
**Sistem sledenja kakovosti za ravne jeklene izdelke z uporabo črtne kode -
Tiskanje, branje in obdelava podatkov**

Quality tracking system for flat steel products using barcode - Printing, reading and information processing

Qualitätsverfolgungssystem für Flachstahlprodukte mittels Barcode - Druck, Erfassung und Informationsverarbeitung

Système de suivi de la qualité des produits plats en acier utilisant des codes barres - Marquage, lecture et traitement de l'information

Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: prEN 10372

ICS:

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| 03.120.99 | Drugi standardi v zvezi s kakovostjo | Other standards related to quality |
| 35.040.50 | Tehnike za samodejno razpoznavanje in zajem podatkov | Automatic identification and data capture techniques |
| 77.140.50 | Ploščati jekleni izdelki in polizdelki | Flat steel products and semi-products |

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Quality tracking system for flat steel products using barcode - Printing, reading and information processing

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Informationsverarbeitung

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
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European foreword

This document (prEN 10372:2019) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 459 "ECISS - European Committee for Iron and Steel Standardization¹", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This document is currently submitted to the CEN Enquiry.

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SIST EN 10372:2020

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¹ Through its subcommittee SC 9 "Coated and uncoated flat products to be used for cold forming" (secretariat: AFNOR)

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1 Scope

This document specifies a method using a barcoding system for tracing potential isolated defects that can be present in the following kinds of coated or uncoated steel flat products, for example:

- electro-galvanised surface
- galvanised surface
- galvannealed surface
- cold rolled surface

This method, named “quality tracking”, aims at transferring additional material information to the steel users, especially the location of some isolated defects, in a reliable way. This method enables the manufacturer or purchaser to eliminate blanks or coils containing defects.

The method uses a 1D barcode to identify each section of steel strip.

NOTE 1 The stakeholders most involved in this technique are suppliers of steel flat products, car makers, appliance makers, part manufacturers, blanking line builders, steel processors, service centres, etc. All stakeholders can benefit from this project since defects can be traced, and, therefore, the steel containing defects can be eliminated or set apart of the production line.

NOTE 2 In the first stages of development, this method was called “defect tracking” (see [1]) and has been changed into “quality tracking” at the beginning of the standardization process.

NOTE 3 Quality tracking can be applied to other types of coated or uncoated steel flat products such as pickled and oiled, organic coated, and steels for packaging. Quality tracking can be applied for coiled materials for which the technology of quality tracking is applicable.

NOTE 4 If quality tracking data are used outside of the purpose of quality tracking, it is under the responsibility of the user.

NOTE 5 Quality tracking can be applied to other materials than steel.

NOTE 6 The way to collect the information to be transferred to the user is out of the scope of this document.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

EN 1556, *Bar coding - Terminology*

EN 10020:2000, *Definition and classification of grades of steel*

EN 10021:2006, *General technical delivery conditions for steel products*

EN 10079, *Definition of steel products*

EN 10204, *Metallic products - Types of inspection documents*

EN ISO/IEC 15416, *Information technology - Automatic identification and data capture techniques - Bar code print quality test specification - Linear symbols (ISO/IEC 15416)*

ISO /IEC 15417, *Information technology - Automatic identification and data capture techniques - code 128 barcode symbolisation specification*

ISO/IEC 16022, *Information technology - Automatic identification and data capture techniques – Data Matrix barcode symbolisation specification*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document the terms and definitions given in EN 10020:2000, EN 10021:2006, EN 10079, EN 10204, EN 1556, EN ISO/IEC 15416, ISO IEC 15417, ISO IEC 16022 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

quality tracking

action of finding previously detected isolated defects in a steel strip at the blanking line of the steel user by printing a barcode on the strip at regular intervals aiming at sorting out of the supply chain the parts containing defects

3.2

barcode

array of parallel rectangular bars and spaces arranged according to the encoding rules of a particular symbol specification in order to represent data in machine readable form

Note 1 to entry: See EN 1556.

3.3

code 128C

specific barcode that is used to mark positions on steel strips according to this document

Note 1 to entry: See ISO/IEC 15417.

3.4

barcode reading unit (BRU)

device used to capture the data encoded in a barcode symbol consisting of two parts

- a) the scanner, an input device sending signals proportional to the reflectivity of each successive element of the symbol to the decoder, and
- b) the decoder, examining the signals from the scanner to translate them into recognizable or computer-compatible data

Note 1 to entry: See EN 1556.

Note 2 to entry: The decoder itself is sometimes erroneously called a reader.

prEN 10372:2019 (E)**3.5****compact data carrier (CDC)**

information carrier generated by the information system of the steelmaker containing the complementary information on the shape of a character string to be passed on by the steelmaker to the steel user

Note 1 to entry: The compact data carrier is dedicated to complementary information. It does not aim to address all 1D barcodes, but only to provide selected complementary information.

Note 2 to entry: The compact data carrier is considered as a second information carrier since the first one is the printed barcode to identify each metal unit.

3.6**mother coil**

primary coil with a printed 1D barcode containing its specific coil identification (coil-ID)

Note 1 to entry: 1D barcode printing is performed by the steelmaker at the finishing line of the coil.

