Appendix B — External Symbol Compatibility

B. External Symbol Compatibility

Various languages have restrictions or allowances for special characters. Most languages allow letters and digits (except as the first character) in names. However, each language defines its own character set that can be used in a name.

WARNING: **Avoid using special characters and reserved words when naming system routines, applications, or any external identifiers.**

To enhance compatibility across languages, the following ABI naming recommendations apply to the use of character sets:

- Avoid using special characters in system routine names, so they are callable from various languages.
- Avoid using names that start with either underscore (_) or double-underscore (__). Names that start with the underscore are reserved names in ISO C, and use of these prefixes is discouraged.