

**SRI LANKA STANDARD
SINHALA CHARACTER CODE FOR INFORMATION
INTERCHANGE**

L2/04-131

FOREWORD

This standard was approved by the Sectoral Committee on Information Technology and was authorised for adoption and publication as a Sri Lanka Standard by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution on 2004-xx-xx.

The International Organisation for Standardisation has accepted **SLS 1134** Sinhala Character Code for Information Interchange for inclusion in **ISO/IEC 10646-1** with the modifications effected in the first revision (**SLS1134:2001**).

This is the second revision of **SLS 1134**. This revision provides specifications for the code sequences and keyboard sequences. It also provides a revised keyboard, based on the layout in the original version of this standard, which in turn is based on the Wijesekara typewriter keyboard. This revision retains compliancy with **ISO/IEC 10646-1**.

Symbols used in the Sinhala language are coded using 128 cells in the half page plane reserved for Sinhala characters in **ISO/IEC 10646**. Each cell or position given in Table 4 of the standard represents one character.

An effort has been made to preserve the alphabetical order of the Sinhala language to a great extent. However, specific collation algorithms (not specified in this standard) are required to correctly collate text encoded in this code.

In the preparation of this standard the valuable assistance obtained from the following publications is gratefully acknowledged.

ISO/IEC 10646-1:1993 Information Technology – Universal Multiple Octet Coded Character Set.

The Unicode Consortium: **The Unicode Standard Version 4.0**, 2004.

The assistance provided by the Council for Information Technology (CINTEC) and the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) in the preparation of this standard is also gratefully acknowledged.

1 SCOPE

This standard provides a coding of the set of Sinhala characters for use in computer and communication media. This standard character code set specifies a 7-bit code table (out of 16 bits) which may be used in line with the requirements outlined by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).

In addition to storage, retrieval and machine to machine communication in Sinhala, it also includes provisions to co-exist with other languages as specified in ISO/IEC 10646.

This code set is able to represent contemporary and historical Sinhala writings.

This standard defines codes for the vowels, consonants, semi-consonants, vowel signs, and punctuation in the language. Some formations of the language are not represented by individual codes, but are constructed as sequences of codes. For example, many characters are formed by a consonant followed by a consonant modifier.

In designing this code set efforts were taken to retain the ability to incorporate future developments in the language.

It does not include editorial characters, abbreviations, subscribes, superscribes and punctuations, but in the keyboard layout, keys are provided for Indo-Arabic numerals, symbols and punctuation.

NOTE: *Codes are not provided in the code set for distinct formations in the language for the Repaya, Yansaya, and Rakaransaya. These shapes are generated using the sequences given in Section 5.*

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions shall apply:

- 2.1 **base character:** A character which may stand alone, or optionally combine with one or more combining characters.
- 2.2 **base letter:** A symbol from which letters are formed.
- 2.3 **character:** A unit of information used for the organisation, control, or representation of textual data.
- 2.4 **code table:** A table showing the characters allocated to the cells in the code.
- 2.5 **combining character:** A character which does not stand alone, but combines with another character.
- 2.6 **combining character sequence:** A sequence of characters, starting with a base character and zero or more combining characters, which represent a letter.
- 2.7 **composite character:** A character which is equivalent to a sequence of one or more other characters.
- 2.8 **conjunct letter:** Two or more letters joined together. In addition to the combination of a consonant with the yansaya, rakaransaya and repaya, pairs of consonants may form conjunct letters.
- 2.9 **consonant:** A letter representing a speech sound in which the breath is at least partly obstructed and which may combine with a vowel to form a syllable.
- 2.10 **letter:** A symbol representing a simple or compound sound used in speech. It may comprise a base letter, or a base letter together with one or more strokes.
- 2.11 **non-vocalic stroke:** A graphic symbol associated with a base letter to indicate a consonant to be associated with that letter.
- 2.12 **pure consonant:** A consonant without an associated vowel, i.e., with an al-lakuna.
- 2.13 **semi-consonant:** A consonant that does not enjoy all the privileges of normal consonants and to be combined with the preceding vowel.
- 2.14 **sign:** One or more strokes.
- 2.15 **stroke:** A graphic symbol which modifies a base letter.
- 2.16 **vocalic stroke:** A graphic symbol associated with a base letter to indicate the presence or absence of a vowel associated with that letter.
- 2.17 **vowel:** A letter representing a speech sound made with the vibration of the vocal cords, but without audible obstruction.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SINHALA LANGUAGE

Sinhala is a member of the Indo-Aryan family of languages and the script bears close structural resemblance to Thai and Malayalam scripts. The Sinhala writing system is a syllabury derived from the ancient North Indian script, Brahmi, and subsequently influenced by the Pallawa Grantha script of South India. The modern script used in writing Sinhala is unique to this language.

