
**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.

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).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of ISO 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 2108:2005), which has been technically revised. It specifies the responsibilities of registrants who apply for and assign ISBN to qualifying publications. Since January 2007, ISBN is only valid in the supply chain in its 13-digit form so the specifications relating to the 10-digit ISBN and its respective calculation method have been removed. A new informative annex describes how an ISBN can be resolved on digital networks such as by being registered as an ISBN-A to become "actionable" or by incorporation into URN:ISBN. Additional specifications on associated metadata and the assignment of ISBN, particularly with respect to digital publications, are also included.

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 its supply chains. An ISBN enables separate identification of similar publications, such as the same publication made available separately in different product forms, or with different product form features. The ISBN accompanies a monographic publication from its initial acquisition or commission by the publisher and onwards throughout the supply and distribution chain.

As an identifier for publications, ISBN fulfils a critical role in supporting the needs of the book supply 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 all editions of monographic publications for directories and databases used throughout the book supply chain. A publication identified by ISBN can be made available more widely and through more outlets, maximizing its sales potential. The use of ISBN also facilitates rights management and the monitoring of sales data for the publishing industry.

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