพล, เพลง”. Again, if actual clusters were grouped as single collation elements (with some disambiguation effort), then the results of rearrangement would be “เพล, <พล>เง, เพล”, which would yield the (non-conforming) ordering “เพล, เพล, เพลง”.