

# DIRECTORY

Following the Record Label is the Directory. Each entry in the Directory consists of three parts: a 3-digit numeric tag, a 4-digit number indicating the length of the data field and a 5-digit number indicating the starting character position. No further characters are permitted in a Directory entry. The Directory layout is as follows:

Directory entry 1			Directory entry 2	Other directory entries	
Tag	Length of Field	Starting Position	.....	.....	F/T

F/T = Field Terminator

The second segment of the Directory entry gives the number of characters in that field. This includes all characters: indicators, subfield identifiers, textual or coded data and the end of field marker. The length of field is followed by the starting character position of the field relative to the first character position of the variable field portion of the record. The first character of the first variable field is character position 0. The position of character position 0 within the whole record is given in character positions 12-16 of the Record Label.

The tag is 3 characters long, the “length of the data” fills 4 characters and the “starting character position” fills 5 characters. After all of the 12-character directory entries corresponding to each data field in the record, the directory is terminated by the end of field marker IS2 of ISO 646 (1/14 on the 7-bit code table). The directory entries should be ordered by the first digit of the tag, and it is recommended that order by complete tag be used where possible. The data fields themselves do not have a required order as their positions are completely specified through the directory.

## History

2024	Errata.
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