Sinhala differs from all other Indo-Aryan languages in that it contains a pair of vowel sounds that are unique to it. These are the two vowel sounds that are similar to the two vowel sounds that occur at the beginning of the English words, *at* and *ant*. The vowel sound in *at* is short, and the vowel sound in *ant* is long. The Sinhala alphabet also has a pair of letters to represent these two sounds.

Short vowel: අ - ae
Long vowel: ඇ - aae

Another feature that distinguishes Sinhala from its sister Indo-Aryan languages is the presence of a set of five nasal sounds known as “half nasal” or “prenasalized stops”. These sounds as represented in modern Sinhala writing and their romanised notation are as follows:

ඞ (nng), ඞ් (ndj), ඞ් (nnd), ඞ් (nd), ඞ් (mb).

The Sinhala alphabet (as defined below) consists of 61 letters: 18 vowels, 41 consonants and 2 semi-consonants.

<Sinhala alphabet>:: = <Vowels><Consonants>< Semi-consonants>

These symbols represent 40 sounds: 14 vowel sounds and 26 consonant sounds.

The 61 letter symbols are given below together with their romanised representations.

3.1 Vowels

The 18 vowels, unlike consonants, are used only at the beginning of words. They are as follows:

අ	a	ආ	aa	ඇ	ae	ඈ	ae
ඉ	i	ඊ	ii	උ	u	ඌ	uu
ඍ	r	ඎ	rr	ඏ	l	ඐ	ll
	.		..		.		..
එ	e	ඒ	ee	ඔ	ai		
ඔ	o	ඕ	oo	ඖ	au		

NOTES:

1. The letters අ and ඈ which are based on the symbol අ are unique to the Sinhala language and have been in use since the 7th century.
2. ඏ (ilu) and ඐ (iluu) do not occur in present usage but are included in the code set for completeness of the code. They are not included in Tables 1 - 3.
3. ඎ also does not occur in present usage, but its corresponding vocalic stroke, ඎ is used; for example, කඊඎ.

3.2 Consonants

The Sinhala alphabet possesses 41 consonants as shown below with their romanised notations.

ක	ka	ක	kha	ග	ga	ඝ	gha	ඛ	nga	ඟ	nnga		
ච	ca	ඡ	cha	ජ	ja	ඣ	jha	ඤ	nya	ඦ	jnya	ජ	ndja
ට	tta	ඨ	ttha	ඩ	dda	ඪ	ddha	ණ	nna	ඬ	nnda		
ත	ta	ථ	tha	ද	da	ධ	dha	න	na	ඳ	nda		
ප	pa	ඵ	pha	බ	ba	භ	bha	ම	ma	ඹ	mba		
ය	ya	ර	ra	ල	la	ව	va						
ශ	sha	ඝ	ssa	ස	sa	හ	ha	ළ	lla	ෆ	fa		

NOTES:

1. The consonant ජ (ndja) is included although it is not found in contemporary writing.
2. The letters ඤ and ඦ are identical in sound only in the initial position of a word for example ඤාණ and ඦාන. They are not identical in non-initial positions, where ඦ behaves as a combination of two consonant sounds, for example ප්‍රඤා.

3.3 Semi-consonants

“ං” and “ඃ” are the two semi-consonants available in the alphabet. Semi-consonants may appear only following a vowel or a consonant with an implicit or explicit vowel.

NOTES:

1. The corresponding phonetic notations of semi-consonants are:

ං:
m
ඃ:
h
2. These two characters have been placed at the beginning of the code set to facilitate collation.

3.4 Strokes

Strokes (also known as modifiers) are graphical symbols used in conjunction with consonants. They are also used in writing some vowels (e.g. ආ, ඵ්, ඵේ). The strokes of the Sinhala script occur in two different forms; i.e., vocalic strokes and non-vocalic strokes.

<Stroke>	:: =	<Vocalic stroke>, < Non-vocalic stroke>
<Vocalic stroke>	:: =	ඳ්, ට, ටෑ, ටෑ, ටි, ටි, ටු, ටු, ටා, ටො, ටා
<Non-Vocalic stroke>	:: =	ට්, ටු, ටු

Unlike in English, a stroke may be positioned on any of the four sides of the base letter. These can be classified as follows:

<Stroke> :: = <Left stroke>, <Right stroke>, <Upper stroke>, <Lower stroke>
 <Left stroke> :: = ෙ
 <Right stroke> :: = ට, ටූ, ටූූ, ටූූූ, ටූූූූ, ටූූූූූ
 <Upper stroke> :: = ට්, ට්, ට්, ට්
 <Lower stroke> :: = ට්, ට්, ට්

The strokes, their names, and the vowels represented by them, are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – Strokes, their names and vowel representation