3.7**delivered coil**

coil delivered to the steel user by the steelmaker

Note 1 to entry: It can be identical to the mother coil or constituted of several parts of mother coils.

3.8**metal unit**

length of product that is linked to one barcode

3.9**barcode period**

distance between the starting points of two consecutive barcodes on the mother coil.

4 Abbreviations

| | |
|-----|--|
| BC | 1D Barcode printed on the strip |
| BRU | Barcode Reading Unit reading the 1D barcode on the strip |
| CDC | Compact Data Carrier containing the complementary information on the shape of a character string to be passed on by steelmaker to the user |
| CPU | Central Processing Unit interpreting the 1D barcode content with the corresponding quality information to provide the right output to the user |
| URS | User Reading Solution combining BRU and CPU to provide the relevant information to the user. |
| EDI | Electronic Data Interchange |
| QT | Quality Tracking |

5 Principle

Isolated defects are unintentionally generated in steel strip at steelmaking and rolling stages.

NOTE 1 Slivers, blisters, local scratches are typical examples of isolated defects that can be present at the surface of coiled strips.

Advanced online automatic surface inspection systems can detect the defects at rolling stage. However, once the strip is coiled for delivery, it is therefore impossible to find out the position of the defects in the strip if no specific tracking system is implemented.

The steelmaker will print 1D barcodes on the strip surface in its finishing lines, such as this 1D barcode will be printed at evenly spaced intervals (typically each meter) all along the coil. Each specific 1D barcode will guarantee the traceability of each metal unit.

Quality Tracking involves the use of the CDC to pass on the complementary information to the user. This solution is the easiest way to start up Quality Tracking for both parties (steelmaker and user).

The steelmaker shall print the 1D barcodes on the strip surface at finishing line stage.

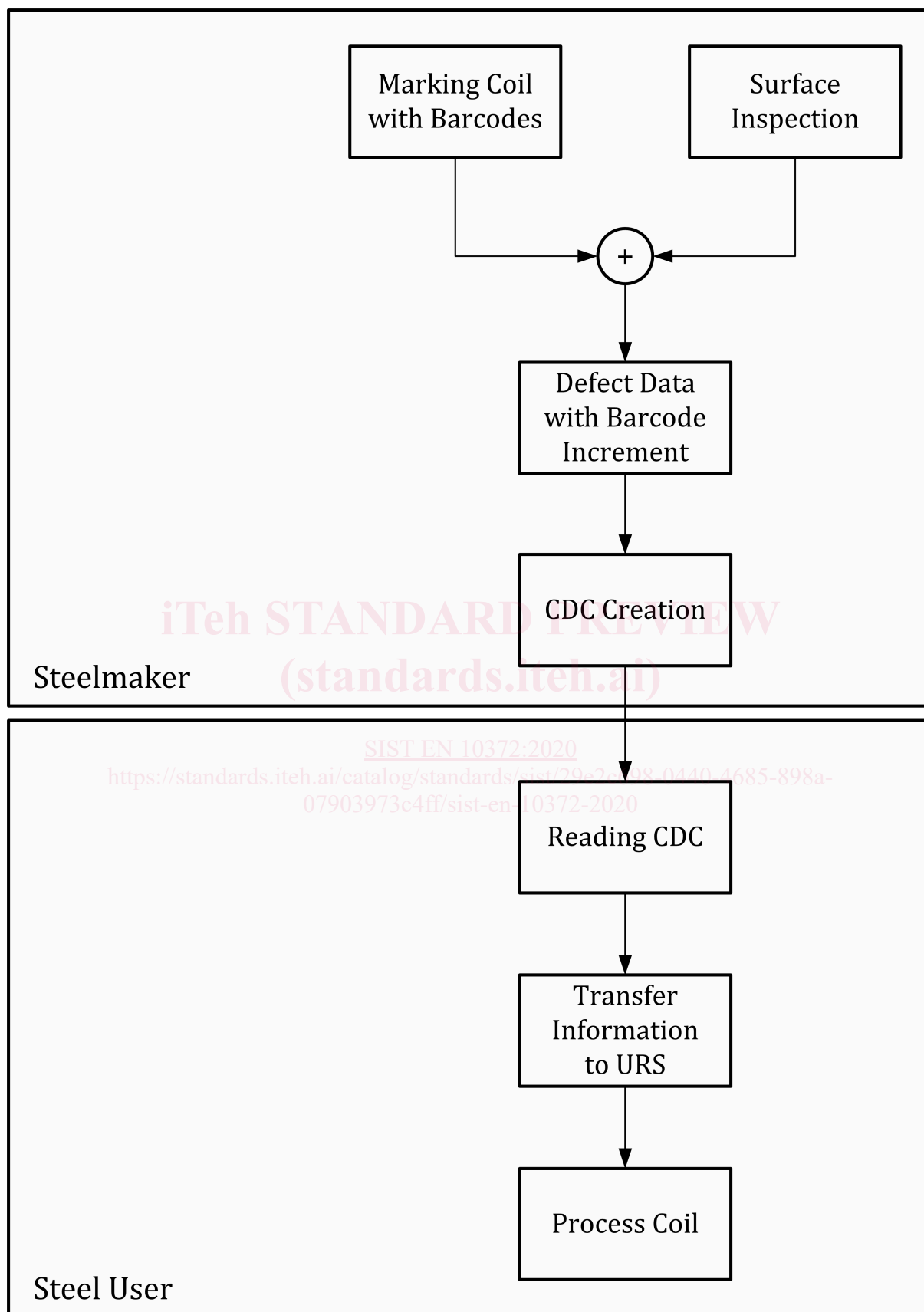
NOTE 2 Hot dip galvanising or electro-galvanising lines are typical examples of finishing lines.

