

# UTC Doc: Proposal to Update the Saudi Riyal Symbol in the Unicode Standard

Title: Proposal to Update the Shape of the Saudi Riyal Symbol (U+FD-FC)

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## 1. Introduction

This proposal aims to update the shape of the symbol currently encoded in the Unicode Standard under the code point U+FD-FC, representing the Saudi Riyal symbol. The Saudi Central Bank has adopted a new design for the Riyal symbol as part of an initiative to enhance the visual identity of the currency and ensure its compatibility with global financial systems. The new design reflects the cultural heritage of the Kingdom and its modern financial aspirations, as outlined in recent announcements by the Saudi Central Bank.

## 2. Symbol Information

Symbol Name: Riyal Symbol

Unicode Code Point: U+FD-FC

Category: Currency Symbol

Script: Arabic

Status: Existing symbol requiring shape update

## 3. Rationale for the Update

The Saudi Central Bank has adopted the new Riyal symbol design to achieve the following objectives:

Enhance recognition of the currency in local and international markets.

Reflect the Kingdom's cultural identity, with the design inspired by Arabic calligraphy.

Align with global standards for currency symbols, facilitating its use in financial and commercial transactions.

This update is officially supported by the Saudi Central Bank, as doc-

umented in the attached materials. The new symbol is already being integrated into national systems and is expected to gain widespread adoption across digital and print media.

#### **4. Shape and Font Information**

**Current Shape:** The existing shape of the U+FD FC symbol is outdated and does not reflect the newly adopted design.

**Proposed Shape:** The new shape is a modern representation of the word «Riyal» in Arabic script, designed to be clear, easily recognizable, and compatible with various digital platforms.

**Font File:** A font file containing the updated shape is provided (see attachment: RiyalFont.ttf).

**Shape Image:** A high-resolution image of the proposed shape is included (see attachment: Guidelines.pdf).

The design adheres to the Unicode Consortium’s guidelines for currency symbols, ensuring clarity, readability, and cross-platform compatibility.

#### **5. Usage**

The updated Riyal symbol is intended for use in:

Financial documents and reports.

Digital payment systems and banking applications.

E-commerce platforms and commercial transactions.

Official government publications.

The symbol will be positioned to the left of the numeric value in all languages, with a clear space between the symbol and the amount, in accordance with the Saudi Central Bank’s guidelines.

#### **6. Supporting Documentation**

**Official Endorsement:** An official letter from the Saudi Central Bank confirming the adoption of the new Riyal symbol (see link: <https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-us/news/pages/news-1076.aspx>).

**Design Rationale:** The new symbol draws inspiration from Arabic calligraphy, symbolizing the Kingdom’s cultural heritage while aligning with modern design standards.

**Implementation Plan:** The Saudi Central Bank has outlined a phased implementation plan, starting with national financial institutions and

extending to international partners.

## **7. Proposal Summary**

Symbol to be Updated: U+FD FC (Riyal Symbol)

Proposed Action: Update the shape to reflect the newly adopted design.

Rationale: Official adoption by the Saudi Central Bank, cultural significance, and alignment with global standards.

Attachments:

Font File: RiyalFont.ttf

Shape Image: Guidelines.pdf

Official Documentation: <https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-us/news/pages/news-1076.aspx>

## **8. References**

Saudi Central Bank. (2025). Adoption of the New Riyal Symbol. Official announcement link: <https://www.sama.gov.sa/en-us/news/pages/news-1076.aspx>

Unicode Consortium. Guidelines for Submitting Unicode Proposals. Link to guidelines: <https://www.unicode.org/pending/proposals.html>

## **9. Submission Instructions**

Prepare Attachments: Ensure the font file, shape image, and official documentation are included.

Submit via Unicode Portal: Use the official Unicode Consortium submission form at [unicode.org/reporting.html](https://www.unicode.org/reporting.html).

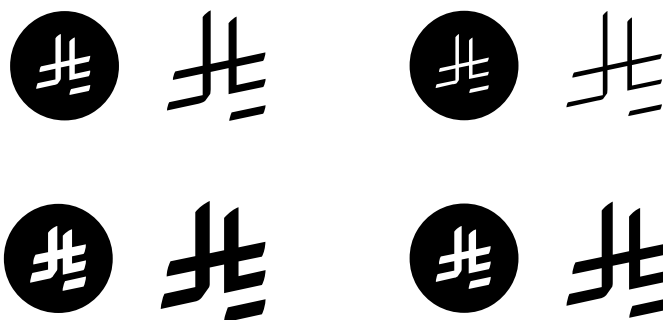
Follow-Up: Monitor the proposal status and respond to any inquiries from the Unicode Technical Committee.

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Old shapes of the Saudi Riyal Symbol (U+FD FC)

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RiyalFont.ttf