

Australian Standard™

Information technology—Notation of format for data element values



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT-027, Data Management and Interchange. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 21 April 2005. This Standard was published on 30 May 2005.

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT-027, Data Management and Interchange.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO/IEC 14957:1996, *Information technology—Notation of format for data element values*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide the notation for stating the format and length used in the representation of data elements to facilitate electronic data interchange and data sharing for use by electronic commerce and database designers.

As this Standard is reproduced from an international standard, the following applies:

- (a) Its number appears on the cover and title page while the international standard number appears only on the cover.
- (b) In the source text ‘this International Standard’ should read ‘this Australian Standard’.
- (c) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

References to International Standards should be replaced by references to Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards, as follows:

<i>Reference to International Standard</i>		<i>Australian Standard</i>	
ISO		AS	
2382	Information processing systems— Vocabulary	1189	Data processing—Vocabulary
2382-4	Part 4: Organization of data	1189.4	Part 4: Organization of data
6093	Information processing— Representation of numerical values in character strings for information interchange	3767	Information processing— Representation of numerical values in character strings for information interchange
ISO/IEC		AS ISO/IEC	
11179	Information technology— Specification and standardization of data elements	11179	Information technology— Metadata registries (MDR)
11179-3	Part 3: Basic attributes of data elements	11179.3	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes

Only referenced documents that have been adopted as Australian Standards have been listed.

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INTRODUCTION

Data interchange is experiencing rapid expansion, in the commercial, technical and public sectors. It gives rise to inter working between different communities which often have developed independently information processing applications and telecommunication networks which meet specific needs. Hence an overall situation which suffers from a lack of homogeneity.

In order to remedy this situation, an urgent standardization effort focused in particular on the representation of data elements is necessary.

The representation of a data element supposes in the first place that the format, i.e. the type of characters used in the representation and in the length of the latter is specified. So that these specifications have the same significance for everyone involved, it is necessary to express them in accordance with standardized conventions.

Such rules are likely to eliminate any and all risk of ambiguity, lack of understanding and error; they also facilitate the comparison of data element dictionaries, the design and creation of information systems as well as electronic data interchange (EDI).

These notations have been partially and variously expressed in different International Standards according to the specific contexts in which they have been defined, e.g. EDIFACT (ISO 9735), Banking Standards (as ISO 7982-1), Character sets (ISO 8859), Information processing (ISO 6093).

Therefore, the objective of this International Standard is to provide a unique source of reference on this issue for all Standards utilizing these type of notations independently of their environments.