

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Information and documentation—
International Standard Book Number
(ISBN)**



AS/NZS 1519:2006

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Australian Library and Information Association
Australian Publishers Association
Collections Australia Network
Committee of New Zealand University Librarians
Council of Australian State Libraries
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-019, Information and Documentation to supersede AS/NZS 1519:1997, *Information and documentation—International standard book numbering (ISBN)*.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO 2108:2005, *Information and documentation—International Standard Book Number (ISBN)*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide publishing communities with specification of the structure and administration of the 13 digit International Standard Book Number.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ are used to define the application of the annex to which they apply. A normative annex is an integral part of a standard, whereas an informative annex is only for information and guidance.

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.
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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/New Zealand Standard</i>	
ISO		AS	
3166	Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions	2632	Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions
3166-1	Part 1: Country codes	2632.1	Part 1: Country codes
		AS ISO	
8601	Data elements and interchange formats—Information interchange—Representation of dates and times	8601	Data elements and interchange formats—Information interchange—Representation of dates and times

Only international references that have been adopted as Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards have been listed.

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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 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 editions of monographic publications 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 product form or edition of a monographic publication published or produced by a specific publisher. It specifies the construction of an ISBN, the rules for its assignment and use, the metadata to be associated with the ISBN allocation, and the administration of the ISBN system.

This International Standard is applicable to monographic publications (or their individual sections or chapters where these are made separately available) and certain types of related products that are available to the public. Examples of applicable and non-applicable products are provided in Annex A.

NOTE More detailed, operational guidance is provided in a users' manual available from the Registration Authority for this International Standard (see Clause 8).

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 639-2, *Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 2: Alpha-3 code*

ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*

ISO/IEC 15420:2000, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbology specification — EAN/UPC*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

EAN.UCC prefix

international product number prefix assigned by EAN International

NOTE Specific EAN.UCC prefixes are allocated solely for the use of the ISBN system (see 4.2).

3.2**check digit**

final character in the ISBN string which is related to all preceding characters in the string by a specified mathematical algorithm and which may be used to verify the accuracy of the ISBN string

3.3**continuing resource**

publication that is issued over time with no predetermined conclusion and made available to the public in any product form, usually issued in successive or integrating issues which generally have numerical and/or chronological designations

NOTE Continuing resources include serials such as newspapers, periodicals, journals, magazines, etc. and ongoing integrating resources such as loose-leaf publications that are continually updated and web sites that are continually updated.

3.4**edition**

all copies of a publication embodying essentially the same content and issued by the same entity

NOTE A single edition of a publication may be published in multiple product forms.

3.5**integrating resource**

publication either finite or with no predetermined conclusion, that is added to or changed by updates that do not remain discrete and are integrated into the whole and made available to the public in any product form

NOTE Examples of integrating resources include updating loose-leaves and updating web sites.

3.6**ISBN**

International Standard Book Number allocated to a registrant by an appointed ISBN registration agency in accordance with the specifications of this International Standard

3.7**monographic publication**

publication conceived as a whole in one part or within a finite number of parts by its publisher/author(s) and made available to the public in any product form

3.8**print on demand publication**

publication that is printed at the time a customer orders a copy of it rather than that copy being supplied from existing stocks held by the distributor or publisher

3.9**product form**

size, binding, medium and/or data format of a publication

EXAMPLE The same edition of a novel may appear in the following product forms: paperback; hardback; cassette audio-book; CD audio-book; Braille, etc.

3.10**registrant**

person or organization that has requested and received an ISBN for a monographic publication from an appointed ISBN registration agency

3.11**registration group**

area of operation defined by the Registration Authority for ISO 2108 within which one or more appointed ISBN registration agencies function

4 Construction of an International Standard Book Number

4.1 General structure of an ISBN

As of 1st January 2007, all agencies of the ISBN system shall only assign ISBNs which consist of thirteen digits¹⁾ made up of the following elements.

- a) prefix element;
- b) registration group element;
- c) registrant element;
- d) publication element;
- e) check digit.

For specifications concerning 10 digit ISBNs assigned prior to 1st January 2007, see Annex F.

When an ISBN is displayed 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), it shall be preceded by the letters ISBN²⁾ and each of the elements of the ISBN should be separated from the others by a hyphen as in the following example.

EXAMPLE: ISBN 978-90-70002-34-3

4.2 Prefix element

The first element of a 13 digit ISBN shall be a 3 digit prefix specified by the International ISBN Agency in conformance with the global EAN.UCC product numbering system. This prefix is made available to the International ISBN Agency by EAN International. This prefix included in the 13-digit product number indicates that this product number originates with and is part of the ISBN system.

Technical information specifying valid EAN.UCC prefixes for ISBN use shall be available from the International ISBN Agency.

4.3 Registration group element

The second element of a 13 digit 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.

1) These digits are the Arabic numerals 0 to 9 only.

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.

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. Technical information which specifies validation rules for registration group length shall be available from the International ISBN Agency.

4.4 Registrant element

The third element of a 13 digit ISBN shall indicate the registrant for that ISBN. This element shall be allocated by the ISBN registration agency appointed for this purpose within each registration group. In the majority of cases, the registrant element shall refer to one publisher. Under certain circumstances more than one publisher may share a registrant element, usually as a result of mergers or other commercial activities involving particular titles. ISBN registration agencies may reserve a common block of registrant elements for the purpose of assigning individual ISBN to single title publishers.

The registrant element varies in length according to the projected title output of each publisher. The length of this element shall be determined by the ISBN registration agency in accordance with the agreed specifications of the ISBN system for assigning ranges of the ISBN (see Annex D). Technical information that specifies validation rules for registrant length within a particular registrant group shall be available from the International ISBN Agency (see Annex D).

4.5 Publication element

The fourth element of a 13 digit ISBN shall be the publication element. The publication element shall be allocated in accordance with the specifications of Annex A. It is usually allocated by the publisher of the monographic publication although in some cases ISBN registration agencies may choose to assign an individual ISBN to single title publishers by allocating single publication elements from within a common registrant element block reserved for that purpose.

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

4.6 Check digit

The fifth and final element of a 13 digit ISBN is the check digit. The check digit for a 13 digit ISBN is calculated using a modulus 10 algorithm. Further details on this method are provided in Annex C.

5 Assignment of an ISBN

5.1 A registrant element shall be allocated to a publisher, upon application, by an appointed ISBN registration agency from the range of ISBNs allocated to that agency by the International ISBN Agency. ISBN registration agencies may assign an individual ISBN to single title publishers from a common registrant element block reserved for that purpose.

5.2 Each time an ISBN is assigned, the registrant should supply the relevant ISBN registration agency or its designated bibliographic agency with metadata specific to the publication to which the ISBN has been assigned (see Annex E).

5.3 Once an ISBN is assigned to a publication, that ISBN shall not be altered, replaced or re-used.

5.4 A separate ISBN shall be assigned to each separate monographic publication, or separate edition of a monographic publication issued by a publisher. A separate ISBN shall be assigned to each different language edition of a monographic publication.

5.5 Different product forms (e.g. hardcover, paperback, Braille, audio-book, video, online electronic publication) shall be assigned separate ISBNs. Each different format of an electronic publication (e.g. ".lit", ".pdf", ".html", ".pdb") that is published and made separately available shall be given a separate ISBN.