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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 2108 was prepared by Technical Committee 46 ISO TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee 9, *Presentation, identification and description of documents*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 2108:1992). It changes the construction of the ISBN to increase the numbering capacity of the ISBN system and accommodate the assignment of ISBN to electronic books and monographic publications issued as digital files. Further specifications regarding administration of the ISBN system, issuance of ISBN and associated metadata and fees have also been added.

Annexes A to D of this International Standard are normative. Annexes E to G are for information.

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 book trade. An ISBN accompanies a book or other monographic publication from its production and onwards throughout the supply and distribution 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 new and forthcoming titles for directories used throughout the book trade. The use of ISBN also facilitates rights management and the monitoring of sales data for the publishing industry.

Information and documentation — International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

1 Scope

The purpose of this International Standard is to establish the specifications for the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) as a unique international identification system for each title or edition of a book or other monographic publication published or produced by a specific publisher or producer. It specifies the construction of an ISBN, the rules for its assignment and use, and the administration of the ISBN system.

This International Standard is applicable to books and other monographic publications, which may include: printed books and pamphlets (and their various bindings or formats), electronic books and similar monographic publications issued in electronic form, mixed media publications, educational films/videos and transparencies, books on cassettes, microcomputer software, microform publications, braille publications, and maps.

Serial publications, music sound recordings [and printed music ??] are specifically excluded, as they are covered by other identification systems.

Further details on the specific application of ISBN are explained in a user's manual available from the registration authority for this International Standard (see annex B).

2 Normative reference(s)

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

[DRAFTING NOTE: This section references any standards that are required for the application of ISO 2108. List to be developed]

3 Term(s) and definition(s)

3.1

check character

An added character which may be used to verify the accuracy of the string through a mathematical relationship to that string. [ISO 7064:1983]

3.2

ISBN agency

An organization appointed by the Registration Authority for ISO 2108 to assign ISBN within a designated registration group.

3.3 monographic publication

A publication that is complete in one part or intended to be completed, within a finite number of parts.

[DRAFTING NOTE: This is the definition used by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)]

3.4 registrant

A person or organization that has requested and received an ISBN for a monographic publication from a designated agency of the ISBN system.

3.5 registration group

An area of operation defined by the Registration Authority for ISO 2108 within which one or more designated ISBN agencies function.

4 Construction of an International Standard Book Number

DRAFTING NOTE: This section should be discussed in depth with a view to expanding the numbering capacity of the ISBN system while minimizing, as much as possible, the negative impact of any changes on existing ISBN applications and systems widely used throughout the supply chain (e.g. bar code systems).

Points to be considered:

- expanding the ISBN to 13 digits and the issues involved;
- changing to a hexadecimal format for the ISBN and the issues involved;
- turning the ISBN into a "dumb" number (i.e. a character string with no meaningful internal elements) and the issues involved;
- whether to retain the existing internal syntax of the ISBN (i.e. the elements for group, registrant (publisher/producer); and title;
- ability of bar code systems to accommodate changes;
- impact on the method of calculating ranges of ISBN;
- impact on the method of check digit calculation.

Clause 4 as drafted below assumes the expansion of the ISBN to 13 digits.

4.1 General structure of an ISBN

An ISBN consists of thirteen digits¹ made up of the following elements.

- product prefix;
- registration group element;
- registrant element;
- title element;
- check digit.

¹ These digits are the Arabic numerals 0 to 9; in the case of the check digit only, an X can sometimes occur.

When an ISBN is displayed in written or printed form it shall be preceded by the letters ISBN² and each of the elements of the ISBN shall be separated from the others by a space or hyphen as in the following examples.

EXAMPLES

DRAFTING NOTE: Check digits in all examples to be corrected in later drafts.

ISBN 978 0 571 08989 5

ISBN 978-90-70002-34-5

4.2 Product prefix

The first element of an ISBN shall be the product prefix. The product prefix shall consist of a 3 digit number specified by the International ISBN Agency in cooperation with organizations responsible for internationally standardized bar coding systems.

The product prefix is used to distinguish the item identified by an ISBN as a book or similar monographic publication when such publications are distributed among other products in retail systems.

4.3 Registration group element

The second element of an ISBN shall indicate the registration group. It identifies the national, geographic, language or other such grouping within which one or more ISBN agencies operate.

The registration group element is allocated by the International ISBN Agency.

The registration group element varies in length according to the publishing output within the group concerned. The length of this element for any registration group is determined by the International ISBN Agency.

