**Annex B**(normative) **Representation abbreviations**

A large part of this document consists of the definition of data elements. Part of the definition is the description of the permissible contents, such as numeric only or alphanumeric. These requirements are indicated via abbreviations, which are detailed in Table B.1. These symbols and abbreviations shall be compatible with those specified in ISO 7372.

All fixed-length “n” data elements are assumed to be right-justified with leading zeroes. All other fixed-length data elements are left-justified with trailing spaces. In all “b” data elements, blocks of 8 bits are assumed to be left-justified with trailing zeroes. All data elements are counted from left to right, i.e. the leftmost position is number 1.

**Table B.1 — Representation abbreviations**

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| **Abbreviation** | **Definition** |
| ..17 | Variable length of up to maximum 17 characters; all variable length fields shall in addition contain two, three or four positions at the beginning of the data element to identify the number of positions following to the end of that data element |
| 3 | Fixed length of three characters |
| a | Alphabetical characters, A to Z and a to z |
| an | Alphabetic and numeric characters |
| anp | Alphabetic, numeric and space (pad) characters |
| ans | Alphabetic, numeric and special characters |
| ansb | Alphabetic, numeric, special characters and binary representation of data |
| as | Alphabetic and special characters |
| b | Binary representation of data. (see 5.2.2) |
| CCYY | Century and year, 0000 to 9999 (shall conform with ISO 8601-1 and ISO 8601-2) |
| DD | Day, 01 to 31 |
| hh | Hour, 00 to 23 |
| LL | Length of variable data element that follows, 01 to 99. (see 5.2.1) |
| LLL | Length of variable data element that follows, 001 to 999. (see 5.2.1) |
| LLLL | Length of variable data element that follows, 0001 to 9999. (see 5.2.1) |
| MM | Month, 01 to 12 |
| mm | Minute, 00 to 59 |
| n | Numeric digits, 0 to 9 |
| ns | Numeric and special characters |
| p | Pad character (i.e. space) |
| s | Special characters |
| ss | Second, 00 to 59 |
| VAR | Variable length data element (see 5.2.1) |
| xn | Numeric data with a preceding sign of “C” for credit, “D” for debit, e.g. xn 17 in amount, net reconciliation means prefix “C” or “D” and 16 digits of amount |
| YY | Year, 00 to 99 |
| z | Tracks 2 and 3 code set that shall conform with ISO/IEC 4909, ISO/IEC 7811-2 and ISO/IEC 7813 |