

ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION



ISO RECOMMENDATION R 2014

WRITING OF CALENDAR DATES IN ALL-NUMERIC FORM

1st EDITION

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BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R 2014, *Writing of calendar dates in all-numeric form*, was drawn up by the *Co-ordinating committee on the standardization of the writing of dates (DATCO)*, the Secretariat of which is held by the ISO Central Secretariat in Geneva.

Work on this question led to the adoption of Draft ISO Recommendation No. 2014, which was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry in January 1970. It was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies :

Austria	Italy	Sweden
Belgium	Japan	Switzerland
Canada	Korea, Dem. P. Rep. of	Thailand
Ceylon	Korea, Rep. of	U.A.R.
France	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Germany	Poland	U.S.A.
Greece	Portugal	Yugoslavia
Hungary	South Africa, Rep. of	
India	Spain	

The following Member Bodies opposed the approval of the Draft :

Czechoslovakia
Iraq
Ireland
Norway

This Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

WRITING OF CALENDAR DATES IN ALL-NUMERIC FORM

INTRODUCTION

In all forms of international traffic and exchange, dates must be clearly designated and able to be compared without any ambiguity.

This ISO Recommendation for writing of calendar dates in all-numeric form has been prepared to obviate the confusion arising from misinterpretation of the significance of the numerals in a date written with numerals only; it is considered that similar confusion does not arise when the month is spelled out, either in full or in abbreviated form.

The occasions on which an all-numeric date might be used have been examined and the advantages for these occasions of the descending order year–month–day have been found to outweigh those for the ascending order day–month–year, established in many parts of the world.

The advantages of this descending order include the following in particular :

- the ease with which the whole date may be treated as a single numeral for the purpose of filing and classification (e.g. for insurance or social security systems);
- arithmetic calculation, particularly in some computer uses;
- the possibility of continuing the order by adding digits for hour–minute–second.

1. SCOPE

This ISO Recommendation specifies the writing of dates of the Gregorian calendar in all-numeric form, signified by the elements year, month, day.

2. FIELD OF APPLICATION

This ISO Recommendation should be applied whenever a calendar date containing the elements year, month, day is written in an all-numeric form.