
**Securities and related financial
instruments — International securities
identification numbering system (ISIN)**

*Valeurs mobilières et autres instruments financiers concernés — Système
international de numérotation pour l'identification des valeurs mobilières
(ISIN)*

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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.

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.

International Standard ISO 6166 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 68, *Banking, securities and other financial services*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Securities and related financial instruments*.

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition (ISO 6166:1994), which has been extended to financial instruments other than securities.

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

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Introduction

With the rapid expansion of international securities business, there is a need for a universally applicable international securities identification number (ISIN).

No worldwide numbering system existed at the time of the publication of the first edition of this International Standard. Countries with highly developed securities business identify issues of securities by means of code numbers, which are without any significance outside the country concerned. Securities of the same issue, in other words, are identified by means of different numbers in the country where they are physically held and/or booked. As a result, the national numbers cannot be applied in cross-border transactions.

Because of its strong rationalization effect, an internationally applicable numbering system substantially facilitates and supports international securities business. Such a system is provided by this International Standard.

In preparing this International Standard, care has been taken to conserve the national systems to the maximum possible extent, not only because of the good routine and valuable experience collected in this field, but also to facilitate the adoption of the system. Moreover, it is aimed at creating a system which is easy to apply internationally and at establishing an information network which ensures that the required information can be obtained worldwide immediately.

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Securities and related financial instruments — International securities identification numbering system (ISIN)

1 Scope

This International Standard provides a uniform structure for international securities identification numbers (ISINs). It is intended for use in any application in the trading and administration of securities and other financial instruments.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain 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 editions of the normative documents 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 3166 (all parts), *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions*.

ISO 4217, *Codes for the representation of currencies and funds*.

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3 Term and definition

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following term and definition applies.

3.1 ISIN

international securities identification number

code which uniquely identifies a specific security or other financial instrument

4 Principles

The ISIN shall consist of:

- a) a **prefix** which is the alpha-2 country-code specified in ISO 3166;
- b) the **basic number**, which is nine characters (letters and/or digits) in length. Where the existing national number consists of nine characters, this number shall be used; where the existing national number consists of fewer than nine characters, this also shall be used, but zeros shall be inserted in front of the national number. Where a national check digit exists, it shall be regarded as part of the basic number within the nine characters;
- c) a **check digit**, computed using the modulus 10 "Double-Add Double" formula as described in annex A.

5 ISIN allocation

5.1 Countries where a numbering agency exists

For countries where a numbering agency exists, the responsible agency shall allocate the ISIN following the principles of clause 4 and in accordance with the competence described in annex B.

5.2 Countries where no numbering agency exists

For countries where no national numbering agency exists, the designated substitute agency shall allocate an ISIN. An ISIN allocated by a substitute agency shall be prefixed in accordance with clause 4.

5.3 Existing ISINs and existing securities without ISINs

All existing ISINs assigned in accordance with previous editions of this International Standard shall remain unchanged. However, the allocation of ISINs for existing securities and financial instruments without ISINs shall be based on the most recent edition.

5.4 Application for ISIN

An application (see annex C) for allocation of an ISIN may be submitted to the relevant numbering agency or where applicable to the substitute agency. For existing issues, any professional in the security business may apply.

It is recommended that the lead manager/issuer apply for allocation of the ISIN prior to the launching of a new issue.

The numbering agencies will allocate ISINs in a timely manner in order to meet market needs.

When an ISIN cannot be obtained according to 5.1 or 5.2, the matter should be resolved according to rules defined by the registration authority.

5.5 Exchange of information

In order to ensure that information is readily available worldwide, the agencies as mentioned shall exchange information among themselves concerning ISINs.

6 Registration authority

In accordance with the provision of annex N of Part 1 of the ISO/IEC Directives, the ISO Council has designated the Association of National Numbering Agencies (ANNA srl) as the registration authority for this International Standard.

7 Information and enquiries

Information and enquiries regarding the implementation of this International Standard and the allocation of ISINs, together with copies of the list of national numbering agencies and substitute numbering agencies, may be addressed to the Secretariat of the registration authority.

The operating address of the ISO 6166 registration authority is as follows:

Association of National Numbering Agencies scrl
Mr. Alain Duhamel, Executive Secretary
c/o Euroclear France
115, rue Réaumur
FR-75081 Paris Cedex 02
France

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