



Universal Multiple Octet Coded Character Set  
International Organization for Standardization  
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**Related:** DPRK proposal

### Overview

In light of the characters recently proposed by DPRK, a number of issues are raised.

- In some cases the range of glyphs to be associated with the character needs to be better understood.
- In some cases, it is not clear whether proposed characters are variants of existing characters, and could be unified, or whether they are used in consistent distinction from the related character.
- In some cases, there are closely related symbols, which might influence the final encoding location, glyph or name for the proposed characters.

The following section gives details for these issues for individual characters.

### Glyph issues

The glyph for the existing character ☂ UMBRELLA should be modified to ☂, in order to match the proposed ☂ UMBRELLA WITH RAIN DROPS. This also brings the glyph in line with the important use of the umbrella symbol on packaging to indicate ‘keep dry’.

For the ✂ LEFT AND UP POINTING BLACK SCISSORS, it is not clear whether it is used in contrast with another scissor symbol, or whether this is just a variant glyph of the existing ✂ BLACK SCISSORS. If required it is best encoded via VARIATION SELECTOR-1 (VS1).

The proposed fractions with horizontal bar, such as  $\frac{1}{4}$ , if encoded, would introduce serious problems for users of the already encoded fractions  $\frac{1}{4}$ , which are considered unifications of both forms with horizontal and slanted bar. If they must be encoded for round trip purposes, they could be supported via VS1.

The glyphic variation of the ⚡ HIGH VOLTAGE SIGN is not well understood. Existing symbol collections contain the following related shapes:



which may or may not be unifiable with the proposed character.

### Related characters

The symbol called originally ☕ *TEA SYMBOL* is a variation of a cup symbol usable for hot beverages in particular or non-alcoholic beverages in particular. The archetypical example for this is the coffee cup, which has been observed with the following shapes:



Symbols that are closely related to the HOT BEVERAGE SYMBOL are the **CROSSED KNIFE AND FORK** and the **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SYMBOL** (or **WINE GLASS**) as well as the **BED**. These symbols are commonly used in guidebooks and similar documents indicating types of services available to travelers.

A symbol that is closely related to the **WHITE FLAG** and **BLACK FLAG** is the **CROSSED WHITE AND BLACK FLAGS** symbol indicating port of call.

The original Korean proposal contained a number of shaded triangles ▲▲▲▲, one of which can be used as battlefield marker. While the Korean symbols should be encoded as geometric shapes, this brings up the question of other more, specific symbols. The following symbols are very commonly used to denote battlefields and certain kinds of related locations in maps and guidebooks. These include the crossed swords indicating **BATTLEFIELD MARKER** and the symbols identifying buildings, such as, for example:

- ⚔ MONASTERY [circle with cross above]
- ⚔ CATHEDRAL [square with cross above]
- ⚔ CASTLE [square with flag above]
- ⚔ BISHOPRIC [circle with round ended cross above]
- ⚔ ARCHBISHOPRIC [circle with double cross above]
- ⚔ SYNAGOGUE [square with star of david above]
- ⚔ MOSQUE [square with crescent above]

These characters also relate to characters already in the Unicode standard, for shrine (⚔), ⚔ PLACE OF INTEREST SIGN, and ☕ HOT SPRING.