



**International  
Standard**

**ISO 3135**

**Marking pens — Durability of written  
line — Documentary use (DOC)**

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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 document 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)).

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For an explanation of 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 [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 10, *Technical product documentation*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

This document is applicable to marking pens for documentary use.

For documentary use, some requirements are necessary:

- a) to assure the legibility of lettering;
- b) for the handling and storage of documents over long periods of time (these requirements are often discussed with the archivist).

An example of documentary use is the preparation of documents that are required as evidence.

Furthermore, pens which meet the requirements for documentary use produce written lines which are more resistant to modification (e.g. attempts to falsify a document) than ordinary marking pens.



# Marking pens — Durability of written line — Documentary use (DOC)

## 1 Scope

This document establishes minimum quality requirements for durability of written line with marking pens for documentary use.

## 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 105-A02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A02: Grey scale for assessing change in colour*

ISO 105-B02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part B02: Colour fastness to artificial light: Xenon arc fading lamp test*

ISO 868, *Plastics and ebonite — Determination of indentation hardness by means of a durometer (Shore hardness)*

ISO 12757-1, *Ball point pens and refills — Part 1: General use*

ISO 14145-1, *Roller ball pens and refills — Part 1: General use*

ISO 27668-1, *Gel ink ball pens and refills — Part 1: General use*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

### 3.1 pen

writing instrument equipped with a feeding system which deposits ink on a surface

Note 1 to entry: It is available in refillable or non-refillable (disposable) form.

[SOURCE: ISO 12756:2016, 3.1.1]

### 3.2 marking pen

*pen* (3.1) which has a nib (made of fibre, felt, plastic and so on) and has an ink reservoir or a structure in which ink is directly contained