

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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## Information and documentation — International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN)

*Information et documentation — Numéro international normalisé d'œuvre  
audiovisuelle (ISAN)*

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## 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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 15706 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

Annexes A, B and C form a normative part of this International Standard. Annex D is for information only.

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## Introduction

The ISAN project was administered by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) in association with the Association of International Collective Management of Audiovisual Works (AGICOA), and the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC).

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# Information and documentation — International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN)

## 1 Scope

This International Standard establishes and defines a voluntary standard numbering system for the unique and international identification of audiovisual works (as defined in 3.1).

An International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) identifies an audiovisual work throughout its life and is intended for use wherever precise and unique identification of an audiovisual work would be desirable. As an identifier, it may be used for various purposes, such as to assist allocation of royalties among right holders, to track the use of audiovisual works, for information retrieval and for anti-piracy purposes, such as verifying title registrations. The ISAN can also provide a basis for supplementary identification systems when version or product information is required (e.g. for applications such as broadcast automation and automated storage and retrieval systems).

An ISAN is applied to the audiovisual work itself. It is not related to the physical medium of such an audiovisual work, or the identification of that medium. Annex A specifies examples of audiovisual works for which an ISAN may be issued and examples of works for which ISAN are not issued.

The issuance of an ISAN is in no way related to any process of copyright registration, nor does the issuance of an ISAN provide evidence of the ownership of rights in an audiovisual work.

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## 2 Normative reference

The following normative document contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the normative document indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 7064:1983, *Data processing — Check character systems*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### audiovisual work

work consisting of a sequence of related images, with or without accompanying sound, which is intended to be made visible as a moving image through the use of devices, regardless of the medium of initial or subsequent fixation

### 3.2

#### check character

added character which may be used to verify the accuracy of the string through a mathematical relationship to that string

[ISO 7064:1983]

### 3.3

#### **composite audiovisual work**

audiovisual work which contains one or more other audiovisual works or parts of audiovisual works, each of which is insubstantial in relation to the entire composite audiovisual work

**EXAMPLES** A feature film which contains parts of animated cartoons or other film clips; a television program that contains footage from previously produced feature films, from episodes of television series, or from other audiovisual works.

### 3.4

#### **registrant**

producer of an audiovisual work, authorized proxy of such a producer, or other such entity or individual, registered within the ISAN system for the purposes of obtaining an ISAN for audiovisual works

### 3.5

#### **registration agency**

agency appointed by the Registration Authority for this International Standard for the purposes of assigning ISAN to registrants

### 3.6

#### **serial audiovisual work**

audiovisual work produced in individual episodes or parts which bear a relationship to each other and, usually, a common title for the whole series

## 4 Construction of the ISAN

**4.1** An ISAN shall consist of 16 hexadecimal digits using Arabic numerals 0 to 9 and letters A to F of the Latin alphabet. An ISAN shall be divided into two segments consisting of a 12-digit root segment followed by a 4-digit segment for the identification of episodes or parts of a serial audiovisual work (see A.11). A check character (see annex B) shall be appended whenever an ISAN is presented in human-readable form.

**EXAMPLE** ISAN RRRR-RRRR-RRRR-EEEE-X  
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**4.2** When the work being registered is not an episode or part of a serial audiovisual work, four zeros (0000) shall be used as fill characters in the episode segment of the ISAN.

**EXAMPLE** ISAN 2B1A-FF17-3E20-0000-3

**4.3** To avoid the possibility of duplication, any ISAN assigned to episodes or parts of a serial audiovisual work shall not contain an episode segment consisting of four zeros (0000).

**EXAMPLE** ISAN 0123-1230-3210-2310-1

**4.4** The ISAN shall be a “dumb” number (i.e., it shall not contain any codes or meaningful components apart from the two segments specified in 4.1).

## 5 Issuance of an ISAN

**5.1** An ISAN shall be allocated by a designated ISAN registration agency from the central register of the ISAN system upon application by a registrant.

**5.2** Each ISAN shall be issued to only one audiovisual work and each audiovisual work shall be assigned only one ISAN.

**5.3** An ISAN is permanently issued to an audiovisual work, and shall never be altered, replaced or reused.

**5.4** Further specifications for the issuance and use of ISAN are provided in annex A.



## 6 Affixing and displaying the ISAN

**6.1** The ISAN shall be permanently incorporated in, or affixed to, the audiovisual work in all formats (digital or analogue) and in all of the physical media in which the work is made available (e.g. celluloid film or optical disc) to the extent that it is technically feasible to do so.

**6.2** The ISAN should be included in the documentation, advertising and packaging for an audiovisual work.

**6.3** When an ISAN is printed or otherwise displayed in human-readable form (e.g. on labels, physical carriers, technical documentation, etc.), it shall be preceded by the letters ISAN and its correct check character (see annex B) shall be added at the end of the ISAN character string.

