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**Identification cards — Contactless  
integrated circuit cards — Vicinity  
cards —**

**Part 1:  
Physical characteristics**

*Cartes d'identification — Cartes à circuit intégré sans contact — Cartes  
de voisinage —*

*Partie 1: Caractéristiques physiques*

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Published in Switzerland

## 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. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO/IEC 15693-1 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Cards and personal identification*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 15693-1:2000), which has been technically revised.

ISO/IEC 15693 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Identification cards — Contactless integrated circuit cards — Vicinity cards*:

- *Part 1: Physical characteristics*
- *Part 2: Air interface and initialization*
- *Part 3: Anticollision and transmission protocol*

## Introduction

Contactless card standards encompass a variety of types as embodied in ISO/IEC 10536 (close-coupled cards), ISO/IEC 14443 (proximity cards) and ISO/IEC 15693 (vicinity cards). These device types are intended, respectively, for operation when very near, nearby and at a longer distance from associated coupling devices.

ISO/IEC 15693 defines the technology-specific requirements for identification cards conforming to ISO/IEC 7810 and thin flexible cards conforming to ISO/IEC 15457-1, and the use of such cards to facilitate international interchange. However, it also recognizes that the technology offers the possibility that vicinity objects be provided in forms other than that of the International Standard card formats. Furthermore, it does not preclude the incorporation of other standard technologies on the card, such as those referenced in the Bibliography.

ISO/IEC 15693 accommodates the operation of vicinity cards in the presence of other contactless cards conforming to ISO/IEC 10536 and ISO/IEC 14443.

This part of ISO/IEC 15693 does not preclude the application to the VICC of other existing card technology standards, such as those listed in the Bibliography.

# Identification cards — Contactless integrated circuit cards — Vicinity cards —

## Part 1: Physical characteristics

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 15693 defines the physical characteristics of vicinity cards (VICCs).

It is used in conjunction with other parts of ISO/IEC 15693.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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/IEC 7810, *Identification cards — Physical characteristics*

ISO/IEC 15457-1, *Identification cards — Thin flexible cards — Part 1: Physical characteristics*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 7810, ISO/IEC 15457-1 and the following apply.

#### 3.1 integrated circuit IC

electronic component designed to perform processing and/or memory functions

#### 3.2 contactless

pertaining to the achievement of signal exchange with, and supply of power to, the card without the use of galvanic elements (i.e. the absence of an ohmic path from the external interfacing equipment to the integrated circuit contained within the card)

#### 3.3 contactless integrated circuit card

card into which integrated circuit and coupling means have been placed, such that communication to such integrated circuit is done in a contactless manner

#### 3.4 operate as intended

operate in the manner described by the manufacturer's specification in accordance with ISO/IEC 15693