

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

ISO
10957

First edition
1993-12-01

**Information and documentation —
International standard music number
(ISMN)**

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*Information et documentation — Numéro international normalisé de la
musique (ISMN)*

ISO 10957:1993

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Reference number
ISO 10957:1993(E)

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 10957 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Sub-Committee SC 9, *Presentation, identification and description of documents*.

Annex A forms an integral part of this International Standard. Annex B is for information only.

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International Organization for Standardization

Case Postale 56 • CH-1211 Genève 20 • Switzerland

Printed in Switzerland

Information and documentation — International standard music number (ISMN)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a means of uniquely identifying printed music publications. It standardizes and promotes internationally the use of numbers on printed music publications in order that one edition of a title or one separate component of an edition can be distinguished from all other editions or components by means of a unique international standard music number. To this end, it specifies the construction of an international standard music number and the location of the number on printed music publications.

This International Standard is applicable to printed music publications, whether for sale, hire, gratis or for copyright purposes only. The ISMN may also be used to identify material in other media that form an integral part of a music publication (e.g. a sound recording that together with the printed music forms a composition). The ISMN is not used, however, to identify material in other media that are issued separately [e.g. an independently issued sound or video recording, in which case ISO 3901 (international standard recording code) shall be applied].

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

2.1 check digit: Added digit which may be used to verify the accuracy of a standard number through a

mathematical relationship to the digits contained in that number. [Adapted from ISO 7064]

2.2 item: Printed music publication, or a separately available component thereof.

3 Construction of an international standard music number

An international standard music number consists of the letter M followed by eight digits¹⁾ and a numeric check digit. In calculating the check digit, the value assigned to M will be the value equivalent to the weighted three-digit prefix assigned for printed music within the International Article Numbering (EAN) system²⁾.

The ISMN is made up of the following elements:

- the letter M as a prefix;
- a publisher identifier;
- an item identifier;
- a check digit.

When an international standard music number is either written or printed, it shall be preceded by the letters ISMN, and each element shall be separated by a space or a hyphen as in the following examples:

ISMN M-01-123456-3

ISMN M 571 10051 3

1) Each digit is an arabic numeral between 0 and 9.

2) The EAN prefix for printed music is 979.

3.1 Letter M prefix

The first element of the ISMN shall always be the letter M. The function of the M prefix is to permit ISMN to be distinguished from ISBN and other similar numbers in situations, such as some computer applications, where the letters ISMN are not included with the number.

3.2 Publisher identifier

The second element of the ISMN shall be the publisher identifier which shall be allocated by a central agency appointed for this purpose. It varies in length from publisher to publisher according to the output of each publisher.

3.3 Item identifier

The third element of the ISMN shall be the item identifier. This element identifies an edition of a title or an individual component of an edition (e.g. full score, miniature score, set of wind parts, oboe part, etc.).

The length of the item identifier is determined by the length of the publisher identifier which precedes it.

3.4 Check digit

The fourth and final element of the ISMN shall be the check digit.

The check digit is calculated on a weighted modulus 10.

4 Printing and position of the ISMN

4.1 The ISMN shall be printed on the back cover of the publication and on the back of the jacket if the item has one.

4.2 If practicable, the ISMN should also be printed with the copyright notice.

4.3 If it is not possible to print the ISMN in any of these positions, the ISMN shall be printed in some other prominent position on the item.

4.4 When the item is a single sheet, the ISMN may be printed in only one place on the item.

4.5 Each volume of a multi-volume set should bear a list of all the ISMN pertaining to the particular volume and to the set as a whole. An item within a set may also bear a list of the ISMN for each of the other individual items in the set.

4.6 When the item is an anthology, the ISMN of the anthology shall be distinguished from the ISMN of the individual pieces that form the anthology.

4.7 If an item bears an ISBN or an ISSN as well as an ISMN, these numbers should be printed adjacent to each other. Each international standard number shall be preceded by the appropriate identifier (i.e. the letters ISBN, ISSN or ISMN).

5 Administration

The ISMN system shall be administered by the international registration authority appointed for this purpose and by other appropriate national or regional agencies.

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Annex A (normative)

Guidelines for the use of ISMN

A.1 General principles for the assignment of ISMN

A.1.1 Each item within an edition shall be assigned its own unique ISMN (e.g. full score, miniature score, set of wind parts, oboe part).

A.1.2 Where an item is an excerpt from another work, it shall be assigned its own ISMN.

A.1.3 Each volume within a multi-volume set shall be assigned its own ISMN. A separate ISMN for the whole set may be assigned as well.

A.1.4 Each new version shall be assigned its own ISMN (e.g. a transposition for a different voice, an arrangement for a different medium of performance).

A.1.5 Any substantive revision to the content of an item, whether or not it is termed "revised", constitutes the creation of a new item (e.g. the addition of a translation of the text or of fingerings in piano music). Each new item shall be assigned its own ISMN.

A.1.6 Any of the following changes to an item, even if the content of the item itself is otherwise unchanged, constitutes the creation of a new item which shall be assigned its own ISMN:

- a) where there is a change in binding (e.g. cloth, paperbound, spiral);
- b) where the physical size of an item is substantially changed (e.g. in order to produce a new full, study or miniature score version);

c) where a set is broken up and the parts are made available separately; or where separately available parts are assembled to form a new set.

A.1.7 The following changes do not constitute the creation of a new item:

- a) a change of cover design;
- b) a change in colour or other marginal difference;
- c) a change in price.

A.1.8 Once assigned, an ISMN shall never be used again, even if the item to which it was originally assigned has been out of print for a long time.

A.2 Administration

A.2.1 The central registration authority for the ISMN shall be the International ISMN Agency³⁾.

A.2.2 There shall be agencies for the administration of the ISMN system on the regional or national level.

A.3 Application of ISMN

Details of the application of the ISMN are explained in a user's manual available from the registration authority for this International Standard.

3) International ISMN Agency, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin-Preussischer Kulturbesitz, D-10772 Berlin, Germany. Telephone: (030) 266 2498. Telefax: (030) 266 2378.

Annex B
(informative)

Bibliography

- [1] ISO 2108:1992, *Information and documentation — International standard book numbering (ISBN)*.
- [2] ISO 3297:1986, *Documentation — International standard serial numbering (ISSN)*.
- [3] ISO 3901:1986, *Documentation — International Standard Recording Code (ISRC)*.
- [4] ISO 7064:1983, *Data processing — Check character systems*.

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UDC 025.47:002:78

Descriptors: documentation, information interchange, music, publications, numbering, identification methods, international identification number, ISMN, organizations for code assignment.

Price based on 4 pages