Sl. No. (1)	Stroke (2)	Name (3)	Vowel representation (4)
Vocalic strokes			
1	ට්	Sinhala al-lakuna 1	-
1a	ට*	Sinhala al-lakuna 2	-
2	ට	Sinhala aela-pilla	ආ
3	ටූ	Sinhala ketti aeda-pilla	ආූ
4	ටූූ	Sinhala diga aeda-pilla	ආූූ
5	ට්	Sinhala ketti is-pilla	ඉ
6	ට්	Sinhala diga is-pilla	ඉූ
7	ට්	Sinhala ketti paa-pilla 1	උ
7a	ට*	Sinhala ketti paa-pilla 2	උ
8	ට්	Sinhala diga paa-pilla 1	උූ
8a	ට*	Sinhala diga paa-pilla 2	උූ
9	ටූූූ	Sinhala gaetta-pilla	ආ
10	ට	Sinhala kombuva	ආ
11	ටූ	Sinhala gayanukitta	ආ
Non Vocalic strokes			
12	ටූූූූ	Sinhala yansaya	refer note 3
13	ට්	Sinhala rakaransaya	refer note 3
14	ට්	Sinhala repaya	refer note 3

*These strokes are shown with their associated character.

NOTES:

1. The **al-lakana** removes the implicit vowel associated with a consonant, forming a pure consonant.
2. The shape of a stroke is dependant on the associated consonant, as shown in lines 1, 7 and 8 above.
3. The non-vocalic stroke Sinhala **yansaya** symbolizes ආ when preceded by a consonant, e.g.: ක් + ආ = කආ. The non-vocalic stroke Sinhala **rakaransaya** symbolises උ when by a consonant, e.g.: ක් + උ = කඋ. The **repaya** symbolises a ට් preceding a consonant, e.g.: ක් + ට් + ආ = කට්ආ.
4. The vocalic stroke ටූූූූ **diga gayanukitta** corresponding to the vowel ආ is not presently used in Sinhala and is not considered further.

3.5 Letters

In Sinhala, a letter may be formed by a vowel alone, a consonant alone, or a consonant with one or more associated strokes. It may optionally include a semi-consonant.

Seventeen combinations of vocalic strokes with a consonant are used in Sinhala. These are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2 - Combination of the consonant ක (k) with vocalic strokes

Sl No. (1)	Character (2)	Phonetic Notation (3)
1	ක්	k
2	(ක් + අ) = ක	ka
3	(ක් + ආ) = කා	kaa
4	(ක් + ඈ) = කැ	kae
5	(ක් + ඹ) = කෑ	kaee
6	(ක් + ඉ) = කි	ki
7	(ක් + ඊ) = කී	kii
8	(ක් + උ) = කු	ku
9	(ක් + ඉූ) = කූ	kuu
10	(ක් + සා) = කෘ	kr̥
11	(ක් + සාෂ) = කෘෂ්	krr̥
12	(ක් + එ) = කෙ	ke
13	(ක් + ඒ) = කේ	kee
14	(ක් + ට්) = කෙට්	kai
15	(ක් + ඔ) = කො	ko
16	(ක් + ඕ) = කෝ	koo
17	(ක් + ඹූ) = කොෂ	kau

The non-vocalic strokes ය and ො represent the letter ය and ර respectively, following a pure consonant. They may appear alone, or together with vocalic strokes. If so, the vowel applies to the ය or ර and not the initial consonant. The valid combinations of vocalic strokes with the yansaya and rakaransaya (7 and 12 combinations respectively) are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3 - Combination of the consonant ක (k) with vocalic and non-vocalic strokes

SI No. (1)	Character (2)	Romanised Notation (3)	SI No. (1)	Character (2)	Romanised Notation (3)
1	කය	kya	9	කූ	kra
2	කයා	kyaa	10	කූා	kraa
3	කු	kyu	11	කූූ	krae
4	කූ	kyuu	12	කූූූ	kraee
5	කෙය	kye	13	කි	kri
6	කෙය්	kyee	14	කී	krii
7	කොය	kyo	15	කො	kre
8	කොය්	kyoo	16	කෝ	kree
			17	කොූ	krai
			18	කොූූ	kro
			19	කොූූූ	kroo
			20	කොූූූූ	krou

NOTE: The yansaya is not used following the letter ර. e.g.: the spelling කර්‍ය is incorrect.

A semi-consonant, ඌ or ඌූ, may appear after any of the letters in lines 2 to 17 in Table 2 and any of the letters in Table 3 (i.e., after any letter except a pure consonant), yielding a total of 109 possible letters based on a given consonant.

NOTE:

1. Not all combinations are valid with all consonants. E.g., the consonant ඩ is never combined with a vowel, but appears as ඩි. However, we do not list all such cases.
2. The **repaya** is not included in this table.

3.5 Repaya

The repaya is an abbreviation for the letter ඊ preceding a consonant. Use of the repaya is optional. E.g.: කර්ම or කම් are both valid.