4.4 Registrant element

The third element of an ISBN shall indicate the registrant for that ISBN. This element identifies the publisher or producer to an ISBN agency has allocated that ISBN, either as a single number or within a defined range of ISBN.

The registrant element is allocated by the ISBN agency designated for this purpose within each registration group.

The registrant element varies in length according to the projected title output of each publisher or producer. The length of this element is determined by the ISBN agency in consultation with the publisher or producer concerned and in accordance with the agreed specifications of the ISBN system for assigning ranges of ISBN (see Annex E).

4.5 Title element

The fourth element of an ISBN shall be the title element. The title element is allocated by the publisher or producer of the book or other monographic publication to which the ISBN is being assigned, in accordance with the specifications of Annex A.

The length of the title element is determined by the length of the registration group and registrant elements which precede it.

² In countries where the Latin alphabet is not used, the appropriate abbreviation for "International Standard Book Number" in the local script may be given in conjunction with the required letters ISBN in the Latin alphabet.

4.6 Check digit

The fifth and final element of an ISBN is the check digit. The ISBN check digit is calculated on a modulus 11 with weights 10 to 2, using X in lieu of 10 where 10 would occur as a check digit.

DRAFTING NOTE: The role and/or nature of the check digit will have to be either confirmed or rewritten when the syntax of the revised ISBN is decided.

5 Issuance of an ISBN

5.1 An ISBN shall be allocated upon application by a publisher or producer by a designated ISBN agency from the range of ISBN allocated to that agency by the International ISBN Agency.

5.2 An ISBN shall be issued to only one edition of a monographic publication. An ISBN is permanently issued to a single edition of a monographic publication, and shall never be altered, replaced or reused.

5.3 Further specifications for the issuance and use of ISBN are provided in Annex A of this International Standard.

6 Location and display of the ISBN on publications

6.1 Printed publications

6.1.1 The ISBN shall be printed on the verso of the title leaf of the publication or, if this is not possible, at the foot of the title page itself.

6.1.2 The ISBN shall also be printed at the foot of the outside back cover if practicable, and at the foot of the back of the jacket if the publication has one. If neither of these alternatives is possible, then the ISBN shall be printed in some other prominent position on the outside of the publication.

6.1.3 The ISBN shall also appear on any accompanying material issued in conjunction with the publication.

6.2 Electronic publications and other non-print formats

6.2.1 Containers

If the publication is issued in a container that is an integral part of the publication (e.g. a compact disc, cassette or diskette), the ISBN shall be displayed on any labels permanently affixed to that container.

If it is not possible to display the ISBN on the container or its label, then the ISBN shall be displayed at the bottom of the back of any packaging for that container (e.g. the box, sleeve or frame).

The ISBN shall also appear on any accompanying material and on each component of a multimedia publication.

6.2.2 Visual display of content stored in electronic form

If the publication involves visual display of content stored in electronic form (e.g. a CD-ROM or an online publication), the ISBN shall appear on the screen that displays the title or its equivalent (e.g. the initial screen displayed when the content is first accessed and/or on the screen that carries the copyright notice).

7 Fees

Reasonable fees on a cost-recovery basis may be charged for the assignment of ISBN by appointed agencies of the ISBN system.

A percentage (as determined by the governing body of the International ISBN Agency) of any fees charged by an ISBN agency for assigning ISBN should be remitted to the International ISBN Agency to support the international administration and coordination of the ISBN system.

8 Administration of the ISBN system

The ISBN system shall be coordinated by the International ISBN Agency appointed for this purpose and by designated ISBN agencies appointed by the International ISBN Agency.

The principal tasks of the International ISBN Agency and of the ISBN agencies are outlined in Annex B.

Annex A (normative)

Principles for the assignment and use of ISBN

A.1 General

A.1.1 The assignment of an ISBN to a publication shall have no meaning or value as legal evidence regarding the ownership of rights to that publication.

A.1.2 A separate ISBN shall be assigned to each title or edition of a title issued by a publisher or producer.

A.1.3 The same ISBN shall not be assigned to more than one publication. A publication, when unchanged, should not be assigned more than one ISBN.

A.1.4 Once assigned to a publication, an ISBN shall never be re-used for another publication, even if the ISBN is found to have been issued in error. A registrant who determines that an ISBN has been erroneously assigned shall report the erroneous ISBN to their ISBN agency. ISBN agencies shall maintain a list of such erroneous ISBN assignments.

