INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# ISO/IEC 15418

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# Information technology — EAN/UCC Application Identifiers and Fact Data Identifiers and Maintenance

*Technologies de l'information — Identificateurs d'application EAN/UCC et identificateurs de données de fait et maintenance*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO/IEC 15418 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques.*

Annex A of this International Standard is for information only.

# Information technology — EAN/UCC Application Identifiers and Fact Data Identifiers and Maintenance

## 1 Scope

This International Standard:

- specifies sets of Data and Application Identifiers for the purpose of identifying encoded data;
- identifies the organisations responsible for their maintenance.

## 2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ANSI MH10.8.2, *Data Application Identifier Standard.*
CEN EN 1556, *Bar coding – Terminology*.

## 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the definitions given in CEN EN 1556 apply.

## 4 Data and Application Identifier Sets

Where appropriate, information encoded shall be identified in accordance with one of the following sets of identifiers:

a) EAN/UCC Application Identifiers
b) FACT Data Identifiers

### 4.1 EAN/UCC Application Identifiers

The EAN/UCC item identification system and related encodation standard are complemented by the EAN/UCC maintained Application Identifiers, hereafter referred to as “EAN/UCC Application Identifiers” (EAN/UCC AIs). This International Standard comprises two principal elements which are the key to any encoding system: the data content and the data carrier.

The use of EAN/UCC AIs is subject to the rules established by EAN and UCC.

EAN/UCC AIs identify generic and simple data fields for use in cross sectorial and international supply chain applications. The General EAN/UCC Specifications provide rules for the definition, format and structure of the data fields.

Each EAN/UCC AI consists of two or more characters. The first two digits determine the length of the AI. A list of two digit codes indicating the predefined length of existing and future AIs and their data fields is available from the Application Identifier Maintenance Body specified in clause 5.

## 4.2 FACT Data Identifiers

The full list of registered FACT Data Identifiers and the full specification for their use are found in the American National Standard MH10.8.2 “Data Application Identifier Standard”, hereafter referred to as the “FACT Data Identifiers”.

FACT Data Identifiers may be used with any alphanumeric data carrier and are designed to ensure cross-industry commonality of data identifiers used in automatic identification technologies.

FACT Data Identifiers have a format of one alphabetic character alone, or one alphabetic character prefixed by one, two or three numeric characters.

Some FACT Data Identifiers may incorporate format definitions. A full list of FACT Data Identifiers is available in FACT from:

Chief Operating Officer
Material Handling Industry
8720 Red Oak Blvd. Suite 201
Charlotte, NC 28217-3992 USA
Tel: +1 704.522.8644
Fax: +1 704.522.7826

Customer Service
American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
11 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10036 USA
Tel: +1 212.642.4900
Fax: +1 212.302.1286

# 5 MAINTENANCE

Organisations responsible for the maintenance of EAN/UCC Application Identifiers and FACT Data Identifiers in accordance with clause 4 are as follows.

## 5.1 EAN/UCC Application Identifiers

EAN/UCC Application Identifiers Secretariat:
c/o EAN International
Rue Royale, 145
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2/227 10 20
Fax: +32 2/227 10 21
E-mail: info@ean.be

The mission of EAN and UCC is *“to improve supply chain management and other business processes that reduce costs and/or add value for both goods and services, EAN International and UCC develop, establish and promote global, open standards for identification and communication for the benefit of the users involved and the ultimate consumer”*. The secretariat is responsible for ensuring a consistent and technically sound development of the EAN/UCC system and the working language is English. However, user requests for new or modified EAN/UCC AIs may be submitted, in the local language, to any of the EAN Numbering Organisations (based in 86 countries world wide) or the Uniform Code Council in North America. Contact details are available from the EAN/UCC Application Identifiers Secretariat.

## 5.2 FACT Data Identifiers

ANSI MH10.8.2 Data Identifiers Maintained by
ANSI MH10/SC 8/WG 2
c/o ANSI MH10.8.2 chair
Material Handling Industry Association (Secretariat)
8720 Red Oak Blvd. - Suite 201
Charlotte, NC 28217
Tel: + 1 (704) 676-1190
Fax: +1 (704) 676-1199
E-mail: MH10.8.2.chair@mhia.org (Requestors should submit via Email)

The purpose of the FACT Data Identifier Maintenance Committee is to provide ANSI MH10.8.2 DIs for any legitimate data element used between trading partners, as well as for internal applications, providing that there is no conflict with an existing ANSI MH10.8.2 DI. The Chair of ANSI MH10.8 Work Group 2 provides the secretariat and the working language is English. In order to ensure system integrity, once codified in the standard, ANSI MH10.8.2 DIs are never modified. Should an FACT DI user find that no FACT DI meets their specific need, the user is encouraged to contact the Chair of ANSI MH10.8 Work Group 2 for guidance or submit a request for a new ANSI MH10.8.2 DI. The FACT Data Identifier Maintenance Committee maintains submittal offices in Europe, Japan, and the United States. Contact details are available from the ANSI MH10.8.2. Chair.

# Annex A

(informative)

# User guidance

## A.1 Choice between EAN/UCC Application Identifiers or FACT Data Identifiers

The choice between EAN/UCC Application Identifiers or FACT Data Identifiers for any user will normally be defined in the applicable industry convention being followed.

Other industries developing product or shipment identification conventions should consider business practices, information requirements and systems capabilities of the trading partners in choosing between FACT Data Identifiers and EAN/UCC Application Identifiers. The user may also consider the following guidelines:

a) EAN/UCC Application Identifiers:

The definitions of the EAN/UCC Application Identifiers are supported by application guidelines. The EAN/UCC AIs, and associated guidelines, have been designed for international and multi-sectorial trading purposes.

b) FACT Data Identifiers:

The descriptions in the FACT Data Identifier list are general in nature. FACT Data Identifier users are advised to look for specific application guidelines in their activity.

## A.2 Working with EAN/UCC Application Identifiers and FACT Data Identifiers

This International Standard recognises two identifier groups: The EAN/UCC Application Identifiers and the FACT Data Identifiers. The user, normally in association with trading partners, has to decide which to use.

All user organisations would prefer a universal information flow based upon a single system, however the two systems, which have some very different characteristics and functionalites, are used by organisations that have invested in data systems and see a change to another approach as offering an incremental improvement at a relatively high cost.

Thus some manufacturing industries are forced to work with both systems to meet ALL their customer needs. It is therefore necessary for these industries to build internal systems capable of “mapping” the data in one system to the other. Further, it is often required to assign also the information elements of EDIFACT (or other Electronic Data Interchange Message Set) in the electronic data of the orders and deliveries.

Due to the different philosophies used to develop EAN/UCC Application Identifiers and FACT Data Identifiers it is impossible to provide 100% accurate one-to-one mapping. However, publicly available mappings between EAN/UCC Application Identifiers and FACT Data Identifiers have been developed (one example being *http://www.mhia.org/MH10/SC8/standards/DI_to_AI.html).* These mapping tables may be of help to companies in the situation of using EAN/UCC Application Identifiers and FACT Data Identifiers.