

Information and documentation — International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

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National foreword

This British Standard reproduces verbatim ISO 2108:2005 and implements it as the UK national standard.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted by Technical Committee IDT/2, Information and documentation, to Subcommittee IDT/2/18, Identifiers and metadata, which has the responsibility to:

- aid enquirers to understand the text;
- present to the responsible international/European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep UK interests informed;
- monitor related international and European developments and promulgate them in the UK.

A list of organizations represented on this subcommittee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Cross-references

The British Standards which implement international publications referred to in this document may be found in the *BSI Catalogue* under the section entitled “International Standards Correspondence Index”, or by using the “Search” facility of the *BSI Electronic Catalogue* or of British Standards Online.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the ISO title page, pages i to v, a blank page, pages 1 to 21 and a back cover.

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Amendments issued since publication

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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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 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 2108 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 2108:1992). It changes the ISBN to a 13 digit identifier to increase substantially the numbering capacity of the global ISBN system and to harmonise the format of the ISBN with the EAN-UCC product code system. Additional specifications on administration of the ISBN system, the assignment of ISBN and associated metadata have been added.

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.

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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).