
**Information technology —
Vocabulary —**

**Part 37:
Biometrics**

Technologies de l'information — Vocabulaire —

Partie 37: Biométrie

Информационные технологии — Словарь —

Часть 37: Часть 37: Биометрия

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <https://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 37, *Biometrics*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/IEC 2382-37:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- modifications to some of the terms published in the 2017 edition; and
- addition of new terms related to biometric systems (starting from [37.02.08](#)), data in biometric systems (starting from [37.03.42](#)), devices ([37.04.02](#)), interaction (starting from [37.06.33](#)), personnel (starting from [37.07.26](#)) and performance (starting from [37.09.23](#)).

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 2382 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

Introduction

The main purpose of this document is to provide a systematic description of the concepts in the subject field of biometrics and to clarify the use of the terms in this subject field. The subject field of biometrics is broken down into sub-fields.

This document is addressed to biometrics standardizers and to users of these standards.

The terms defined in this document are to be understood within the context of the subject field of biometrics. When terms exist in various subject fields, the relevant subject field is indicated in angle brackets.

Words that are written in italics are defined in this document. Words that are written in upright font are to be understood in their natural language sense. The authority for natural language use of terms in this document is the Concise Oxford English Dictionary (COED), Thumb Index Edition (tenth edition, revised, 2002).

The numbering of all terms in this document begins with “37” to indicate the Subcommittee of Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1 that created the terms. This is consistent with all other parts of the ISO/IEC 2382 series. The subsequent numerical heading for each entry within this document (37.xx) represents the number of the highest-level category in the concept map in which the term primarily falls. This is consistent with “Systematic Order” as described in ISO 10241-1:2011, 5.1.2, in which the heading reflects the concept system. In the first edition of this document (ISO/IEC 2382-37:2012), the third numerical designator (37.xx.yy) was also consistent with “Systematic Order”, moving from most general to more specific terms within each highest-level category of the concept map. With the development of the current edition of this document, the decision was made to append the new terms in each category such that the numbering of the earlier terms inherited from the 2012 edition would not change. This implies that the third numerical designator is now in “Mixed Order” as described in ISO 10241-1:2011, 5.1.3.

So, terms are added to this document in batches for each updated version. These terms are added in alphabetical order. This ensures that the numbers allocated to a term remain the same and that they can be referred to consistently.

The terms in this document are listed under a number of general headings.

The layout follows the directions given in ISO 10241-1. Thus, the elements of an entry appear in the following order:

- Entry number (mandatory)
- Preferred term(s) (mandatory)
- Admitted term(s)
- Deprecated term(s)
- Definition (mandatory)
- Example(s)
- Note(s) to entry

The alphabetical index includes preferred and admitted terms.

Information technology — Vocabulary —

Part 37: Biometrics

1 Scope

This document establishes a systematic description of the concepts in the field of biometrics pertaining to recognition of human beings. This document also reconciles variant terms in use in pre-existing International Standards on biometrics against the preferred terms, thereby clarifying the use of terms in this field.

This document does not cover concepts (represented by terms) from information technology, pattern recognition, biology, mathematics, etc. Biometrics uses such fields of knowledge as a basis.

In principle, mode-specific terms are outside of scope of this document.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 Terms related to general concepts

37.01.01

biometric, adj

of or having to do with *biometrics* ([37.01.03](#))

Note 1 to entry: The use of biometric as a noun, to mean for example, *biometric characteristic* ([37.01.02](#)), is deprecated.

EXAMPLE 1 Incorrect usage #1: ICAO resolved that face is the biometric most suited to the practicalities of travel documents.

EXAMPLE 2 Correct usage #1: ICAO resolved that face recognition is the biometric *mode* ([37.02.05](#)) most suited to the practicalities of travel documents.

EXAMPLE 3 Incorrect usage #2: The biometric recorded in my passport is a facial image.

EXAMPLE 4 Correct usage #2: The biometric characteristic recorded in my passport is a facial image.

Note 2 to entry: Since the late 19th century the terms biometrics and biometry have been used with the general meaning of counting, measuring and statistical analysis of any kind of data in the biological sciences including the relevant medical sciences.