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Freight containers — Coding, identification and marking

Conteneurs pour le transport de marchandises — Codage, identification et marquage

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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.

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 ISO documents 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).

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. 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).

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 104, *Freight containers*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Identification and communication,* in collaboration with European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 119, *Intermodal loading units and Cargo securing (ILUCS),* in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 6346:1995), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 6346:1995/Amd 3:2012.

The main changes are as follows:

— Incorporation of previous amendments to the standard to include the provision of markings to identify containers with reduced stacking or racking;

— Inclusion of new markings to identify over width containers.

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.

This corrected version of ISO 6346:2022 incorporates the following corrections:

— In Table D.2, superscript "a" was removed from container height 1 295;

— In Table D.2, table footnote 'a', "is" was added after "in";

— In Table E.1 H, a missing value for transfer coefficient in Detailed code H6/HV was added, replacing K= 0 W/(m^2-k) with K= 0.7 W/(m^2-k).

— In Table A.1, the values for the letters B, C, D, E and F of the column "Equivalent value" have been changed from "11, 12, 13, 14, 15" to "12, 13, 14, 15 and 16".

— In 7.2.1.1 EXAMPLE, the length "6 068 mm" has been replaced with "6 058mm".

— A NOTE was added in 7.2.1.1 to explain the boxes around markings in the figures.

Freight containers — Coding, identification and marking

1 Scope

1.1 This document provides a system for the identification and presentation of information about freight containers. The identification system is intended for general application, for example in documentation, control and communications (including automatic data processing systems), as well as for display on the containers themselves.

The methods of displaying identification and certain other data (including operational data) on containers by means of permanent marks are included.

1.2 This document specifies:

a) a container identification system, with an associated system for verifying the accuracy of its use, having:

   — mandatory marks for the presentation of the identification system for visual interpretation, and

   — features to be used in optional Automatic Equipment Identification (AEI) and electronic data interchange (EDI);

b) a coding system for data on container size and type, with corresponding marks for their display;

c) operational marks, both mandatory and optional;

d) physical presentation of marks on the container.

1.3 The terms “mandatory” and “optional” in this document are used to differentiate those ISO marking provisions which shall necessarily be fulfilled by all containers from those which are not required of all containers. The optional marks are included to further comprehension and promote uniform application of the optional mark. If a choice has been made to display an optional mark, the provisions laid down in this document relating to the mark shall be applied. The terms “mandatory” and “optional” do not refer to requirements of any regulatory body.

1.4 This document applies to all freight containers covered by International Standards ISO 668, parts 1 to 5 of ISO 1496, ISO 8323 and should, wherever appropriate and practicable, be applied:

— to containers other than those covered by the International Standards mentioned in Clause 2;

— to container-related and/or detachable equipment.

NOTE 1 Containers marked according to previous editions of ISO 6346 need not be re-marked.

1.5 This document does not cover temporary operational marks of any kind, permanent marks, data plates, etc. which may be required by intergovernmental agreements, national legislation or nongovernmental organizations.

NOTE 2 Some of the major international conventions whose container-marking requirements are not covered in this document are as follows:

— International Convention for Safe Containers (1972, as amended) (CSC), International Maritime Organization (IMO);

— Customs Convention on Containers 1956 and 1972, related to temporary admission and transport under customs seal.

— Convention on Temporary Admission (Istanbul, 26 June 1990), related to temporary admission.

It should not be assumed that this list is exhaustive.

This document does not cover the display of technical data on tank containers (see ISO 1496-3), nor does it, in any way, include identification marks or safety signs for items of cargo which may be carried in freight containers.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 10374, *Freight containers — Automatic identification*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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/

4 Identification system and its associated marks

4.1 Identification system

4.1.1 General

The identification system shall consist only of the following elements, all of which shall be included:

— owner code: three letters (see 4.1.2);

— equipment category identifier: one letter (see 4.1.3);

— serial number: six numerals (see 4.1.4);

— check digit: one numeral (see 4.1.5).

4.1.2 Owner code

Reference (1) in Figures 1 to 4

The container owner's code shall consist of three capital letters, shall be unique and shall be registered with the Registration Authority.

The name and contact information of the Registration Authority for this document can be found at www.iso.org/maintenance_agencies.

4.1.3 Equipment category identifier

Reference (2) in Figures 1 to 4