A.1.5 Each revised edition of a publication shall be assigned its own ISBN.

A.1.6 Separate ISBN shall not be assigned to impressions or reprints of a publication that are issued without change and in the same format by the same publisher.

A.1.7 A change in format shall require the assignment of a new ISBN. For example, the paperback, hardcover, braille, microform, and electronic formats of a publication shall each be assigned a separate ISBN.

A.1.8 A new ISBN shall not be assigned if the only change to a publication is its price.

A.1.9 Some examples of types of monographic publications to which an ISBN may be issued are:

- printed books and pamphlets;
- electronic books and other monographic publications issued in electronic form either on physical carriers (e.g. CD-ROM) or on the Internet;
- printed maps;
- educational film or video products, including filmstrips and slide sets;
- books issued on cassette or CD (e.g. "talking books");
- microform publications;
- printed music;

***DRAFTING NOTE:** An issue to be discussed is whether or not the ISMN should continue as a separate numbering system for printed music publications or be absorbed into the revised ISBN system. Some of the issues involved are: the volume of printed music publications vs. the*

capacity of the ISBN system and resources of its agencies; how to deal with the legacy of ISMN already assigned.

— software products for personal computers.

A.1.10 Some examples of the types of material to which an ISBN shall not be issued are:

— periodicals and other serial publications;

— ephemeral printed materials such as diaries and personal calendars, advertising matter and the like;

— art prints and art folders without a title page or text;

— music sound recordings;

— manuscripts;

— electronic mail messages, including messages distributed via Internet news groups and discussion lists.

A.2 Multi-volume publications

An ISBN shall be assigned to the whole set of volumes of a multi-volume work. If individual volumes of the set are sold separately, each volume should be assigned its own ISBN.

A.3 Publications issued as part of a series

A publication that is issued on its own and as part of a series shall be treated as two separate editions, each of which shall be assigned its own ISBN.

A.4 Co-publication

If a publication is issued as a co-edition or joint imprint by two or more publishers, the ISBN shall be assigned by the publisher in charge of distribution. Each of the co-publishers may also assign their own ISBN, if desired.

A.5 Reprints

A.5.1 A separate ISBN shall be assigned when a publication is re-issued under the imprint of a different publisher.

A.5.2 A separate ISBN shall be assigned to a facsimile reprint produced by a different publisher.

A.6 Print on demand publications

DRAFTING NOTE: This section to be developed by the Working Group.

A.7 Online electronic publications

DRAFTING NOTE: This section to be further developed by the Working Group.

A.7.1 Each format of a book or other monographic publication issued as an electronic file shall be treated as a separate edition and shall be assigned its own ISBN. For example, the Microsoft Word and Rich Text Format versions of the same publication shall have separate ISBN.

Annex B (normative)

Administration of the ISBN system

B.1 International ISBN Agency

B.1.1 The Registration Authority for ISO 2108 shall be the International ISBN Agency³⁾.

B.1.2 The International ISBN Agency shall have the authority to appoint ISBN agencies, as appropriate, and to revoke such appointments as necessary.

B.1.3 The International ISBN Agency shall coordinate the allocation of registration group identifiers throughout the ISBN system. It shall maintain a public record of all registration group identifiers allocated within the ISBN system.

B.1.4 The International ISBN Agency shall appoint appropriate ISBN agencies within each registration group. The International ISBN Agency shall maintain a public record of all appointed ISBN agencies.

B.1.5 When a registration group identifier is shared by two or more countries or other group arrangement (e.g. a composite group based on language, such as the Anglo-American group), the International ISBN Agency shall be responsible for endorsing the definition of such registration groups and for registering appropriate ISBN agencies within that group.

B.1.6 The International ISBN Agency shall promote, co-ordinate and supervise the ISBN system in compliance with the specifications of this International Standard.

B.1.7 The International ISBN Agency shall produce and maintain the definitive users' manual for the ISBN system for distribution to agencies of the ISBN system and their users.

B.1.8 The International ISBN Agency shall provide advice on the setting up and functioning of the ISBN agencies within each registration group, drawing upon the experience of existing ISBN agencies. It shall also advise agencies, as required, on the method for calculating ranges of ISBN within each registration group and for assigning such ranges according to the title output of the publishers concerned.

B.1.9 The International ISBN Agency shall coordinate and monitor the policies and procedures governing the ISBN assignment activities of ISBN agencies and shall take appropriate actions, in consultation with its governing body, where such activities are determined to adversely affect the application of the ISBN system.

