



Designation: E250 – 98 (Reapproved 2002)

Standard Practice for Use of CODEN¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E250; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

CODEN are unique, unambiguous identifiers for titles of serial and nonserial publications in all subject areas. CODEN are assigned only by the International CODEN Service. Identifiers resembling CODEN assigned by other than this central agency are not valid CODEN. The word “CODEN” is coined, not an acronym. It should be spelled out entirely in uppercase letters wherever used. The word is both singular and plural.

The use of an identifier such as CODEN was proposed by Charles Bishop, Ph.D. (*American Documentation*, Vol 4, 1953, p. 54.) who also privately published a list of nearly 3000 codes in 1954. Under his direction, both the size of the list and use of the system grew until in 1961, at Dr. Bishop’s suggestion, custody and responsibility for maintaining a list of some 4000 codes were first assumed by ASTM Committee E13 on Molecular Spectroscopy. During this period, CODEN were assigned by Dr. L.E. Kuentzel of Wyandotte Chemicals Corp. The list was expanded to 25 000 codes and titles and published as *ASTM DS 23*. In addition, a mechanism was established for supplying codes for new periodicals or previously uncoded titles and to issue these as annual supplements. In 1966, the CODEN publication *DS 23 A* was issued with 39 000 entries. In April 1967, the project was moved to the Franklin Institute Research Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa. In August 1968, supplement *DS 23 A-S1* with 25 000 entries, and in May 1969, supplement *DS 23 A-S2* with 22 500 additional entries were published. In 1970, a new cumulation of the CODEN data base was published by ASTM as *DS 23 B* (109 507 CODEN). Supplements were published in 1972 (*DS 23 B-S1* with 10 033 CODEN) and 1974 (*DS 23 B-S2* with 7736 CODEN). Effective January 1975, responsibility for the assignment of CODEN was transferred to the Chemical Abstracts Service, Columbus, Ohio, and designated the International CODEN Service.

[ASTM E250-98\(2002\)](#)

1. Scope

1.1 This practice defines CODEN, how to obtain them, and how they can be used or applied.

1.2 The rules for establishing or selecting the publication title to which a CODEN is assigned, as well as the rules for establishing CODEN are not a part of this practice.²

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions:

2.1.1 *abbreviated title*—an abbreviated or condensed form of the collective- or monographic-level title of a publication, based on a contraction of primary and a deletion of non-primary title words.

2.1.1.1 *Discussion*—Abbreviated titles are to be based on the following international standards: *ISO 4-1984 (E)*, *Documentation-Rules for the Abbreviation of Title Words and Titles of Publications: List of Serial Title Word Abbreviations and Its Supplements* (see Refs **1** and **2**).³

2.1.2 *analytical-level title*—the title for a contribution that is included within a monographic- or collective-level work, and that is handled, processed, or referenced as an individual item.

2.1.2.1 *Discussion*—Examples of analytical-level titles include: the title of an article in a journal, a chapter in a book, a filmstrip within a set, or a band on a sound recording disk.

2.1.3 *CODEN*—a six-character, alphanumeric code that provides concise, unique, and unambiguous identification of the titles of serial and nonserial publications in all subject areas.

2.1.3.1 *Discussion*—In CODEN for serial titles, the first five characters are alphabetic, for example, JACSA for *Journal*

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E13 on Molecular Spectroscopy and Separation Science and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E13.91 on Liaison.

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² These rules are on file at ASTM International Headquarters as a research report and are available at a nominal cost.

³ The **boldface** numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this practice.