3.6 Conjunct Letters (බැඳි අකුරු)

A conjunct letter is formed by joining another letter to a pure consonant (e.g. ක් + ම = ක්ම). A conjunct letter may be modified by a vocalic stroke (e.g. ක්මි). The strokes yansaya (ය්) and rakaransaya (ර්) are shortened forms of the letters ය and ර respectively, used when forming conjunct letters. These strokes may also be appended to another conjunct letter, e.g. ක්මි.ය්.

4 CHARACTER ENCODING

The encoding of the Sinhala character set into 128 cells of a 16-bit code space is shown in Table 4. This encoding uses hexadecimal codes in the range 0D80 to 0DFF.

The table comprises codes for the semi-consonants (0D82-0D83), vowels (0D85-0D96), consonants (0D9A-0DC6), the al-lakuna (0DCA), vowel signs (0DCF-0DF3) and punctuation mark - kundaliya (0DF4). Some vowel signs are composite characters which represent two or more vocalic strokes. However, each vowel sign corresponds to a vowel. The unused positions in the range shall not be used.

Vowels, consonants and the punctuation mark are base characters, and may stand alone. The al-lakuna and vowel signs are combining characters, and follow a consonant. The semi-consonants are combining characters, and follow a vowel, consonant, or vowel sign.

Descriptions of the codes are given in Table 5.

NOTE: *Specific collation algorithms (not specified herein) are needed for sorting text stored using this character encoding.*

4.1 Codes for numerals

As Sinhala numerals are not used at present, codes are not provided for Sinhala numerals.

4.2 Code for Sinhala punctuation

The code 0DF4 represents the **kundaliya**.

NOTE: *The kundaliya, which is a punctuation mark unique to Sinhala writing, is sometimes used to conclude a paragraph.*

4.3 Codes not specified herein

This standard does not specify codes for the numerals, other punctuation marks, and symbols. These are specified in other code pages in ISO/IEC 10646. The yansaya, rakaransaya and repaya are represented by code sequences, and not by individual codes.

The codes for zero-width joiner (ZWJ), which is used to form conjunct letters, and zero-width non-joiner (ZWNJ), are not in this code page, but have the values 200D and 200C respectively. The non-breaking space character (NBSP) has the value 00A0.

4.4 Codes reserved for future developments

Three codes each after the sets of vowels (0D97-0D99) and consonants (0DC7-0DC9) are left unassigned to accommodate future enhancements of the language.

TABLE 4 – The Sinhala Character Encoding

	0D8x	0D9x	0DAx	0DBx	0DCx	0DDx	0DEx	0DFx
0		ඵ 0D90	ච 0DA0	ඨ 0DB0	ඵ 0DC0	ඵ 0DD0		
1		ඵ 0D91	ඡ 0DA1	න 0DB1	ඟ 0DC1	ඵ 0DD1		
2	ං 0D82	ඵ 0D92	ඡ 0DA2		ඡ 0DC2	ඵ 0DD2		ංaa 0DF2
3	ං 0D83	ඵ 0D93	ක 0DA3	ඳ 0DB3	ඪ 0DC3	ඵ 0DD3		ංඟ 0DF3
4		ඹ 0D94	ක 0DA4	ඪ 0DB4	ඹ 0DC4	ඵ 0DD4		ඹ 0DF4
5	ඵ 0D85	ඹ 0D95	ඳ 0DA5	ඵ 0DB5	ඳ 0DC5			
6	ඵ 0D86	ඹ 0D96	ඡ 0DA6	ඹ 0DB6	ඟ 0DC6	ඵ 0DD6		
7	ඵ 0D87		ඵ 0DA7	ඹ 0DB7				
8	ඵ 0D88		ඨ 0DA8	ඹ 0DB8		ංa 0DD8		
9	ඵ 0D89		ඪ 0DA9	ඹ 0DB9		ඹ 0DD9		
A	ඵ 0D8A	ක 0D9A	ඪ 0DAA	ඪ 0DBA	ඵ 0DCA	ං 0DDA		
B	ඵ 0D8B	ඹ 0D9B	ඡ 0DAB	ඵ 0DBB		ංං 0DDB		
C	ඵ 0D8C	ඟ 0D9C	ඪ 0DAC			ංං 0DDC		
D	සaa 0D8D	ඪ 0D9D	න 0DAD	ඳ 0DBD		ංං 0DDD		
E	සaa 0D8E	ඪ 0D9E	ඵ 0DAE			ංං 0DDE		
F	ඵ 0D8F	ඹ 0D9F	ඳ 0DAF		ං 0DCF	ං 0DDF		

