

Standard ECMA-152

Data Interchange on 12,7 mm 18-Track Magnetic Tape Cartridges - Extended Format

2nd edition (December 1993)

This Standard specifies the physical and magnetic characteristics of a 12,7 mm wide, 18-track magnetic tape cartridge, to enable interchangeability of such cartridges. It also specifies the quality of the recorded signals, the format and the recording method, thus allowing, together with Standard [ECMA-13](#) for File Structure and Labelling of Magnetic Tapes, full data interchange by means of such magnetic tape cartridges.

The cartridge and recording method are identical with those described in Standard [ECMA-120](#). This Standard specifies extensions to the transformation of data before it is formatted as in Standard [ECMA-120](#).

These extensions:

1. specify a method for increasing the utilization of the tape by combining smaller blocks of data into extended blocks;
2. specify a method for identifying whether the recorded data has been processed and, if it has been processed, the algorithm used for processing;
3. specify a method for including recorded data blocks conforming to this Standard and recorded data blocks conforming to Standard [ECMA-120](#) on the same tape.

The permissible routes for the flow of data are shown in annex J.

The following files are provided in this set of CD-ROMs:

File name	Size (Bytes)	Content
ECMA-152.PDF	4'672'578	Acrobat PDF file
ECMA-152.PSC	4'475'571	Corresponding PostScript file

Printed copies of this Standard can be ordered, free of charge, from documents@ecma.ch.
