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Description: The symbol shapes originally devised and approved by the Association may not be preserved in the symbols in any given font. Whether commercial or free, Unicode-compliant or legacy, every font incorporates unique decisions about such elements as line thicknesses, curves, and proportions. In no extant font do all the symbols correspond exactly to the intent of the Association. However, the font mostly used in the 2005 chart, Linguist's Software's IPA Kiel, comes close*. Therefore a chart made primarily with the IPA Kiel character set best represents the symbols of the IPA. Our use of this font is allowed under our font embedding license.

The 2015 chart makes minor changes to wording and layout, but otherwise reproduces the appearance of the 2005 chart. A few symbol substitutions have been made:

- The symbol for the labiodental flap, which in the 2005 chart is an extra symbol from Linguist's Software, here comes from the Doulos SIL font (2C71).
- The symbol for the close-mid central unrounded vowel is IPA LS Uni 0258; the 2005 chart uses a rotated e.
- The symbol for the open-mid central rounded vowel is IPA LS Uni 025E; the 2005 chart uses a rotated closed-omega.
- The rising-falling tone letter is IPA LS Uni E9B3, a non-Unicode mapping; the 2005 chart uses a combination of a Minor (foot) group and a circumflex.

While IPA Kiel is a legacy font which has not been updated for Unicode, the Association recommends this version of the chart as an ideal in terms of its symbol design.

* For some time Linguist's Software has offered a "Laser IPA in Unicode" font, IPA LS Uni. This font's symbols are very similar, but not identical, to those of IPA Kiel.