



## Standard Specification for Letters and Numerals for Ships<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 906; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.*

### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification specifies shape, size, spacing, and shading of letters and numerals to be used aboard ship.

1.2 *Characters are of Five Types:*

1.2.1 Type 1—Plain letters and numerals (16 units).

1.2.2 Type 2—Block letters and numerals (12 units).

1.2.3 Type 3—Type 2 characters with shading (shading—1 unit).

1.2.4 Type 4—Block letters (10 units) and numerals (12 units).

1.2.5 Type 5—Type 4 characters with shading (shading—1 unit).

1.3 This specification does not give location or size of various shipboard markings incorporating letters and numerals.

### 2. Ordering Information

2.1 When ordering letters and numerals in accordance with this specification, it is necessary to state the ASTM designation and the type and height of the character.

### 3. General Requirements

3.1 Characters are designed using the grid method which allows the size of the character to be changed proportionately as required.

3.1.1 *Character Stroke* (thickness—2 units).

3.1.2 *Character Width:*

3.1.2.1 Type 1, Plain Characters—12 in accordance with Fig. 1 unless otherwise noted.

3.1.2.2 Type 2, Block Characters—8 units in accordance with Fig. 2 unless otherwise noted.

3.1.2.3 Type 3, Block Characters with Shading—same as Type 2 plus 1 unit for shading in accordance with Fig. 3.

3.1.2.4 Type 4, Block Characters, Letters—width varies. Numerals—8 units.

3.1.2.5 Type 5, Block Characters with Shading—same as Type 4 plus 1 unit for shading.

3.2 *Sizing of the Character:*

3.2.1 *Type 1*—space characters in accordance with Table 1.

3.2.2 *Type 2*—space characters in accordance with Table 1.

3.2.3 *Type 3*—space characters in accordance with Table 1 with 1 unit added to each value for shading.

3.2.4 *Type 4*—space letters in accordance with Fig. 4; spacing shall be equal to the space following the letter. Numerals shall be spaced in accordance with Table 1.

3.2.5 *Type 5*—space letters in accordance with Fig. 5; spacing shall be equal to the space following the letter. Numerals shall be spaced in accordance with Table 1 with 1 unit added to each value for shading.

3.3 *Spacing Between Words, After Punctuation, or Between Sentences:*

3.3.1 The space between words, after a comma, and after a period (as after initials) shall be in accordance with Table 1.

3.3.2 The space between sentences shall be in accordance with Table 1.

3.3.3 The space between a letter and a comma or period (for any use) shall be 2 units.

3.3.4 The space between lines shall be equal to one half the height of the tallest letter.

### 4. Keywords


4.1 block characters; block letters; block numerals; letters; marine; numerals; plain letters; plain numerals; shading; ship; ship letters; ship markings; ship numerals

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**TABLE 1 Spacing Between Letters and Numerals<sup>A</sup>**

Letters and Numerals	Units															
	4	3¾	3½	3	2½	2	1¾	1½	1	½	¼	Δ¼	Δ½	Δ1	Δ1¼	Δ1½
A					*	+		Z 7	A,X	J	4	V,W,Y	T			

 **F 906 – 85 (1998)**

**TABLE 1 Continued**

Units																
Letters and Numerals	4	3¾	3½	3	2½	2	1¾	1½	1	½	¼	Δ¼	Δ½	Δ1	Δ1¼	Δ1½
B,D,O,Q,S 3,5,8			*	+		A,V,W, X,Z 7		J,T,Y 4								
C,E,R				*	+			A,V,W, X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4							
F						*		+	X,Z 7	T,W,Y	A 4	J				
G 6		*	+		A,V,W, X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4										
H,I,M,N,U 1,9	*		+		A,V,W, X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4										
J		*	+		A,V,W, X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4										
K					*	+			A,V,W, X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4						
L						*		+	Z 7	A,X	4			V,W		T,Y
P				*	+				V,W, X,Z 7	T,Y 4		A	J			
T						*		+		V,W, X,Z 7	T,Y 4	A	J			
V,W				*		+			V,W, X,Z 7	T,Y 4	A	J				
X				*		+			A,V,W, X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4						
Y 7						*		+		V,W, X,Z 7	T,Y 4		A	J		
Z 2				*		+			A,V,W, X,Z 7	J,T,Y 4						
Spacing Between Words and After Punctuation																
Type 1	18	17¾	17½	17¼	17	16¾										
Types 2-5	14	13¾	13½	13¼	13	12¾										
Spacing Between Sentences																
Type 1	22	21¾	21½	21¼	21	20¾										
Types 2-5	18	17¾	17½	17¼	17	16¾										

<sup>A</sup>Key:

\*—means space for: B,D,E,F,H,I,K,L,M,N,P,R,U 1,3,8 (also used for punctuation and sentence spacing).

+—means space for: C,G,O,Q,S 0,2,5,6,9.

Δ—indicates that a portion of a letter enters the area of the next letter.

*Character Spacing:*

Select a character from the vertical column, read across locating the next character, read up to find the correct spacing.

Example:

If the letter "K" is followed by the letter "A" the spacing is 1 unit.

If the letter "F" is followed by the letter "H" the spacing is 2 units.

