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**Electronic document management —  
Design and operation of an  
information system for the  
preservation of electronic documents  
— Specifications**

*Archivage électronique — Conception et exploitation d'un  
système informatique pour la conservation intégrée de documents  
électroniques — Spécifications*



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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](http://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](http://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 on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 171, *Document management applications*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Quality, preservation and integrity of information*.

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO 14641-1:2012, which has been technically revised.

## Introduction

Electronic documents are an essential part of everyday business, whether the sources are incoming communications or output from organizations. It is important that electronic documents be stored appropriately, either fully or in part, in secure information systems designed for operations and archiving, in order to meet business, legal or regulatory requirements.

The objectives of secure information systems are to resolve organizational issues such as:

- a) optimization of long-term electronic document preservation, archiving and integrity;
- b) provision of information search facilities;
- c) ensuring ease of access and use of electronic documents.

This document is intended to provide a reference framework for organizations. It describes the methods and techniques to be used for the implementation of an electronic information system for managing documents within an archive. In conjunction with related archival policies of organizations, it describes criteria for system design and specifications for operational processes.

These specifications are intended to ensure that all documents to be managed by the information system are captured, stored, retrieved and accessed in a way that guarantees that the archived document is an authentic rendition of the original document for the duration of preservation. An authentic rendition means that the rendered document corresponds to the source document as it was at the time of input in the information system in respect of criteria of fidelity and integrity, and that this state is maintained for the duration of preservation.

This document takes into account the use of three possible archiving media: physical WORM, logical WORM and rewritable media. Archival integrity is ensured on physical and logical WORM media by the inherent properties of WORM solutions. On rewritable media, integrity is ensured using encryption-like techniques, in particular with checksum calculation or hash function, date and time stamp or digital signature. In all cases, it is necessary to comply with related procedures.

Depending on the types of documents to be archived, other specialized standards can be relevant and used to complement the recommendations in this document.

This document provides a specific and complementary definition of issues addressed in other standards or specifications concerning the management of electronic information. Its content is intended to address execution issues raised in several other documents. These include ISO/TR 15801, ISO 15489-1 and MoReq2<sup>[15]</sup>, which detail specifications for organizing and controlling the lifecycle of archived information for purposes of evidence and operational history, and ISO 14721, which describes the characteristics of an open system for the preservation of digital data.

[Annexes A, B](#) and [C](#) are complementary.



# Electronic document management — Design and operation of an information system for the preservation of electronic documents — Specifications

## 1 Scope

This document specifies a set of technical specifications and organizational policies to be implemented for the capture, storage and access of electronic documents. This ensures legibility, integrity and traceability of the documents for the duration of their preservation.

This document is applicable to electronic documents resulting from:

- the scanning of original paper or microform documents;
- the conversion of analogue audio or video content;
- the “native” creation by an information system application;
- other sources that create digital content such as two- or three- dimensional maps, drawings or designs, digital audio/video and digital medical images.

This document is not applicable to information systems in which users have the ability to substitute or alter documents after capture.

This document is intended for the following users.

- a) Organizations implementing information systems in which:
  - 1) electronic documents created from scan captures are kept in an environment that ensures fidelity with regard to the original and long-term preservation;
  - 2) digitally born documents are kept in an environment that ensures the content integrity of the information and document legibility;
  - 3) traceability is ensured for all operations relating to the electronic documents.
- b) Organizations providing information technology services and software publishers seeking to develop information systems that ensure the fidelity and integrity of electronic documents.
- c) Organizations providing third-party document archiving services.

## 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 2859 (all parts), *Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes*

ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*

ISO/TR 12033, *Document management — Electronic imaging — Guidance for the selection of document image compression methods*

ISO 12653-1, *Electronic imaging — Test target for the black-and-white scanning of office documents — Part 1: Characteristics*

ISO 12653-2, *Electronic imaging — Test target for the black-and-white scanning of office documents — Part 2: Method of use*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 12653-1, ISO 12653-2 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

**3.1 access**  
processes of retrieving and displaying (playing) electronic documents for operational, evidential or historical purposes

**3.2 archive**  
set of documents produced or received, whatever their date, format or storage media, by any individual, organization, public or private service, in the course of their activity

**3.3 archival policy**  
legal, functional, operational, technical and security requirements of an internal or external information system

Note 1 to entry: [Annexes A](#) and [B](#) give principles of an archival policy and of a declaration of archival practices.

**3.4 archive lifecycle log**  
log which records *audit trail* ([3.9](#)) data related to the document lifecycle archiving process

**3.5 archive restitution**  
return and transfer of archived documents to their originator, or to a duly appointed person or organization

**3.6 archival system profile**  
set of properties that applies to a class of *archives* ([3.2](#)) that share common characteristics in terms of confidentiality, retention and disposal schedules, and *access* ([3.1](#)) rights (e.g. create, read, modify, delete)

**3.7 ACU attestation creation unit**  
hardware and/or software devices for the delivery of *electronic attestations* ([3.23](#))

Note 1 to entry: Attestations include a unit identifier and the related archival service identifier.

**3.8 audiovisual**  
communication techniques combining sound and image