TABLE 5 – Names of the Characters**Various signs**

0D82 ◌◌ Sinhala sign anusvaraya

0D83 ◌ᳵ Sinhala sign visargaya

Independent vowels

0D85 අ Sinhala letter ayanna

0D86 ආ Sinhala letter aayanna

0D87 ඇ Sinhala letter aeyanna

0D88 ඈ Sinhala letter aeeyanna

0D89 ඉ Sinhala letter iyanna

0D8A ඊ Sinhala letter iiyanna

0D8B උ Sinhala letter uyanna

0D8C ඌ Sinhala letter uuyanna

0D8D ඍ Sinhala letter iruyanna

0D8E ඎ Sinhala letter iruuyanna

0D8F ඔ Sinhala letter iluyanna

0D90 ඓ Sinhala letter iluuyanna

0D91 ඵ Sinhala letter eyanna

0D92 ඹ Sinhala letter eeyanna

0D93 ෙඵ Sinhala letter aiyanna

0D94 ඹ Sinhala letter oyanna

0D95 ඹ Sinhala letter ooyanna

0D96 ඹ Sinhala letter auyanna

Consonants

0D9A ක Sinhala letter alpapraana kayanna

0D9B ඛ Sinhala letter mahaapraana kayanna

0D9C ග Sinhala letter alpapapraana gayanna

0D9D ඝ Sinhala letter mahaapraana gayanna

0D9E ඞ Sinhala letter kantaja naasikyaya

0D9F ඟ Sinhala letter sanyaka gayanna

0DA0 ච Sinhala letter alpapraana cayanna

0DA1 ඡ Sinhala letter mahaapraana cayanna

0DA2 ඣ Sinhala letter alpapraana jayanna

0DA3 ඤ Sinhala letter mahaapraana jayanna

0DA4 ඦ Sinhala letter taaluja naasikyaya

0DA5 ට Sinhala letter taaluja sanyooga naaksikyaya

0DA6 ඨ Sinhala letter sanyaka jayanna

0DA7 ඩ Sinhala letter alpapraana ttayanna

0DA8 ඪ Sinhala letter mahaapraana ttayanna

0D9A ඬ Sinhala letter alpapraana ddayanna

0DAA භ Sinhala letter mahaapraana ddayanna

0DAB ඩ Sinhala letter muurdhaja nayanna

0DAC ඪ Sinhala letter sanyaka ddyanna

0DAD න Sinhala letter alpapraana tayanna

0DAE ට Sinhala letter mahaapraana tayanna

0DAF ද Sinhala letter alpapraana dayanna

0DB0 ධ Sinhala letter mahaapraana dayanna

0DB1 න Sinhala letter dantaja nayanna

0DB3	ඳ	Sinhala letter sanyaka dayanna
0DB4	ඵ	Sinhala letter alpapraana payanna
0DB5	ඵ	Sinhala letter mahaapraana payanna
0DB6	ඹ	Sinhala letter alpapraana bayanna
0DB7	ඹ	Sinhala letter mahaapraana bayanna
0DB8	ම	Sinhala letter mayanna
0DB9	ඹ	Sinhala letter amba bayanna
0DBA	ය	Sinhala letter yayanna
0DBB	ර	Sinhala letter rayanna
0DBD	ඳ	Sinhala letter dantaja layanna
0DC0	ව	Sinhala letter vayanna
0DC1	ග	Sinhala letter taaluja sayanna
0DC2	ම	Sinhala letter muurdhaja sayanna
0DC3	ස	Sinhala letter dantaja sayanna
0DC4	හ	Sinhala letter hayanna
0DC5	ඳ	Sinhala letter muurdhaja layanna
0DC6	ඟ	Sinhala letter fayanna

Sign

0DCA	ඳ	Sinhala sign al-lakuna
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Dependent vowel signs

0DCF	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign aela-pilla
0DD0	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign ketti aeda-pilla
0DD1	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign diga aeda-pilla
0DD2	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign ketti is-pilla
0DD3	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign diga is-pilla
0DD4	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign ketti paa-pilla
0DD6	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign diga paa-pilla
0DD8	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign gaetta-pilla
0DD9	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign kombuva
0DDA	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign diga kombuva
0ddb	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign kombu deka

Two-part dependent vowel signs

0DDC	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign kombuva haa aela-pilla
0DDD	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign kombuva haa diga aela-pilla
0DDE	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign kombuva haa gayanukitta

Dependent vowel sign

0DDF	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign gayanukitta
------	---	--------------------------------

Additional dependent vowel signs

0DF2	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign diga gaetta-pilla
0DF3	ඟ	Sinhala vowel sign diga gayanukitta

Punctuations

0DF4	ඟ	Sinhala punctuation kunddaliya
------	---	--------------------------------

5 CODE SEQUENCES

Each Sinhala letter (e.g., කේ) is represented by sequence of characters in Table 4. A letter may be a vowel (e.g. ඒ), a consonant (e.g. ක), a consonant followed by an al-lakuna (i.e., a pure consonant) (e.g. ක්), a consonant with a vowel sign (e.g. කා), one of the above (except a pure consonant) followed by a semi-consonant (e.g. ආ), or a conjunct letter (e.g. කෂ).

5.1 Vowels

Each vowel is represented by one character in the range 0D85-0D96.

e.g. අ = 0D85, ඩා = 0D8D

NOTE: A vowel such as අ should not be represented as a character sequence such as 0D85 0DCF.

