
**Information and documentation —
International Standard Audiovisual
Number (ISAN) —**

**Part 1:
Audiovisual work identifier**

*Information et documentation — Numéro international normalisé
d'oeuvre audiovisuelle (ISAN) —
Partie 1: Identifiant d'oeuvre audiovisuelle*

[ISO 15706-1:2023](https://standards.iso.org/standards/catalog/standards/sist/2830dc80-23dc-491a-9b6a-f6ba4fe50f34/iso-15706-1-2023)

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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 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15706-1:2002), of which it constitutes a minor revision. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 15706-1:2002/Amd 1:2008.

The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the normative references have been updated to include revised/newer editions;
- references to “ISAN International Agency” have been replaced with a more generic “Registration Authority (RA)” and a link to the RA listing in the ISO website has been added;
- the reference in [3.2](#) has been replaced with ISO/IEC 7064:2003;
- references to ISO 15706-2, IETF RFC 4246 XML, and Schema Part 1 and Part 2 have been added;
- normative references to the normative annexes have been added.

A list of all parts in the ISO 15706 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 ISAN project was administered by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) in association with the Association of International Collective Management of Audiovisual Works (AGICOA), and the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC).

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Information and documentation — International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) —

Part 1: Audiovisual work identifier

1 Scope

This document establishes and defines a voluntary standard numbering system for the unique and international identification of audiovisual works (as defined in [3.1](#)).

An International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) identifies an audiovisual work throughout its life and is intended for use wherever precise and unique identification of an audiovisual work would be desirable. As an identifier, it can be used for various purposes, such as to assist allocation of royalties among right holders, to track the use of audiovisual works, for information retrieval and for anti-piracy purposes, such as verifying title registrations. The ISAN can also provide a basis for supplementary identification systems when version or product information is required (e.g. for applications such as broadcast automation and automated storage and retrieval systems).

An ISAN is applied to the audiovisual work itself. It is not related to the physical medium of such an audiovisual work, or the identification of that medium. [Annex A](#) specifies examples of audiovisual works for which an ISAN can be issued and examples of works for which ISAN are not issued.

The issuance of an ISAN is in no way related to any process of copyright registration, nor does the issuance of an ISAN provide evidence of the ownership of rights in an audiovisual work.

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2 Normative reference

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/IEC 7064, *Information technology — Security techniques — Check character systems*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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 <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

audiovisual work

work consisting of a sequence of related images, with or without accompanying sound, which is intended to be made visible as a moving image through the use of devices, regardless of the medium of initial or subsequent fixation

3.2

check character

added character which may be used to verify the accuracy of the string through a mathematical relationship to that string

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 7064:2003]

3.3

composite audiovisual work

audiovisual work (3.1) which contains one or more other audiovisual works or parts of audiovisual works, each of which is insubstantial in relation to the entire composite audiovisual work

EXAMPLE A feature film which contains parts of animated cartoons or other film clips; a television program that contains footage from previously produced feature films, from episodes of television series, or from other audiovisual works.

3.4

registrant

producer of an audiovisual work, authorized proxy of such a producer, or other such entity or individual, registered within the ISAN system for the purposes of obtaining an ISAN for audiovisual works

Note 1 to entry: The term registrant as used in this part of ISO 15706 denotes an ISAN registrant for audiovisual works only. ISO 15706-2 deals with registrants for versions of audiovisual works.

3.5

serial audiovisual work

audiovisual work (3.1) produced in individual episodes or parts which bear a relationship to each other and, usually, a common title for the whole series

4 Construction of the ISAN

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4.1 An ISAN for an audiovisual work shall consist of a 64-bit number which when presented 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) shall be represented as 16 hexadecimal digits using Arabic numerals 0 to 9 and letters A to F of the Latin alphabet. An ISAN for an audiovisual work shall be divided into two segments consisting of a 12-digit root segment followed by a 4-digit segment for the identification of episodes or parts of a serial audiovisual work (see A.11). A check character, in accordance with Annex B, shall be appended whenever an ISAN is presented in human-readable form.

EXAMPLE ISAN RRRR-RRRR-RRRR-EEEE-X

Additional encodings of ISAN shall be as specified in Annexes E and F.

4.2 When the work being registered is not an episode or part of a serial audiovisual work, four zeros (0000) shall be used as fill characters in the episode segment of the ISAN.

EXAMPLE ISAN 2B1A-FF17-3E20-0000-S

4.3 To avoid the possibility of duplication, any ISAN assigned to episodes or parts of a serial audiovisual work shall not contain an episode segment consisting of four zeros (0000).

