

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO
8439

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Forms design — Basic layout

Conception des formulaires — Disposition de base



Reference number
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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.

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.

International Standard ISO 8439 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 154, *Documents and data elements in administration, commerce and industry*, in collaboration with the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

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Introduction

This International Standard aims at the creation of uniformity in the design of forms in order to facilitate completion and information retrieval.

The principles established in this International Standard will form the basis for future application standards.

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Forms design — Basic layout

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies overall sizes, image areas, their division and data fields for forms intended for use within administration, commerce and industry.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 216: 1975, *Writing paper and certain classes of printed matter — Trimmed sizes — A and B series*.

ISO 353: 1975, *Processed writing paper and certain classes of printed matter — Method of expression of dimensions*.

ISO 3535: 1977, *Forms design sheet and layout chart*.

ISO 4882: 1979, *Office machines and data processing equipment — Line spacings and character spacings*.

ISO 6422: 1985, *Layout key for trade documents*.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

3.1 basic depth spacing; bds: The preferred line spacing of 4,233 mm (1/6 in) in accordance with ISO 4882.

3.2 basic width spacing; bws: The preferred character spacing of 2,54 mm (1/10 in) in accordance with ISO 4882.

3.3 data field: Specified area used for a particular category of data.

3.4 form: Data carrier designed to carry a visible record of data entries.

3.5 image area: A predetermined area within which information can be entered for subsequent reproduction, storage or transmission.

3.6 issuer (of a document): Institution, enterprise or person having issued a document and, by signing or otherwise, takes responsibility for the contents of the document.

3.7 margin: Space between an edge of the form and its adjacent image area.

4 Overall sizes, margins and image areas

The primary overall sizes of this International Standard are A4 and A5L in accordance with ISO 216 and ISO 353. In conformity with annex A of ISO 3535 the following measurements apply:

Left-hand margin 20 mm \pm 1,0 mm

Top margin 10 mm \pm 1,0 mm

Image area for A4 size 183 mm \times 280 mm

Image area for A5L size 183 mm \times 131 mm

NOTE 1 When applicable, this standard may also be used with other A-sizes contained in ISO 216 or with commonly used non-ISO standardized sizes.

When document contents are to be exchanged between partners using different paper sizes, care should be taken that no information be placed outside the image area common to the paper sizes used.