5.2 Consonants

Each consonant is represented by one character in the range 0D9A – 0DC9.

e.g. ක = 0D9A, ඤ = 0DA4

5.3 Pure Consonants

A pure consonant (i.e., without an implicit vowel) is represented by a two character sequence *cons* 0DCA (*cons* + ඒ) where *cons* represents a consonant.

e.g. ක් = 0D9A 0DCA

5.4 Consonants with vowel signs

A consonant with a vowel sign is represented by a two character sequence *cons* + *vs* where *vs* represents a vowel sign.

e.g. කා = 0D9A 0DCF, කො = 0D9A 0DDE, කෙ = 0D9A 0DDB

Although the al-lakuna and the paa-pillas take two forms, depending on the associated consonant, both forms are represented by the same code character.

e.g. ක් = 0D9A 0DCA, ට් = 0DA7 0DCA

භ් = 0DB1 0DD4, භූ = 0D9A 0DD4, භු = 0DB1 0DD6, භූ = 0D9A 0DD6

Non-standard letters

The following letters are represented as shown:

ඤ = 0DBB 0DD0, ඤ = 0DBB 0DD1

ඤ = 0DBB 0DD4, ඤ = 0DDB 0DD6

ඤ = 0DC5 0DD4, ඤ = 0DC5 0DD6

A vowel sign without an associated consonant may be displayed by preceding it with a zero-width non-joiner (zwnj) character. e.g. ා = 200C 0DCF (zwnj + ා).

NOTES:

1. These are only the internal representations and not the keyboard sequences.
2. The representation of a letter such as කෝ by a consonant character (ක) followed by several vowel sign characters (ෙ ො ට්) is permitted in Unicode, but is discouraged in this standard. This standard recommends the use of a single composite vowel sign character following a consonant in such cases (e.g. ක + ඌ).
3. This standard does not specify a method of displaying the vocalic strokes of certain letters such as ක, ම and ඳ without their associated consonant symbols.

5.5 Semi-consonant signs

A anusvaraya (ං) or visargaya (ඃ) sign may follow a vowel, a consonant or a vowel sign.

e.g. අං = 0D85 0D82 (අ + ං), අඃ = 0D85 0D83 (අ + ඃ)
කං = 0D9A 0D82 (ක + ං), කෝං = 0D9A 0DDD 0D82 (ක + ඌ + ං),
කුඃ = 0D9A 0DD4 0D83 (ක + ු + ඃ)

NOTE: A semi-consonant, if present, is always the last character in a combining character sequence.

5.6 Rakaransaya and Yansaya

The rakaransaya and yansaya are forms of **conjunct letters**.

The rakaransaya ො represents a ට which follows a pure consonant. It can, in turn, be followed by a vowel sign. It is joined to the preceding letter by a zero-width joiner (zwj).

A rakaransaya is represented by the character sequence *cons* 0DCA 200D 0DBB (*cons* + ට + zwj + ට) where *cons* represents some consonant.

e.g.: ක = 0D9A 0DCA 200D 0DBB (ක + ට + zwj + ට),
කො = 0D9A 0DCA 200D 0DBB 0DD9 (ක + ට + zwj + ට + ඌ)

Similarly the yansaya ඌ represents a ඌ which follows a pure consonant.

e.g. කො = 0D9A 0DCA 200D 0DBA (ක + ට + zwj + ඌ)
කොට් = 0D9A 0DCA 200D 0DBA 0DDD (ක + ට + zwj + ඌ + ඌ)

A stand-alone yansaya is represented by the sequence 200C 0DCA 200D 0DBA (zwnj + ට + zwj + ඌ). A stand-alone rakaransaya is represented similarly.

NOTES:

1. As the ො and ඌ are present on the keyboard, users will not need to key in the above sequences (see section 6).

2. The yansaya and rakaransaya are required in normal Sinhala text. However, if for some reason, it is desired not to use the rakaransaya or yansaya, the zwj should be omitted.

5.7 Repaya

The repaya ෙ represents the letter ට preceding a consonant. It is represented by the sequence 0DBB 0DCA 200D cons (ට + ට + zwj + cons).

e.g. ක්‍ර = 0D9A 0DBB 0DCA 200D 0DB8 (ක + ට + ට + zwj + ෙ)

A stand-alone repaya is represented by the sequence 0DBB 0DCA 200D 200C (ට + ට + zwj + zwnj).

A yansaya with repaya (in words such as කායාපාලය) is represented by the code sequence 0DBB 0DCA 200D 200C 0DCA 200D 0DBA (ට + ට + zwj + zwnj + ට + zwj + ය).

NOTE: As the repaya appears on the keyboard, users will not need to key in the above sequences.