Then, the steelmaker shall identify the quality related data (for example isolated defects) by means of an Inspection System (e.g. automatic surface inspection system) and transfer the relevant information to the user in a suitable format with the content of the CDC (the complementary information).

The steel user shall read the relevant information provided by the steelmaker in the CDC for a coil before using the coil.

The BRU of the steel user reads the 1D barcodes on the strip with their position information and combines this information with the data of the CDC and provides signals for processing actions. The processing actions should be agreed between supplier and user.

NOTE 3 There are several ways of transferring the CDC from the steel manufacturer to the steel user.

**Figure 1 — Principle of the quality tracking system**

6 Requirements

6.1 Definition of the 1D barcode

For Quality Tracking purposes, the steelmaker shall print 1D barcode on the strip surface (Figure 2). The 1D barcode symbolisation selected for the application (n-digit number) is the symbolisation code 128 - Table C according to ISO/IEC 15417. This symbolisation offers a high capacity of useful storage: one hundred values per number from 00 to 99.

The structure of the 1D barcode in symbolisation code 128 (Figure 2) consists of a start number, then a series of numbers for the message, a check number which allows for the verification of the barcode content and the correction of small reading errors and an end number (of which its total width is equal to 13 elementary widths with 7 bars). The start number, the check number and the end number are automatically derived from the selected symbolisation. For Quality Tracking application, the useful message consists of 9 or 12 numbers. Then, the length of the printed 1D barcode consists of 12 or 15 numbers respectively, either 134 or 167 elementary widths.

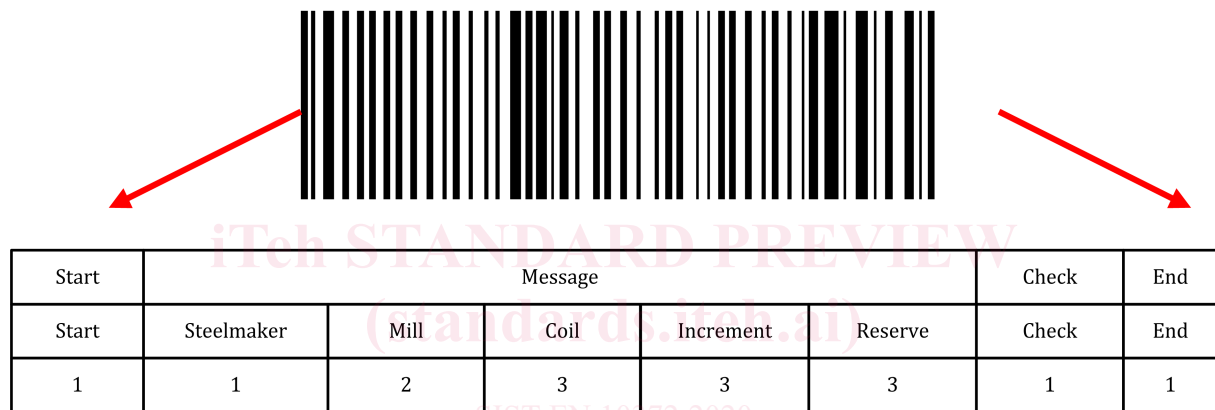


Figure 2 — Description of the 1D barcode structure used for the Quality Tracking application indicating the symbolisation of numbers per segment of the message

The 12-digit number of the message used to pass on the information are divided in five segments as described in Figure 2:

- The segment 1 (**steelmaker**) is dedicated to the steelmaker with a 1-digit number (100 possibilities).
- The segment 2 (**production line**) is the identification of different production lines of the steelmaker, with a 2-digit number (10 000 possibilities).

The range of 1D barcode for segments 1 and 2 is allocated by EUROFER. . For segments 1 and 2, the steel supplier shall contact EUROFER to get a range allocation. (See Annex A).

- The segment 3 (**coil**) is the Quality Tracking identification of different coils manufactured on the finishing lines of the steelmaker, with a 3-digit number, there is a million of possibilities.
- The segment 4 (**increment**) corresponds to the incrementing of 1D barcodes printed on the current coil, with a 3-digit number there is a million of possibilities from 000000 to 999999 for each coil. At the beginning of each coil, the increment is reinitialised. We notice that, this increment does not stand for a measured length of the coil.
- The segment 5 (**reserve**) is dedicated to the transmission of additional material information, with a 3-digit number there are a million of possibilities. This element is optional for the 1D barcode printing on the strip.