
Data quality —

Part 116:

**Master data: Exchange of quality
identifiers: Application of ISO 8000-
115 to authoritative legal entity
identifiers**

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Qualité des données —

*Partie 116: Données permanentes: Échange des identificateurs
qualité; Application de l'ISO 8000-115 à la mise en forme des
identificateurs officiels d'entités juridiques*

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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 (see 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 (see 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.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 184, *Automation systems and integration*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Industrial data*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 8000 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The ability to create, collect, store, maintain, transfer, process and present information and to support business processes in a timely and cost-effective manner requires both an understanding of the characteristics of the information and data that determine its quality, and an ability to measure, manage and report on information and data quality.

ISO 8000 defines characteristics of information and data that determine its quality, and provides methods to manage, measure and improve the quality of information and data.

It is useful to perform the assessment in accordance with documented methods. It is also important to document the tailoring of standardized methods with respect to the expectation and requirements pertinent to the business.

ISO 8000 includes parts applicable to all types of data, and parts applicable to specific types of data.

ISO 8000 can be used independently or in conjunction with quality management systems.

Most commonly, an identifier is a reference to a data set managed by the owner of the identifier and as such it is an alias for a master data record. Identifiers are widely exchanged by governments and commercial companies to refer to data used to describe individuals, organizations, locations, goods, services, assets, processes, procedures, laws, rules and regulations.

Examples of identifiers include: vehicle registration number (license plate), vehicle identification number (VIN), driver's permit number, social security number, national identity card number, student number, employee number, passport number, tax identification number, IP address, telephone number, email address, domain name, part number, batch number, serial number, customer number, supplier number, concept identifiers.

Commonly used identifiers for individuals and organizations are proxy identifiers issued by an organization that is not the administrative agency of the government that granted the legal status to a physical or juridical person. Providing a standard for the formulation of the prefixes used to create ISO 8000-115 compliant identifiers for legal entities allows the open, globally unambiguous representation of authoritative legal entity identifiers (ALEI).

The representation specified by this document makes it easier for the supply chain to obtain reliably the legal name, date of formation and status of trading partners. This reliability arises from having explicit traceability to the administrative agency that granted each organization legal status under the authority of a government.

[Annex A](#) contains an identifier that unambiguously identifies this document in an open information system.

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Data quality —

Part 116:

Master data: Exchange of quality identifiers: Application of ISO 8000-115 to authoritative legal entity identifiers

1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements for representing authoritative legal entity identifiers (ALEI). These requirements supplement those of ISO 8000-115.

The following are within the scope of this document:

- the requirements for the prefix element, a single sub-domain element and the identifier element to represent authoritative legal entity identifiers.

NOTE ALEIs are applicable to all types of legal entity, whether individuals or organizations.

The following are outside the scope of this document:

- the methods used to create a legal entity identifier;
- the syntax of the query and of the response used in the resolution of the representation of an authoritative legal entity identifier;
- the methods used for the resolution of the representation of an authoritative legal entity identifier.

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.

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

ISO 3166-2, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 2: Country subdivision code*

ISO 8000-2, *Data quality — Part 2: Vocabulary*

ISO 8000-115, *Data quality — Part 115: Master data: Exchange of quality identifiers: Syntactic, semantic and resolution requirements*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 8000-2 apply.

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

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

4 Requirements for representing authoritative legal entity identifiers

- a) The representation of an authoritative legal entity identifier shall conform to ISO 8000-115.

NOTE ISO 8000-115 specifies the requirements for the representation of an identifier to consist of a prefix element, zero or more sub-domain elements and an identifier element.

- b) The identifier element of the representation shall:

- identify a legal entity;
- be issued by an administrative agency that has been given the authority to grant legal status by the governing body of a nation, state, or community.

- c) If the identifier of the legal entity is issued by an administrative agency with authority for the entirety of a country then the prefix element of the authoritative legal entity identifier shall be the alpha-2 code element specified by ISO 3166-1 to identify that country.

EXAMPLE 1 ISO 3166-1 specifies “GB” as the alpha-2 code element for the United Kingdom.

- d) If the identifier of the legal entity is issued by an administrative agency with authority for a subdivision of a country then the prefix element of the authoritative legal entity identifier shall be the code element specified by ISO 3166-2 to identify that subdivision.

EXAMPLE 2 ISO 3166-2 specifies “GB-STS” as the code element for the county of Staffordshire in the United Kingdom.

- e) A representation of an authoritative legal entity identifier shall include one sub-domain element.

- f) The sub-domain element shall represent the register maintained by the administrative agency that has issued the identifier element.

NOTE In order for two or more parties to implement the unambiguous exchange of authoritative legal entity identifiers, those parties will need to agree how to identify each register applicable to the exchanged identifiers.

EXAMPLE 3 ECCMA is a registered corporation in the State of Delaware for which the relevant ISO 3166-2 code element is “US-DE” to represent the country and subdivision. Within the State of Delaware, the Division of Corporations is the administrative agency that issues identifiers for juridical persons represented on documents of formation. In the US, the common name for the register is the “Business Entity Register”. The applicable prefix element is “US-DE” and the sub-domain element is “.BER”. ECCMA’s registration number is “3031657”. The representation of the ALEI for ECCMA is “US-DE.BER:3031657”.

EXAMPLE 4 A physical person is born in the State of California for which the ISO 3166-2 code element is “US-CA”. In the State of California, the California Department of Public Health is the administrative agency for vital records (VR) and issues identifiers for physical persons represented on birth certificates. The applicable prefix element is “US-CA” and the sub-domain element is “.VR”.

5 Conformance

A representation of an authoritative legal entity identifier conforms to this document when either:

- a) 4 a), 4 b), 4 c), 4 e) and 4 f) are met; or
- b) 4 a), 4 b), 4 d), 4 e) and 4 f) are met.

Annex A **(informative)**

Document identification

To provide for unambiguous identification of an information object in an open system, the object identifier

{ iso standard 8000 part(116) version(1) }

is assigned to this document. The meaning of this value is defined in ISO/IEC 8824-1 and is described in ISO 10303-1.

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