5.8 Other conjunct letters (බැඳි අකුරු)

Conjunct letters are represented by the sequence cons 0DCA 200D cons (cons + ට + zwj + cons). The second consonant may optionally be followed by a vowel sign.

e.g. ඤ = 0DB1 0DCA 200D 0DAF (න + ට + zwj + ඤ),

ක්‍ර = 0D9A 0DCA 200D 0DC2 0DDA (ක + ට + zwj + ෙ + ට)

Conjunct letters may be further joined by a rakaransaya or yansaya.

e.g. ඤ්‍ය = 0DB1 0DCA 200D 0DAF 0DCA 200D 0DBB 0DCF

(න + ට + zwj + ඤ + ට + zwj + ට + ය)

NOTE: The convention of writing a pure consonant touching the following letter, instead of using an al-lakuna, is common in Pali text written in Sinhala script. This may be represented by using the sequence 0DCA 200D between the two letters.

6 KEYBOARD INPUT

Text encoded as specified in this standard may be input to a computer system in many ways, e.g., text recognition, 10-key keypad, etc. However, much text is input using standard computer keyboards (e.g., 101-key). This section provides guidelines on how Sinhala text may be entered using such a keyboard.

Each Sinhala letter, such as ක්‍ර (represented by a character sequence) is input by a sequence of keys on the keyboard. Thus there is a many-to-many relation between keys and characters.

The set of symbols which appear on the keyboard, and the key sequences to generate each letter, are independent of the mapping of symbols to keys. The same key sequences may be used by several keyboard layouts.

This section specifies the recommended key sequences for generating Sinhala characters on a standard computer keyboard. One recommended keyboard layout, based on the Wijesekara keyboard, is specified in Section 7.

Key sequences are defined on the principle “type as you write”. Each symbol is typed in the order it is written in, which may be different to the encoding sequence or the display order.

NOTE: *This standard does not specify the symbols which are displayed during the intermediate stages in the construction and deletion of letters.*

6.1 Keyboard Symbols

A Sinhala keyboard should have the following symbols, which may be assigned to keys in suitable ways. Each physical key may have several symbols assigned to it, one for each shift-state. Generally, only the symbols of the unshifted and the normal shift states will be printed on the keyboard.

Keys should be assigned to the following:

Consonants

ක බ ග භ ඩ හ
ච ඡ ජ ඤ ඤ ඤ ජ
ට ඨ ඩ ඩ ඤ ඩ
න ට ද ධ න ද
ප ඵ බ හ ම ඹ
ය ර ල ව ශ ෂ
ස හ ල ෙ

Vowels

අ ඉ ඊ ට සා ප ඵ and ඩ

NOTES:

1. *Other vowels are produced by a key sequence.*
2. *The ප symbol need not be printed on the keyboard, but may be keyed using a shift state.*

Leading vowel sign – kombuwa (ඟ).

Trailing vowel signs -

aela-pilla (ඟ), ketti aeda-pilla (ඟ), diga aeda-pilla (ඟ), ketti is-pilla (ඟ), diga is-pilla (ඟ), keti paa-pilla (ඟ), diga paa-pilla (ඟ), gaeta-pilla (ඟ) and gayanukitta (ඟ).

NOTE: *Composite vowel signs are entered as a sequence of two or more keys.*

The al-lakuna - (ඟ)

NOTE: Although the *al-lakuna* takes two forms, (e.g. ක් and ට) they are both entered using the same key.

Semi-Consonants - anusvaraya (◌◌) and visargaya (◌◌).

Non-vocalic strokes - yansaya (◌◌), rakaransaya (◌) and repaya (◌◌).

Punctuation - kundaliya (◌◌).

Non-standard character form - muurdhaja lu (◌).

NOTE: This letter has a non-standard form, and is assigned a key for user convenience.

The sanyakaya - may be used to generate “sanyaka” letters such as ට and ට in conjunction with letters such as ක and ට.

NOTE: Keys are also assigned to the symbols ට, ට etc.

The join key - used to join two letters to form conjunct letters such as ක්.

NOTE: An implementer may assign a key for the zero-width joiner character, although it is not required to enter Sinhala text.

The inv key - used to produce an invisible base character.

Non-Sinhala symbols - keys should be assigned for numerals, punctuation marks and standard symbols.

6.2 Key sequences

Each letter is entered by one or more key sequences as follows:

Consonants

A consonant is entered with a single key.

e.g. ක ම ක්, ට

Vowels

A vowel is entered with 1 or 2 keys.

අ

අ + ◌ = අ◌

අ + ◌ = අ◌

අ + ◌ = අ◌

ඉ

ඊ

උ

උ + ◌ = උ◌

ආ

ආ + ◌ = ආ◌

එ

$$\mathfrak{w} + \mathfrak{o} = \mathfrak{w}$$

e.g. ເອ + ຈ + ອ + ອ' = ເຈຣ

au modifier - 3 keys: kombuwa + *cons* + gayanukitta. e.g. ເອ + ຈ + ອ = ເຈ

Semi-consonants

The signs ເ and ເ are keyed following a consonant or vowel sign. They will always be the last key of a key sequence.

