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**Information and documentation —  
International standard music number  
(ISMN)**

*Information et documentation — Numéro international normalisé de la  
musique (ISMN)*



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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.

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

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

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.

ISO 10957 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 10957:1993), which has been technically revised. It specifies the method to change the 10-digit ISMN to a 13-digit identifier to harmonize the format of the ISMN with the GS1 (formerly EAN.UCC) product code system. Additional specifications on administration of the ISMN system, assignment of ISMN, calculation of the check digit, and ISMN metadata have also been added.

## Introduction

The International standard music number (ISMN) was developed by and for the music publishing sector as a separate system to complement the International standard book number (ISBN). The existence of the ISMN as a separate identifier system makes it possible to identify printed and notated music as a distinct category of publication within the global supply chain and to develop trade directories and similar services for the specialized market for music publications. In addition, some features of the ISBN system, such as the inclusion of national and language groupings within the structure of the ISBN and its administration, are not suited to the practices and organization of the music sector where linguistic content does not have the same relevance that it does for textual publications. For these and other practical reasons, the ISMN and ISBN co-exist as separate identification systems.

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# Information and documentation — International standard music number (ISMN)

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the International standard music number (ISMN), which is a means of uniquely identifying editions of notated music. It specifies the assignment of a unique ISMN on such editions so as to distinguish one edition of a title or one separate component of an edition from all other editions. This International Standard also specifies the construction of an ISMN and its location on editions of notated music.

This International Standard is applicable to editions of notated music. The ISMN can also be used to identify editions of notated music that are presented with other media to form an integrated whole (e.g. an edition that, together with a sound recording, forms a single product).

The ISMN is not suitable for the identification of material in other media that are issued separately, such as sound or audiovisual products (e.g. CDs or DVDs), for which other standards such as ISO 3901 (International Standard Recording Code) and ISO 15706 (International Standard Audiovisual Number) are applicable.

The ISMN is not suitable for the identification of the products themselves (CDs or DVDs), for which the European article numbering (EAN) 13-digit bar code can be used.

## 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 15420, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Bar code symbology specification — EAN/UPC*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **check digit**

added digit which can be used to verify the accuracy of the assignment of the ISMN through a mathematical relationship to the digits contained in that number

### 3.2

#### **edition**

all copies of a notated music resource produced from substantially the same original input and issued by the same entity or group of entities or a person

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