INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO
2108

Information and documentation — International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

Information et documentation — Numéro international normalisé du livre (ISBN)

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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 2.

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 document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 2108 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 2108:1992). It changes the ISBN to a 13 digit identifier to increase substantially the numbering capacity of the global ISBN system and to harmonise the format of the ISBN with the EAN-UCC product code system. Additional specifications on administration of the ISBN system, the assignment of ISBN and associated metadata have been added.

Introduction

Since its inception in 1970, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) has been internationally recognized as the identification system for the publishing industry and book trade. An ISBN accompanies a monographic publication from its production and onwards throughout the supply and distribution chain.

The ISBN system serves as a key element of ordering and inventory systems for publishers, booksellers, libraries and other organizations. It is the basis for collecting data on new and forthcoming editions of monographic publications for directories used throughout the book trade. The use of ISBN also facilitates rights management and the monitoring of sales data for the publishing industry.

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Information and documentation — International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

1   Scope

The purpose of this International Standard is to establish the specifications for the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) as a unique international identification system for each product form or edition of a monographic publication published or produced by a specific publisher. It specifies the construction of an ISBN, the rules for its assignment and use, the metadata to be associated with the ISBN allocation, and the administration of the ISBN system.

This International Standard is applicable to monographic publications (or their individual sections or chapters where these are made separately available) and certain types of related products that are available to the public. Examples of applicable and non-applicable products are provided in Annex A.

NOTE   More detailed, operational guidance is provided in a users' manual available from the Registration Authority for this International Standard (see Clause 8).

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2   Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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ISO 639-2, *Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 2: Alpha-3 code*

ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*

ISO/IEC 15420:2000, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbology specification — EAN/UPC*

3   Terms and definitions

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

3.1
EAN.UCC prefix
international product number prefix assigned by EAN International

NOTE   Specific EAN.UCC prefixes are allocated solely for the use of the ISBN system (see 4.2).

3.2
check digit
final character in the ISBN string which is related to all preceding characters in the string by a specified mathematical algorithm and which may be used to verify the accuracy of the ISBN string

3.3
continuing resource
publication that is issued over time with no predetermined conclusion and made available to the public in any product form, usually issued in successive or integrating issues which generally have numerical and/or chronological designations

NOTE   Continuing resources include serials such as newspapers, periodicals, journals, magazines, etc. and ongoing integrating resources such as loose-leaf publications that are continually updated and web sites that are continually updated.

3.4
edition
all copies of a publication embodying essentially the same content and issued by the same entity

NOTE   A single edition of a publication may be published in multiple product forms.

3.5
integrating resource
publication either finite or with no predetermined conclusion, that is added to or changed by updates that do not remain discrete and are integrated into the whole and made available to the public in any product form

NOTE   Examples of integrating resources include updating loose-leaves and updating web sites.

3.6
ISBN
International Standard Book Number allocated to a registrant by an appointed ISBN registration agency in accordance with the specifications of this International Standard

3.7
monographic publication
publication conceived as a whole in one part or within a finite number of parts by its publisher/author(s) and made available to the public in any product form

3.8
print on demand publication
publication that is printed at the time a customer orders a copy of it rather than that copy being supplied from existing stocks held by the distributor or publisher

3.9
product form
size, binding, medium and/or data format of a publication

EXAMPLE   The same edition of a novel may appear in the following product forms: paperback; hardback; cassette audio-book; CD audio-book; Braille, etc.

3.10
registrant
person or organization that has requested and received an ISBN for a monographic publication from an appointed ISBN registration agency

3.11
registration group
area of operation defined by the Registration Authority for ISO 2108 within which one or more appointed ISBN registration agencies function

4 Construction of an International Standard Book Number

4.1 General structure of an ISBN

As of 1st January 2007, all agencies of the ISBN system shall only assign ISBNs which consist of thirteen digits[1] made up of the following elements.

a) prefix element;

b) registration group element;

c) registrant element;

d) publication element;

e) check digit.

For specifications concerning 10 digit ISBNs assigned prior to 1st January 2007, see Annex F.

When an ISBN is displayed in human readable form (i.e. a form meant primarily to be read or written by a person, in contrast to a form primarily meant to be used by data processing equipment), it shall be preceded by the letters ISBN[2] and each of the elements of the ISBN should be separated from the others by a hyphen as in the following example.

EXAMPLE: ISBN 978-90-70002-34-3

4.2 Prefix element

The first element of a 13 digit ISBN shall be a 3 digit prefix specified by the International ISBN Agency in conformance with the global EAN.UCC product numbering system. This prefix is made available to the International ISBN Agency by EAN International. This prefix included in the 13-digit product number indicates that this product number originates with and is part of the ISBN system.

Technical information specifying valid EAN.UCC prefixes for ISBN use shall be available from the International ISBN Agency.

4.3 Registration group element

The second element of a 13 digit ISBN shall indicate the registration group. It identifies the national, geographic, language or other such grouping within which one or more ISBN agencies operate.

The registration group element is allocated by the International ISBN Agency.

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1) These digits are the Arabic numerals 0 to 9 only.