B.2 ISBN agencies

B.2.1 The International ISBN Agency shall appoint appropriate agencies for the assignment of ISBN within designated territories or other sectoral groupings. Such ISBN agencies shall undertake, preferably through

³⁾ International ISBN Agency
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz
10772 Berlin, Germany
Tel: (+49 30) 266-2496
Fax: (+49 30) 266-2378
E-mail: isbn@sbb.spk-berlin.de
Web site: <<http://isbn.spk-berlin.de>>.

contract with the International ISBN Agency, to perform the functions of assigning ISBN in compliance with the specifications of this International Standard.

B.2.2 An ISBN agency shall process applications for ISBN and provide guidance to ISBN applicants regarding the recommended practices of the ISBN system.

B.2.3 An ISBN agency shall make arrangements for allocating registrant identifiers to publishers within its registration group, as defined by the International ISBN Agency. Since the range of registrant and title identifiers will vary according to registration group and title output, an ISBN agency should confirm its calculation of such ranges with the International ISBN Agency at regular intervals.

B.2.4 An ISBN agency shall adhere to the ISBN procedures and practices established by the International ISBN Agency and its governing body in compliance with the specifications of this International Standard.

B.2.5 An ISBN agency shall promote, educate and train others in the use of the ISBN system in compliance with the specifications of this International Standard.

B.2.6 An ISBN agency shall actively endeavour to ensure that the ISBN system is used correctly within its designated area of responsibility. Widespread deviations or errors in agreed ISBN practice shall be reported to the International ISBN Agency.

Annex C (normative)

Check digit for the ISBN

DRAFTING NOTE: This Annex will have to be rewritten when the length and internal structure of the revised ISBN is decided. For example, if a hexadecimal format is adopted, the check digit should become a check character and a different algorithm would be used.

- C.1** The purpose of the check digit is to guard against errors resulting from improper transcription of an ISBN.
- C.2** The check digit for an ISBN shall be 1 alphanumeric character using Arabic numerals 0 through 9 and the letter X. The check character shall be displayed as the final character at the end of the ISBN character string.
- C.3** The check digit shall be calculated over the first 12 digits of the ISBN according to a modulus 11 system with weights 10 to 2, using X in lieu of 10 where 10 would occur as a check digit. This means that each of the first nine digits of the ISBN, excluding the check digit itself, is multiplied by a number ranging from 10 to 2 and that the resulting sum of the products, plus the check digit, must be divisible by 11 without a remainder.

EXAMPLES:

ISBN 0-8436-1072-7

ISBN 978 0 7710 0863 5

ISBN 978-1-895714-67-2

Annex D (normative)

Metadata for the registration of assigned ISBN

D.1 General

D.1.1 In order to adequately describe the specific publication to which an ISBN is allocated, applicants for ISBN shall supply the ISBN agency with a specified amount of descriptive information (metadata) about the publication to which the ISBN is being assigned. The core metadata associated with each ISBN assignment shall be maintained by the ISBN agency or by its designated registration service.

D.1.2 The specifications concerning the type and format of this metadata shall be established by the International ISBN Agency in cooperation with the agencies of the ISBN system.

D.2 Elements of ISBN metadata

D.2.1 The metadata requirements for the ISBN system shall be compatible with the required elements of the ONIX International product information standards maintained by EDItEUR and its associated organizations.

D.2.2 Elements of ISBN metadata shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- title;
- author(s);
- editor(s), if applicable;
- translator(s), if applicable;
- date of publication.
- *and ...*

***DRAFTING NOTE:** The revised ISBN standard should specifically list the mandatory elements of ISBN metadata to be recorded for each assignment, based on the ONIX product information standards. Alternatively, it could reference the relevant ONIX standard in its entirety.*

D.3 Association of an ISBN with ISBN metadata

***DRAFTING NOTE:** The revised ISBN standard should indicate how an ISBN and the metadata that describes the thing that ISBN identifies are to be associated (linked).*

Annex E (informative)

Method for assigning ranges of ISBN

E.1 Distribution of ranges

***DRAFTING NOTE:** This section is based on text from the current ISBN Manual. This section will have to be reviewed and rewritten once the length and internal structure of the ISBN is decided.*

The number of digits in each of the ISBN elements for registration group, registrant and title varies in length, although the number of digits contained in these three elements shall be 9 in total. These 9 digits, together with the 3-digit product prefix and the check digit, make up the 13-digit ISBN.

