



**TECHNICAL DOCUMENT V 2
OF THE
SPANISH BRAILLE COMMISSION**

TACTILE MARKS ON SWIPE CARDS

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TACTILE MARKS ON SWIPE CARDS

Introduction

Many people with visual disabilities use swipe cards today both for their financial transactions and as ID in a broad range of services.

Given the widespread use of these cards in everyday affairs, the community of people with visual disability should be able to identify correctly the ones they carry.

The **Spanish Braille Commission** (CBE, from its Spanish initials) has drafted the present specifications in an attempt facilitate such identification.

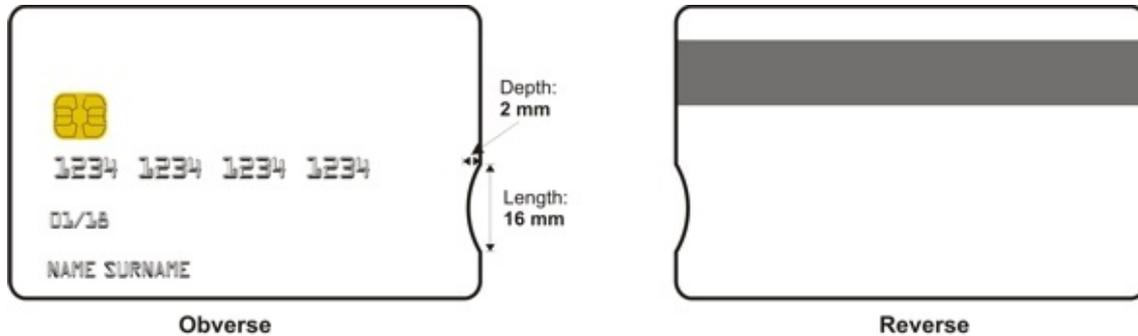
In 1997, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) published the ETSI 300 767 standard on tactile marks for prepaid telephone cards. The marks defined hereunder are based on those recommendations.

Technical specifications

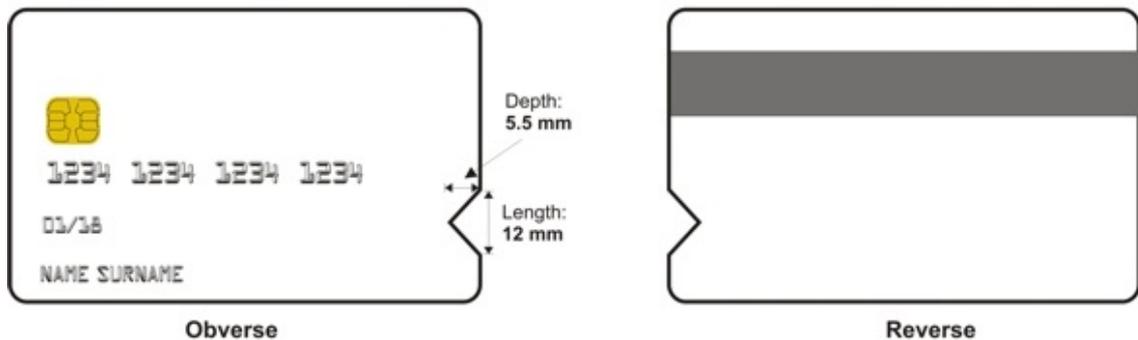
- 1) The tactile marks presently in use for certain swipe cards normally consist in indentations or notches of different sizes and shapes that indicate both the type of card and its correct insertion or swiping position for use in devices such as ATMs or POS terminals.
- 2) Further to the aforementioned ETSI standard, with the obverse of the card (the side showing the holder's data) facing up and the numbers and letters in their natural position, the tactile mark should be located on the lower third of the right edge of the card. This is, moreover, usually the edge closest to the user when the card is inserted into a reading device.
- 3) Mark assignment, according to shape, is as follows:
 - arc (segment of circle) for financial institutions;
 - triangle for credit and shopping cards and similar;
 - rectangle for public services in general (such as health services ID, proof of disability or library cards).
- 4) Tactile mark size is governed by two main dimensions: length (the size in millimetres of the gap in the outer edge of the card made by the indentation or notch, measured vertically from top to bottom) and depth (the size in millimetres of the inward gap in the card made by the notch or indentation, measured horizontally).

from the edge of the card to its inward-most position). The dimensions for each indentation/notch type are depicted in the drawings below.

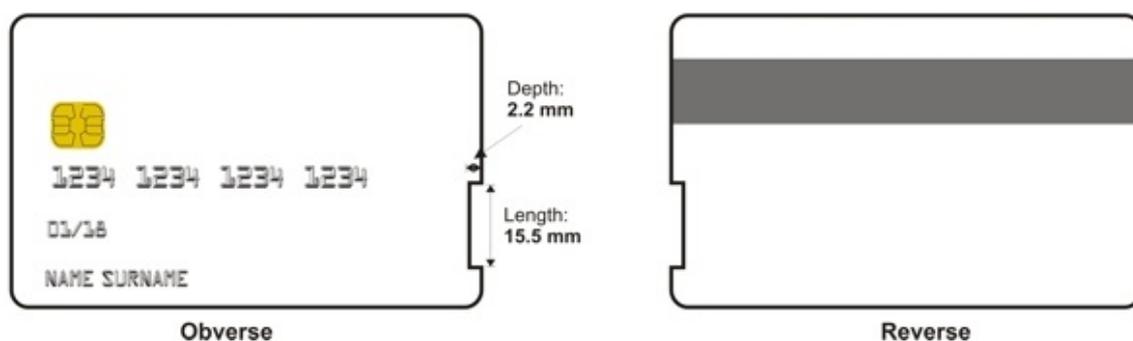
- Arc indentation: 16 mm long by 2 mm deep.



- Triangle indentation: 12 mm long by 5.5 mm deep.



- Rectangle indentation: 15.5 mm long by 2.2 mm deep.



The maximum tolerance in all measurements is $\pm 10\%$.

- 5) Wherever possible, the card should also bear Braille characters, sized as laid down by the Spanish Braille Commission in its Technical Document B1 entitled *Dimensional parameters in Braille*.