2) In countries where the Latin alphabet is not used, the appropriate abbreviation for "International Standard Book Number" in the local script may be given in conjunction with the required letters ISBN in the Latin alphabet.

The registration group element varies in length according to the publishing output within the group concerned. The length of this element for any registration group is determined by the International ISBN Agency. Technical information which specifies validation rules for registration group length shall be available from the International ISBN Agency.

4.4   Registrant element

The third element of a 13 digit ISBN shall indicate the registrant for that ISBN. This element shall be allocated by the ISBN registration agency appointed for this purpose within each registration group. In the majority of cases, the registrant element shall refer to one publisher. Under certain circumstances more than one publisher may share a registrant element, usually as a result of mergers or other commercial activities involving particular titles. ISBN registration agencies may reserve a common block of registrant elements for the purpose of assigning individual ISBN to single title publishers.

The registrant element varies in length according to the projected title output of each publisher. The length of this element shall be determined by the ISBN registration agency in accordance with the agreed specifications of the ISBN system for assigning ranges of the ISBN (see Annex D). Technical information that specifies validation rules for registrant length within a particular registrant group shall be available from the International ISBN Agency (see Annex D).

4.5   Publication element

The fourth element of a 13 digit ISBN shall be the publication element. The publication element shall be allocated in accordance with the specifications of Annex A. It is usually allocated by the publisher of the monographic publication although in some cases ISBN registration agencies may choose to assign an individual ISBN to single title publishers by allocating single publication elements from within a common registrant element block reserved for that purpose.

The length of the publication element is determined by the length of the registration group and registrant elements that precede it.

4.6   Check digit

The fifth and final element of a 13 digit ISBN is the check digit. The check digit for a 13 digit ISBN is calculated using a modulus 10 algorithm. Further details on this method are provided in Annex C.

5   Assignment of an ISBN

5.1   A registrant element shall be allocated to a publisher, upon application, by an appointed ISBN registration agency from the range of ISBNs allocated to that agency by the International ISBN Agency. ISBN registration agencies may assign an individual ISBN to single title publishers from a common registrant element block reserved for that purpose.

5.2   Each time an ISBN is assigned, the registrant should supply the relevant ISBN registration agency or its designated bibliographic agency with metadata specific to the publication to which the ISBN has been assigned (see Annex E).

5.3   Once an ISBN is assigned to a publication, that ISBN shall not be altered, replaced or re-used.

5.4   A separate ISBN shall be assigned to each separate monographic publication, or separate edition of a monographic publication issued by a publisher. A separate ISBN shall be assigned to each different language edition of a monographic publication.

5.5   Different product forms (e.g. hardcover, paperback, Braille, audio-book, video, online electronic publication) shall be assigned separate ISBNs. Each different format of an electronic publication (e.g. ".lit", ".pdf", ".html", ".pdb") that is published and made separately available shall be given a separate ISBN.

5.6   A separate ISBN shall be assigned if there have been significant changes to any part or parts of a publication. A separate ISBN shall be assigned if there has been a change to the title of a publication. A separate ISBN shall not be assigned to a publication unchanged in edition or product form or publisher. A separate ISBN shall not be assigned for changes in the price of a publication or for small changes such as corrections of misprints.

6   Location and display of the ISBN on publications

6.1   General

The ISBN shall always appear on the item itself.

6.2   Printed publications

6.2.1   The ISBN shall be printed on the verso of the title page of the publication or, if this is not possible, at the foot of the title page itself or in conjunction with the copyright notice.

6.2.2   The ISBN shall also be printed at the foot of the outside back cover, if practicable, and/or at the foot of the back of the jacket. If neither of these positions is possible, then the ISBN shall be printed in some other prominent position on the outside of the publication.

6.2.3   The ISBN shall be represented in machine-readable form as a bar code on the publication. When an ISBN is represented as a bar code it shall use the EAN bar code symbology in accordance with ISO/IEC 15420. In a bar code the ISBN should be displayed in human readable form immediately above the bar code symbol.

6.3   Electronic publications and other non-print product forms

6.3.1   If the publication involves visual display of content stored in electronic form (e.g. an online publication), the ISBN shall appear on the page or screen that displays the title or its equivalent (e.g. the initial screen displayed when the content is first accessed and/or on the screen that carries the copyright notice).

6.3.2   If the publication is issued as a physical object (e.g. a compact disc, cassette or diskette), the ISBN shall be displayed on any labels permanently affixed to that object.

If it is not possible to display the ISBN on the object or its label, then the ISBN shall be displayed at the bottom of the back of any permanent packaging for that object (e.g. the box, sleeve or frame).

6.3.3   The ISBN should be included in any metadata embedded in the publication as well as being visibly placed in the text.

6.4   Display of multiple ISBNs

In cases where ISBNs for different product forms of a publication appear together on a publication, the individual ISBNs should be listed one above the other. Each ISBN in a list of multiple ISBNs shall be qualified by information on the specific product form to which it refers.

7   Fees

Fees may be charged for the assignment of ISBNs by appointed ISBN registration agencies. Any such fees shall be reasonable.