**6.4** As an aid to accurate transcription of ISAN in human-readable form, an ISAN should be presented as four groups of four hexadecimal characters each, followed by the check character. Each of these four groups and the check character shall be separated from each other by a hyphen or space. No internal meaning shall be ascribed to any combination of digits within these groups.

### EXAMPLES

ISAN 1881 66C7 3420 6541 9

ISAN 1881-66C7-3420-6541-9

**6.5** The alphabetic characters appearing in an ISAN and in its check digit should be displayed in upper-case letters when the ISAN is presented in human-readable form. In any machine-readable applications, the lower-case and upper-case forms of these characters shall be treated as equivalent.

**6.6** If a product number (e.g. an ISBN, a Universal Product Code, etc.) has been assigned to a particular format in which the audiovisual work is issued, the ISAN for the work should be displayed on the container and/or packaging immediately below and clearly distinguished from any standard number assigned to the physical product.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/4760eefa-a243-445f-922b-15706-12002>

**6.7** Further details regarding methods of affixing ISAN to audiovisual works are explained in the users' guide, which is available from the International ISAN Agency and each of the ISAN registration agencies.

## 7 Administration of the ISAN system

The ISAN system shall be administered by the International ISAN Agency appointed for this purpose and by designated ISAN registration agencies appointed by the International ISAN Agency.

The principal tasks of the International ISAN Agency and the ISAN registration agencies are specified in annex C.

## 8 Fees

Reasonable fees may be charged for services which ISAN agencies may provide, subject to review and approval by the International ISAN Agency.

## Annex A (normative)

### General principles for the issuance and use of ISAN

**A.1** An ISAN shall only be issued to applicants that are recognized as registrants by ISAN agencies. The requirements and procedures for registration of registrants are explained in the users' guide available from ISAN agencies.

**A.2** A unique ISAN shall be issued to an audiovisual work from a central register of available ISAN, upon application to and acceptance by an ISAN registration agency.

**A.3** Once an ISAN is issued to an audiovisual work, it shall not be issued to any other audiovisual work.

**A.4** Registrants shall supply descriptive information about the audiovisual work being registered for an ISAN (see Annex D).

**A.5** Subject to provision of the required descriptive information (see annex D), a registrant may apply for the issuance of an ISAN at any time during or after the production of the audiovisual work. ISAN may also be issued retroactively to works produced prior to the implementation of this International Standard.

**A.6** The issuance of an ISAN does not provide evidence of ownership of an audiovisual work. The ISAN shall remain the same, irrespective of changes in ownership.

**A.7** Some examples of audiovisual works to which an ISAN may be issued are

- motion pictures (e.g. a feature film),
- short films,
- trailers (i.e. previews),
- productions for television or other means of delivery, including individual episodes of serial audiovisual works such as television series,
- industrial, educational and training films,
- commercials,
- broadcasts and recordings of live events such as sports events and newscasts, and
- composite and multimedia works if they contain a significant audiovisual component, including non-linear (e.g. interactive) audiovisual components.

**A.8** Some examples of works to which an ISAN shall not be issued are

- any non-audiovisual element of an audiovisual work (e.g. the soundtrack, the screenplay, or a single image from an audiovisual work),
- sound recordings,
- still photographs, slide sets and similar static images, and
- multimedia works that do not contain a significant audiovisual component.

**A.9** Versions of an audiovisual work may be identified as such by using a supplementary identifier or code in conjunction with the ISAN for the audiovisual work.<sup>1)</sup>

Some examples of versions and other kinds of changes for which a new ISAN shall not be assigned are

- different language versions, whether subtitled or dubbed,
- a change in the rights or ownership of an audiovisual work,
- different formats or resolution (e.g. analogue or digital; wide screen or "pan and scan"),
- editing for the purposes of television broadcast, and
- changes in the physical carrier(s) for an audiovisual work.

Further details regarding the identification of versions are available from ISAN agencies.

#### **A.10 Composite audiovisual works**

A composite audiovisual work may be issued its own ISAN, independent of any ISAN that may have been issued for the component part(s).

An ISAN issued to a composite audiovisual work shall not replace any ISAN that may have been issued to the component part(s).

#### **A.11 Serial audiovisual works**

Each episode or part of a serial audiovisual work shall be issued its own ISAN.

No meaning shall be attached to sequential ISAN regarding the order in which episodes were commissioned, produced or aired.

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The ISAN agencies shall facilitate the ISAN registration process for individual episodes within a serial audiovisual work, by simplifying the application procedures and descriptive information required for individual episodes as described in D.3 and the users' guide available from ISAN agencies.

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1) Specifications for version identification are in development but are outside the scope of this International Standard.