

Geographic information — Referencing — Geographic identifiers

ICS 35.240.70

National foreword

This Draft for Development is the English language version of ENV 12661:1998.

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According to the replies recieved by the end of the review period, the responsible BSI Committee will decide whether to support the conversion into a European Standard, to extend the life of the prestandard or to withdraw it. Comments should be sent in writing to the Secretary of BSI Technical Committee IST/36, Geographic Informatics, at 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL, giving the document reference and clause number and proposing, where possible, an appropriate revision of the text.

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

Cross-references

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

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the ENV title page, pages 2 to 19 and a back cover.

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This European Prestandard (ENV) was approved by CEN on 10 October 1998 as a prospective standard for provisional application.

The period of validity of this ENV is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the ENV can be converted into a European Standard.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart, 36 B-1050 Brussels

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Foreword

This European Prestandard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 287 "Geographic Information", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this European Prestandard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

The positional aspect of geographic data is provided by a spatial reference, which relates the data to a position on the surface of the Earth. Spatial references fall into two categories :

- those based on coordinates (either geodetic or local), and
- those based on geographic identifiers.

With geographic identifiers, a position is referenced by a label which identifies a real world phenomenon. These spatial references are often called "indirect", or "non-coordinate" in that they are not based explicitly on coordinates. However, coordinates may separately be assigned to the representation of the objects (as geometric or topological primitives).

The purpose of this European Prestandard is to specify ways to define and describe systems of spatial references using geographic identifiers. It enables producers of data to define locations in a consistent manner, and assists users to understand the spatial references used in datasets. It enables gazetteers of instances of locations to be constructed in a consistent manner, and supports the development of other standards in the field of geographic information.

1 Scope

This European Prestandard establishes a schema for spatial referencing using geographic identifiers. It specifies how a system of geographic identifiers is described, and defines the attributes of a location and the contents of a gazetteer of locations. Spatial referencing based on coordinates is outside the scope of this standard.

This European Prestandard is applicable not only to digital data, but also to other forms of geographic data such as maps, charts and textual documents.

2 Normative references

This European Prestandard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Prestandard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

ENV 12160:1997, *Geographic information - Data Description - Spatial schema*.

EN 28601:1992, *Data elements and interchange formats - Information interchange - Representation of dates and times (ISO 8601, 1st edition 1988 and technical corrigendum 1:1991)*

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply :

3.1

gazetteer

directory of instances of locations

EXAMPLE : a gazetteer of streets in a municipality

3.2

geographic identifier

unique identifier for a location

EXAMPLES : the name of a municipality, a street reference number

3.3

geographic identifiers system

structured collection of geographic identifiers with a common theme and format

EXAMPLE : postcodes

3.4

location

identifiable part of the real world

EXAMPLES : city, street, building

3.5

object

single phenomena existing in the real world

EXAMPLES : river, street