
**Information technology — Digitally
recorded media for information
interchange and storage — Data
migration method for optical disks for
long-term data storage**

*Technologies de l'information — Supports enregistrés
numériquement pour échange et stockage d'information — Méthode
de migration de données pour disques optiques pour le stockage à
long terme*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

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 document 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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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 23, *Digitally Recorded Media for Information Interchange and Storage*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO/IEC 29121:2018), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- ISO/IEC 16963 has been identified as the referee test method for the lifetime estimation;
- the ambient conditions for the measurement of maximum data error have been added;
- the requirements for test drives have been changed considering the use condition of users;
- the requirements for the estimated lifetime have been defined more clearly;
- the requirements for the periodic performance test have been defined more clearly.

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

Many organizations now use optical disks for long-term storage of information. It is assumed that a disk selected for recording has already been qualified for that purpose. It is therefore important to be able to verify that data have been recorded correctly and remains readable for the required amount of time. Previous International Standards clearly defined requirements for interchange, but they did not contain requirements for longevity.

Longevity is limited both by disk deterioration and by technology obsolescence. Interchange is regularly verified to assure that information on existing recorded disks will continue to be recoverable. Users can have a maintenance policy that protects disks against unanticipated failure or use, such as by making one copy, another to function as a backup or master and another for routine access. Hardware support life cycles typically vary between 5 and 10 years, and technology life cycles usually end after 20 years. Consequently, recordings that require a longer life cycle can have to be transferred to upgraded platforms every 10 to 30 years.

Optical disks for long-term storage should be evaluated. Significant longevity differences can exist for disks from different manufacturers and even between disks from the same manufacturer. It is preferable that disks selected for long-term preservation have a long-estimated lifetime, which can be estimated according to ISO/IEC 16963.

Disks with initially poor quality do not offer sufficient headroom and can reach the unrecoverable error threshold before the next scheduled inspection, which is to be avoided for long-term data storage. This means that a disk of high initial recorded quality that maintains this condition for life is expected to have superior longevity.

Because read data are corrected by an error correction decoder, it is impossible to detect deterioration without detecting the raw error rate or raw error number. The error rate measured before error correction is applied, which represents the raw error rate, can be detected with a standard test drive. The quality of the disk can be specified as the number of erroneous inner parity detections with DVD-R, DVD-RW, +R and +RW disks. The quality of a DVD-RAM disk is defined instead by its byte error rate. Deterioration can be monitored by checking the error rate and continues to be monitored. Methods described in this document define a quality-control policy that can non-destructively identify deterioration, and thereby support timely and effective corrective action.

DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD-RAM, +R and +RW disks are based on the technology now widely known as DVD in the market. This entails the use of red laser diodes, two 0,6 mm thick substrates bonded together by an adhesive layer to protect the recording layer from dust, write-once (DVD-R, +R) or phase change recording layers (DVD-RW, DVD-RAM, +RW) and a 0,60 or 0,65 NA objective lens to ensure good spatial margins required for a professional data preservation. Disks having dual recording layers with a spacer between them are used in addition to those with a conventional single recording layer.

After the issuance of the previous edition of this document, ISO/IEC standards for the physical format of BD recordable and rewritable disks were published in 2013. ISO/IEC 16963 was also updated to include testing of BD recordable and rewritable disks in 2015. Accordingly, work started to include BD recordable and rewritable disks in this document. The BD data migration part of this work was standardized separately as ECMA-413. CD-R and CD-RW disks included in ISO/IEC 16963 are also incorporated. The error rate measured before error-correction is applied is also defined in each International Standard of CD-R, CD-RW, BD recordable and BD rewritable disk.