6.3 Conjunct letters

Rakaransaya (ຣ)

This symbol will normally be entered using the rakaransaya key.

e.g.: ຈ + ຣ = ຈຣ

Vowel signs, as shown in Table 3, may be keyed following the rakaransaya. However, the kombuwa is keyed preceding the base letter. The ispilla may be keyed either before or after the rakaransaya, to conform with the practice in writing.

e.g. ເ + ຣ = ເຣ, ເ + ຣ + ອ = ເຣອ, ເ + ຣ + ອ' = ເຣອ', ເ + ຣ + ອ = ເຣອ, ຈ + ຣ + ອ = ຈຣອ

The following alternative sequences are also valid:

e.g. ຈ + ອ + ຣ = ຈຣ, ເ + ອ + ຣ = ເຣ

NOTE: Sequences other than those shown in Table 3, such as ເ + ຣ + ອ and ເ + ຣ + ອ are not used with the rakaransaya, but keying them in should be allowed.

Yansaya (ຢ)

This symbol will normally be entered using the yansaya key.

e.g. ຈ + ຢ = ຈຢ

The yansaya may be combined with vowel signs, as shown in Table 3.

e.g. ຈ + ຢ + ອ = ຈຢອ, ເ + ຈ + ຢ = ເຈຢ

Sequences other than those shown in Table 3 are not used with the yansaya, but keying them in should be allowed.

Repaya

The repaya symbol is keyed in following a consonant, i.e., the writing sequence.

e.g. ຈ + ະ = ຈຶ

Other conjunct letters (ລຳດັບ ກຳລັງ)

Conjunct letters are generated by pressing the "join" key between two consonants.

e.g.: ຈ + join + ຢ = ຈຢ, ຈ + join + ຢ + ອ = ຈຢອ

ເອ + ຈ + join + ຢ + ອ + ອ' = ເຈຢອ'

6.4 Other

Sanyaka letters

The sanyaka letters ດ ນ ດ ດ may be generated by the keys ດ ນ ດ ດ respectively, followed by the sanyakaya key. This is an optional feature.

Stand-alone signs

Stand-alone vowel signs are keyed using the “inv” key (◌) followed or preceded by the desired vowel signs or other symbol.

The symbol yansaya with repaya (as in ယံယံ) is entered by the key sequence
◌ + ◌.

7 KEYBOARD LAYOUT

The keyboard symbols specified in Section 6 may be mapped to a keyboard in several ways. The keyboard layout given in Figure 1 is a possible arrangement. It is a modification of the layout in **SLS1134:2001** which in turn was based on the Wijesekara keyboard. Other layouts may be used depending on users’ requirements.

7.1 Keys

A standard computer keyboard has 48 assignable keys on the main keyboard. Each physical key on a standard computer keyboard can be assigned to up to 4 symbols, for the following shift states:

- unshifted
- shift
- ctrl-alt (alt-gr)
- shift ctrl-alt (shift alt-gr)

Therefore a total of $48 \times 4 = 196$ keys are available for use. The symbols defined in Section 6 are assigned to these keys as shown in Figure 1.

NOTE: *The shift ctrl-alt state is not used in this keyboard layout, but implementers may use it for defining additional symbols, etc.*

7.2 Keyboard Layout

The layout of the keyboard is shown in Figure 1 below.

1st row – US ASCII layout

2nd row – with ALT-GR (right-alt) key pressed

3rd row – with shift

4th row – unshifted

Symbols Used

☞ = repaya

eng = English mode (caps lock)

san = “sanyakaya”

○ = invisible character

☞☞ = touch adjacent characters (e.g. for Pali text)

☞ = join adjacent characters (to form conjunct letters)

CL = caps lock

`	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	-	=
☞	!	@	#	\$	%	^	&	*	(	)	_	+
☞	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	-	=
	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	[	]
									ඳ	ඡ	ඥ	:
	ච	උ	ඌ	ඍ	ඎ	ඏ	ඐ	එ	ඒ	ඓ	ඔ	:
	ච	උ	ඌ	ඍ	ඎ	ඏ	ඐ	එ	ඒ	ඓ	ඔ	:
CL	A	S	D	F.	G	H	.J	K	L	;	'	
	ඉ	ඊ									ඹ	
	ඉ	ඊ									ඹ	
eng	ඉ	ඊ									ඹ	
	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	,	.	/		\
	san	ච	ඡ	ජ	ඣ	ඤ	ඦ	ට	ඨ	ඩ		☞
	"	ඣ	ඤ	ඦ	ට	ඨ	ඩ	ඪ	ණ	ඬ		☞☞
	'	ඣ	ඤ	ඦ	ට	ඨ	ඩ	ඪ	ණ	ඬ		☞
			space									
			non-breaking space									
			space									

FIGURE 1 – Wijesekera-Based Keyboard Layout