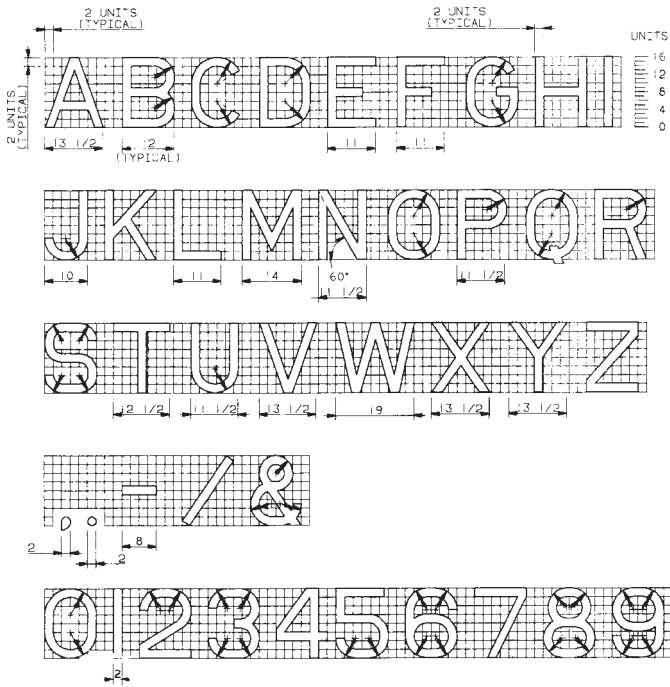
*Punctuation and Sentence Spacing:*

Locate in column of table the last character of word, read across locating (\*), drop vertically down to the appropriate row and read spacing.

Example:

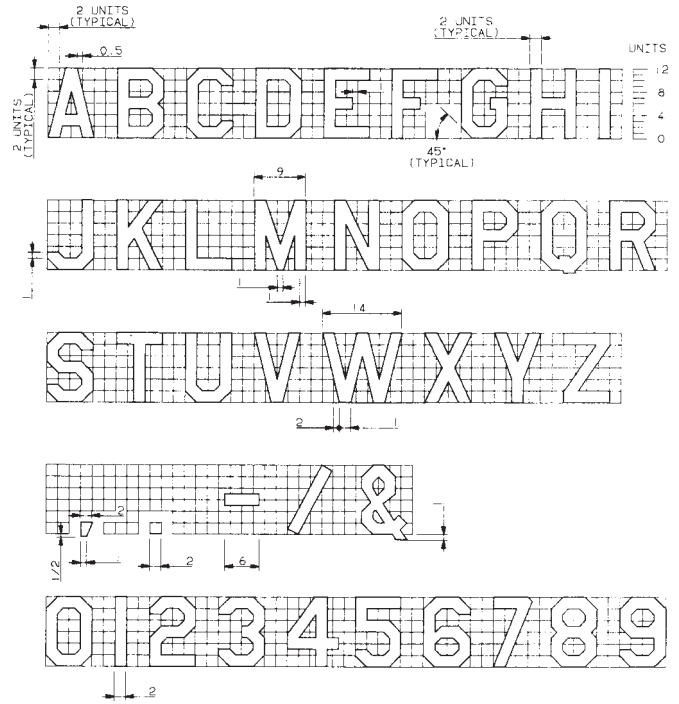
If the first word was "vessel," the spacing to the first letter of the next word is 12[n]P units.

**ASTM F 906 – 85 (1998)**



NOTE—Height: Letters—16 Units  
Numerals—16 Units

**FIG. 1 Type 1—Plain Letters and Numerals**



NOTE—Height: Letters—12 Units  
Numerals—12 Units

**FIG. 2 Type 2—Block Letters and Numerals**

**ASTM F 906 – 85 (1998)**



NOTE—Shading 1 Unit Wide

**FIG. 3 Type 3—Type 2 Characters with Shading**

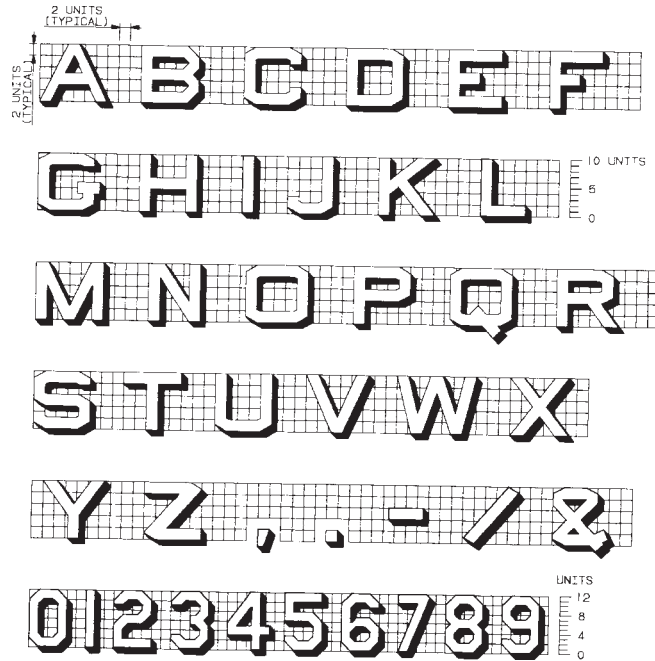


NOTE—Height: Letters—10 Units

Numerals—12 Units

**FIG. 4 Type 4—Block Letters and Numerals**

**ASTM F 906 – 85 (1998)**



NOTE—Shading 1 Unit Wide.

**FIG. 5 Type 5—Type 4 Characters with Shading**

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