
**Securities and related financial
instruments — International
securities identification numbering
system (ISIN)**

*Valeurs mobilières et autres instruments financiers concernés —
Système international de numérotation pour l'identification des
valeurs mobilières (ISIN)*



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principles	2
4.1 Constituents.....	2
4.2 Financial instruments for which the ISIN is allocated.....	2
5 Registration Authority (RA)	2
5.1 Name and contact details of the RA.....	2
5.2 Service provision.....	2
6 ISIN allocation	3
6.1 General.....	3
6.2 Existing ISINs and existing securities without ISINs.....	3
Annex A (normative) ISIN allocation	4
Annex B (normative) Minimum descriptive elements for each category/issue type	6
Annex C (normative) Formula for computing the modulus 10 “double-add-double” check digit	7
Annex D (normative) Basic information and minimum descriptive data elements	9
Annex E (informative) Examples	10

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. www.iso.org/directives

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Securities and related financial instruments*.

This seventh edition cancels and replaces the sixth edition (ISO 6166:2001), which has been extended to cover necessary technical changes, the Registration Authority function as well as the usage of the ISIN record.

Introduction

With the rapid expansion of the international securities business, there is a need for a universally applicable international securities identification number (ISIN).

No worldwide numbering system existed at the time of the publication of the first edition of this International Standard. Countries with a developed securities business identified issues of securities by means of code numbers, which are without any significance outside the country concerned. Securities of the same issue are identified by means of different numbers in the country where they are physically held and/or booked. As a result, the national numbers may not be applicable in cross-border transactions.

Because of its strong rationalization effect, an internationally applicable numbering system substantially facilitates and supports international securities business. Such a system is provided by this International Standard. Since the publication of the first edition of this International Standard, the Registration Authority (RA) relies on the work of national numbering agencies (NNAs) which play an integral role in this rationalization effort and in the implementation of this International Standard.

In preparing this International Standard, care has been taken to conserve the national systems to the maximum possible extent, not only because of the good routine and valuable experience collected in this field but also to facilitate the adoption of the worldwide system. Moreover, it is aimed at creating a system which is easy to apply internationally and at establishing an information network which ensures that the required information can be obtained worldwide immediately.

Securities and related financial instruments — International securities identification numbering system (ISIN)

1 Scope

This International Standard provides a uniform structure for the identification of fungible and non-fungible securities and financial instruments (see [Annex A](#)) using a unique identification number and associated minimum descriptive data (see [Annex B](#)).

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3166 (all parts), *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions*

ISO 4217, *Codes for the representation of currencies and funds*

ISO 10962, *Securities and related financial instruments — Classification of financial instruments (CFI code)*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

fungible

equivalent, substitutable, interchangeable, and not individualized

Note 1 to entry: A fungible financial instrument ranks *pari passu* in all respects with a different version of the same financial instrument and can be exchanged into the other version and *vice versa* at any time.

3.2

ISIN

international securities identification number

alphanumeric code which uniquely identifies a specific security or other financial instrument

3.3

ISIN record

record which uniquely identifies a specific security or other financial instrument and consists of the ISIN and the minimum descriptive data elements

Note 1 to entry: For the minimum descriptive data elements, see [Annex B](#).

3.4

ISIN guidelines

internal document developed and maintained by the Registration Authority to promote a uniform process for allocation, registration, and dissemination of the ISIN to the financial markets

3.5

negotiable

(legal ownership of financial instrument) readily transferable from one counterparty to another by delivery or endorsement