The number of digits in the registration group and registrant elements will vary according to the publishing output of the group or registrant in question. Registration groups for which large output of monographic publications is anticipated will receive group numbers of one or two digits. Publishers and producers with an expected large output of publications will be assigned registrant numbers of two or three digits.

The length of the registrant element is established within each registration group by ISBN agencies in accordance with the needs of the book industry within their designated area. The ranges assigned to each registration group must be established in advance by the International ISBN Agency before determining distribution of ranges of ISBN to publishers and producers within those groups.

For example, ranges of registrant numbers within registration group "0" for the English language group (Australia, English speaking Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Swaziland, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe) are as follows:

0 - 7
80 - 94
950 - 994
9950 - 9989
99900 – 99999

The following table is an example of the ranges of registrant numbers assigned to publishers and producers when the registration group element consists of a single digit (e.g. "0"). In the case of a single digit registration group element, the ranges of numbers for the registrant element are shown in the middle column; ranges for the title element are shown in the right hand column.

| Registration group element | Registrant element | Numbers available per registrant for title identification |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| 0 | 00-19 200-699 7000-8499 85000-89999 900000-949999 9500000-9999999 | 1 000 000 100 000 10 000 1 000 100 10 |

EXAMPLE

| Registration Group "0" | If number ranges are between | The internal divisions of the ISBN would occur after each of the following digits |
|--|--|--|
| 00.....19 200.....699 7000.....8499 85000....89999 900000...949999 9500000..9999999 | 00-19 20-69 70-84 85-89 90-94 95-99 | 3 rd (product prefix) 4th 6th 12th digit (+ check digit) 3 rd (product prefix) 4th 7th 12th digit (+ check digit) 3 rd (product prefix) 4th 8th 12th digit (+ check digit) 3 rd (product prefix) 4th 9th 12th digit (+ check digit) 3 rd (product prefix) 4th 10th 12th digit (+ check digit) 3 rd (product prefix) 4th 11th 12th digit (+ check digit) |

Annex F (informative)

Application of ISBN in bar code systems

***DRAFTING NOTE:** This Annex will have to be rewritten when the length and internal structure of the revised ISBN is decided. The information in this Annex should be cross-referenced with information in Annex G about accommodating "legacy" ISBN assigned prior to 2005.*

To ensure the compatibility of the ISBN as a product identifier for books within retail systems, the International ISBN Agency has established an agreement with EAN International and the Uniform Code Council for the conversion of an ISBN into a standard bar code format. This agreement permits the replacement of the national identifier in the EAN bar code with a specially designated "Bookland" identifier in bar codes for books and other monographic publications. This Bookland identifier is currently represented by EAN code "978". Additional codes may be assigned in the future. The International ISBN Agency can advise on the available codes.

The bar code for books and other monographic publications consists of 13 digits. It begins with the special 3 digit product prefix allocated by the EAN system for book products. This 3 digit prefix is followed by the first 9 digits of the ISBN. The check digit of the ISBN is dropped in bar code applications and replaced by a check digit calculated according to EAN rules (on a modulus 10).

EXAMPLE

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| ISBN with check digit: | 0-330-28987-X |
| ISBN without check digit: | 0-330-28987 |
| Added EAN product prefix: | 978-0-330-28987 |
| Added EAN check digit: | 978-0-330-28987-0 |

Annex G (informative)

Compatibility with ISBN assigned prior to 2005

Prior to 2005, the ISBN was a 10 digit number composed of 4 elements: a group identifier; a publisher or producer identifier; a title identifier; and a check digit. This annex explains how the ISBN system avoids duplication between new ISBN assignments and ISBN assigned prior to 2005 and recommends how both sets of ISBN can be accommodated in ISBN applications.

[REMAINING TEXT TO BE DRAFTED BY WORKING GROUP]

Bibliography

- [1] ISO 1086:1991, *Information and documentation — Title leaves of books*.
- [2] ISO 3297, *Information and documentation — International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)*.
- [3] ISO 10957, *Information and documentation — International Standard Music Number (ISMN)*.
- [4] ISO CD 21047, *Information and documentation — International Standard Textual Work Code (ISTC)*.
- [5] ISO TR 21449, *Content delivery and rights management: functional requirements for identifiers and descriptors for use in the music, film, video, sound recording, and publishing industries*.
- [6] *ONIX International: overview and summary list of data elements*. EDItEUR, 2001. Available at: <http://www.editeur.org/onix.html>.
- [7] *ISBN user's manual*. International edition. Berlin: International ISBN Agency.