

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO
2108

Third edition
1992-05-15

Information and documentation — International standard book numbering (ISBN)

*Information et documentation — Système international pour la
numérotation des livres (ISBN)*



Reference number
ISO 2108:1992(E)

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.

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 ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Sub-Committee SC 9, *Presentation, identification and description of documents*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 2108:1978). The scope of this International Standard has been extended to include monographic publications in certain non-print formats.

Annex A of this International Standard is for information only.

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Information and documentation — International standard book numbering (ISBN)

1 Scope

The purpose of this International Standard is to co-ordinate and standardize the use of identifying numbers so that each international standard book number (ISBN) is unique to a 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 international standard book number and the location of the printed number on the publication.

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

Details on the specific applications of ISBN are explained in a user's manual available from the registration authority for this International Standard (see annex A).

2 Normative reference

The following standard contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the edition indicated was valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standard indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 1086:1991, *Information and documentation — Title leaves of books*.

3 Construction of an international standard book number

An international standard book number consists of ten digits¹⁾ made up of the following parts:

- group identifier (i.e. national, geographical, language or other convenient group);
- publisher or producer identifier;
- title identifier;

1) These digits are the arabic numerals 0 to 9; in the case of the check digit only, an X can sometimes occur (see 3.4).

— check digit.

When an international standard book number is either written or printed it shall be preceded by the letters ISBN. Each part shall be separated by a space or a hyphen as in the following examples:

ISBN 0 571 08989 5

ISBN 90-70002-34-5

3.1 Group identifier

The group identifier is allocated by the International ISBN Agency. It varies in length from group to group according to the title output of the group concerned.

3.2 Publisher or producer identifier

The publisher or producer identifier is allocated internally within the group, by the agency appointed for this purpose. The publisher or producer identifier varies in length according to the title output of the publisher or producer concerned.

3.3 Title identifier

The length of the title identifier is determined by the length of the group and publisher or producer identifiers which precede it.

3.4 Check digit

The 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.

4 Location and display of the ISBN

4.1 Books, pamphlets and other printed material

The international standard book number shall be printed on the verso of the title leaf (see ISO 1086) or, if this is not possible, at the foot of the title page itself. It shall also appear at the foot of the outside back cover if practicable, and at the foot of the back of the jacket if the book has one; if neither of these alternatives is possible, then the number shall be printed in some other *prominent* position on the outside. The international standard book number shall also appear on any accompanying material in accordance with the provisions for location appropriate to the format of the accompanying material.

4.2 Other monographic publications

The ISBN shall appear on the title or credit frames and any labels permanently affixed to the publication. If the publication is issued in a container, e.g. a cassette, that is an integral part of the publication, the ISBN shall be displayed on the label of the container. For microcomputer software, the ISBN shall be displayed on the label of the diskette or cassette. If it is not possible to display the ISBN on the item or its label, then the number shall be displayed at the bottom of the back of the 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.

Annex A (informative)

Registration authority for the international standard book numbering system

The International ISBN Agency²⁾ has been designated as the registration authority for ISO 2108.

This registration authority has the following functions.

a) To ensure the definition of groups

Where a proposal arises for a number of countries or other convenient publishing groups to have the same identifier, or the same block of identifiers (i.e. a composite group such as the Anglo-American group), the International ISBN Agency is required to endorse the definition of the group, to recognize the appropriate group agency, and to put this formally on record.

b) To allocate identifiers to groups

In consultation with the group concerned, the International ISBN Agency allocates identifiers to groups. It maintains records of allocated group identifiers, which it communicates to all interested bodies, such as the group agencies.

c) To advise groups on the setting up and functioning of group agencies

The International ISBN Agency provides advice to groups on the setting up and functioning of

their own agencies, drawing upon the experience of existing agencies.

d) To advise group agencies on the allocation of publisher identifiers

Once an identifier has been assigned to a group, it then becomes the responsibility of the group agency to make arrangements for allocating publisher identifiers to publishers within the group. The range of identifiers varies from group to group. The International ISBN Agency may be required to advise on the general principles involved in calculating the ranges and assigning identifiers according to the title output of the publishers concerned.

e) To promote the worldwide use of the system

The International ISBN Agency produces and makes available a definitive document on the system and generally provides promotional material. In addition it takes active measures to ensure that the system is made known in all countries.

f) To supervise the use of the system

The International ISBN Agency ensures that the system is used correctly, and that any deviation from it is reported to all those likely to be affected.

2) International ISBN Agency, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Potsdamer Straße 33, P.O. Box 1407, D-1000 Berlin 30, Germany. [Telephone: (030) 266 2498] [Telefax: (030) 266 2814]

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