EXAMPLE ISAN 0123-1230-3210-2310-J

4.4 The ISAN shall be a “dumb” number (i.e. it shall not contain any codes or meaningful components apart from the two segments specified in 4.1).

5 Issuance of an ISAN

- 5.1** An ISAN shall be allocated by the Registration Authority from the central register of the ISAN system upon application by a registrant.
- 5.2** Each ISAN shall be issued to only one audiovisual work and each audiovisual work shall be assigned only one ISAN.
- 5.3** An ISAN is permanently issued to an audiovisual work, and shall never be altered, replaced or reused.
- 5.4** Further specifications for the issuance and use of ISAN shall be in accordance with [Annex A](#).

6 Affixing and displaying the ISAN

- 6.1** The ISAN shall be permanently incorporated in, or affixed to, the audiovisual work in all formats (digital or analogue) and in all of the physical media in which the work is made available (e.g. celluloid film or optical disc) to the extent that it is technically feasible to do so.
- 6.2** The ISAN should be included in the documentation, advertising, and packaging for an audiovisual work.
- 6.3** When an ISAN is printed or otherwise displayed in human-readable form (e.g. on labels, physical carriers, technical documentation, etc.), it shall be preceded by the letters ISAN and its correct check character, in accordance with [Annex B](#), shall be added at the end of the ISAN character string.
- 6.4** As an aid to accurate transcription of ISAN in human-readable form, an ISAN should be presented as four groups of four hexadecimal characters each, followed by the check character. Each of these four groups and the check character shall be separated from each other by a hyphen or space. No internal meaning shall be ascribed to any combination of digits within these groups.

EXAMPLES

ISAN 1881 66C7 3420 6541 Y

ISAN 1181-66C7-3420-6541-Y

- 6.5** The characters A to F appearing in an ISAN and A to Z appearing in its check digit should be displayed in upper-case letters when the ISAN is presented in human-readable form. However, the lower-case and upper-case forms of these characters shall be treated as equivalent.
- 6.6** If a product number (e.g. an ISBN, a Universal Product Code, etc.) has been assigned to a particular format in which the audiovisual work is issued, the ISAN for the work should be displayed on the container and/or packaging immediately below and clearly distinguished from any standard number assigned to the physical product.
- 6.7** Further details regarding methods of affixing ISAN to audiovisual works are explained in the users' guide, which is available from the Registration Authority¹⁾.

1) <https://www.iso.org/mara>

7 Administration of the ISAN system

The ISAN system shall be supervised, coordinated and administered by the ISAN Registration Authority. The name and contact information of the Registration Authority for this document can be found at <https://www.iso.org/mara>.

The principal tasks of the Registration Authority shall be as specified in [Annex C](#).

8 Fees

Reasonable fees can be charged for services which the Registration Authority may provide, subject to review and approval.

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Annex A (normative)

General principles for the issuance and use of ISAN

A.1 An ISAN shall only be issued to applicants that are recognized as registrants by the Registration Authority²⁾. The requirements and procedures for registration of registrants are explained in the users' guide available from the Registration Authority.

A.2 A unique ISAN shall be issued to an audiovisual work from a central register of available ISAN, upon application to and acceptance by the Registration Authority.

A.3 Once an ISAN is issued to an audiovisual work, it shall not be issued to any other audiovisual work.

A.4 Registrants shall supply descriptive information about the audiovisual work being registered for an ISAN (see [Annex D](#)).

A.5 Subject to provision of the required descriptive information (see [Annex D](#)), a registrant may apply for the issuance of an ISAN at any time during or after the production of the audiovisual work. ISAN may also be issued retroactively to works produced prior to the implementation of this document.

A.6 The issuance of an ISAN does not provide evidence of ownership of an audiovisual work. The ISAN shall remain the same, irrespective of changes in ownership.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/2830dc80-23dc-491a-9b6a-f6ba4fe50f34/iso->

A.7 Some examples of audiovisual works to which an ISAN may be issued are

- motion pictures (e.g. a feature film),
- short films,
- trailers (i.e. previews),
- productions for television or other means of delivery, including individual episodes of serial audiovisual works such as television series,
- industrial, educational and training films,
- commercials,
- broadcasts and recordings of live events such as sports events and newscasts, and
- composite and multimedia works if they contain a significant audiovisual component, including non-linear (e.g. interactive) audiovisual components.

A.8 Some examples of works to which an ISAN shall not be issued are

- any non-audiovisual element of an audiovisual work (e.g. the soundtrack, the screenplay, or a single image from an audiovisual work),
- sound recordings,

2) Registration Authority details can be found at <https://www.iso.org/mara>.