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**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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received. [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Securities and related financial instruments*.

This seventh edition cancels and replaces the sixth edition (ISO 6166:2001), which has been extended to cover necessary technical changes, the Registration Authority function as well as the usage of the ISIN record.

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## Introduction

With the rapid expansion of the 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 a developed securities business identified issues of securities by means of code numbers, which are without any significance outside the country concerned. Securities of the same issue are identified by means of different numbers in the country where they are physically held and/or booked. As a result, the national numbers may not be applicable 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. Since the publication of the first edition of this International Standard, the Registration Authority (RA) relies on the work of national numbering agencies (NNAs) which play an integral role in this rationalization effort and in the implementation of 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 worldwide 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 the identification of fungible and non-fungible securities and financial instruments (see [Annex A](#)) using a unique identification number and associated minimum descriptive data (see [Annex B](#)).

## 2 Normative references

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

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*

ISO 10962, *Securities and related financial instruments — Classification of financial instruments (CFI code)*

## 3 Terms and definitions (standards.iteh.ai)

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

### 3.1

#### **fungible**

equivalent, substitutable, interchangeable, and not individualized

Note 1 to entry: A fungible financial instrument ranks *pari passu* in all respects with a different version of the same financial instrument and can be exchanged into the other version and *vice versa* at any time.

### 3.2

#### **ISIN**

#### **international securities identification number**

alphanumeric code which uniquely identifies a specific security or other financial instrument

### 3.3

#### **ISIN record**

record which uniquely identifies a specific security or other financial instrument and consists of the ISIN and the minimum descriptive data elements

Note 1 to entry: For the minimum descriptive data elements, see [Annex B](#).

### 3.4

#### **ISIN guidelines**

internal document developed and maintained by the Registration Authority to promote a uniform process for allocation, registration, and dissemination of the ISIN to the financial markets

### 3.5

#### **negotiable**

(legal ownership of financial instrument) readily transferable from one counterparty to another by delivery or endorsement

## 4 Principles

### 4.1 Constituents

The ISIN shall consist of the following:

- a) a prefix using the alpha-2 country code specified in ISO 3166, a prefix “XS” as specified in [Annex A](#), or other prefixes (refer to the Registration Authority website for a complete list of ISIN prefixes);
- b) the basic number, which is nine characters (alphanumeric) in length. Where the existing national number consists of nine characters, this number may be used; where the existing national number consists of fewer than nine characters, this also may 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 specified in [Annex C](#).

### 4.2 Financial instruments for which the ISIN is allocated

At a minimum, the ISIN is allocated to financial instruments (see [Annex A](#)) identified in ISO 10962 with the following principles.

- a) Equities, debt instruments, entitlements, and structured products

The ISIN is allocated when the financial instrument is negotiable.

- b) Derivatives

The ISIN is allocated to those instruments that are traded in their own right, regardless of whether or not the underlying instrument may have been assigned an ISIN.

- c) Referential instruments

The ISIN is allocated to these entities, which are not financial instruments, when they are underlying or reference assets to financial instruments.

- d) Others (combined instruments, other assets)

For the group “combined instruments”, the ISIN is allocated when they are traded. The group “other assets (insurance policies, real estate deeds, etc.)” may be identified by an ISIN.

## 5 Registration Authority (RA)

### 5.1 Name and contact details of the RA

The name and contact details of the organization acting as RA for this International Standard can be found at [http://www.iso.org/iso/maintenance\\_agencies.htm#6166](http://www.iso.org/iso/maintenance_agencies.htm#6166).

Requests for information and enquiries about this International Standard and its implementation may be directed to the RA.

### 5.2 Service provision

The RA is responsible for the provision of the following services:

- a) to promote and make all efforts to ensure the proper use of this International Standard and uniqueness of ISINs allocated;
- b) to support the exchange of ISINs and the provision of the ISIN record (see [Annex B](#)) to users;



- c) to continuously adapt the ISIN guidelines for allocation and registration of ISINs to meet the needs of the market;
- d) to respond to enquiries and information requests related to this International Standard in a timely manner.

## 6 ISIN allocation

### 6.1 General

The RA shall ensure that ISINs are allocated following the principles of [Clause 4](#) of this International Standard and in accordance with the details described in [Annex A](#).

ISINs shall be assigned in a timely manner in order to meet the market needs (see [Annex D](#)).

### 6.2 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.

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