
**Information and documentation —
International Standard Audiovisual
Number (ISAN) —**

**Part 1:
Audiovisual work identifier**

*Information et documentation — Numéro international normalisé
d'oeuvre audiovisuelle (ISAN) —*

Partie 1: Identifiant d'oeuvre audiovisuelle

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Published in Switzerland

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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).

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).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15706-1:2002), of which it constitutes a minor revision. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 15706-1:2002/Amd 1:2008.

The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the normative references have been updated to include revised/newer editions;
- references to “ISAN International Agency” have been replaced with a more generic “Registration Authority (RA)” and a link to the RA listing in the ISO website has been added;
- the reference in 3.2 has been replaced with ISO/IEC 7064:2003;
- references to ISO 15706-2, IETF RFC 4246 XML, and Schema Part 1 and Part 2 have been added;
- normative references to the normative annexes have been added.

A list of all parts in the ISO 15706 series can be found on the ISO website.

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.

Introduction

The ISAN project was administered by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) in association with the Association of International Collective Management of Audiovisual Works (AGICOA), and the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC).

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Information and documentation — International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) —

Part 1: Audiovisual work identifier

1 Scope

This document establishes and defines a voluntary standard numbering system for the unique and international identification of audiovisual works (as defined in 3.1).

An International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) identifies an audiovisual work throughout its life and is intended for use wherever precise and unique identification of an audiovisual work would be desirable. As an identifier, it can be used for various purposes, such as to assist allocation of royalties among right holders, to track the use of audiovisual works, for information retrieval and for anti-piracy purposes, such as verifying title registrations. The ISAN can also provide a basis for supplementary identification systems when version or product information is required (e.g. for applications such as broadcast automation and automated storage and retrieval systems).

An ISAN is applied to the audiovisual work itself. It is not related to the physical medium of such an audiovisual work, or the identification of that medium. Annex A specifies examples of audiovisual works for which an ISAN can be issued and examples of works for which ISAN are not issued.

The issuance of an ISAN is in no way related to any process of copyright registration, nor does the issuance of an ISAN provide evidence of the ownership of rights in an audiovisual work.

2 Normative reference

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/IEC 7064, *Information technology — Security techniques — Check character systems*

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological 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

audiovisual work

work consisting of a sequence of related images, with or without accompanying sound, which is intended to be made visible as a moving image through the use of devices, regardless of the medium of initial or subsequent fixation

3.2

check character

added character which may be used to verify the accuracy of the string through a mathematical relationship to that string

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 7064:2003]

3.3

composite audiovisual work

audiovisual work (3.1) which contains one or more other audiovisual works or parts of audiovisual works, each of which is insubstantial in relation to the entire composite audiovisual work

EXAMPLE A feature film which contains parts of animated cartoons or other film clips; a television program that contains footage from previously produced feature films, from episodes of television series, or from other audiovisual works.

3.4

registrant

producer of an audiovisual work, authorized proxy of such a producer, or other such entity or individual, registered within the ISAN system for the purposes of obtaining an ISAN for audiovisual works

Note 1 to entry: The term registrant as used in this part of ISO 15706 denotes an ISAN registrant for audiovisual works only. ISO 15706-2 deals with registrants for versions of audiovisual works.

3.5

serial audiovisual work

audiovisual work (3.1) produced in individual episodes or parts which bear a relationship to each other and, usually, a common title for the whole series

4 Construction of the ISAN

4.1 An ISAN for an audiovisual work shall consist of a 64-bit number which when presented in human-readable form (i.e. a form meant primarily to be read or written by a person, in contrast to a form primarily meant to be used by data processing equipment) shall be represented as 16 hexadecimal digits using Arabic numerals 0 to 9 and letters A to F of the Latin alphabet. An ISAN for an audiovisual work shall be divided into two segments consisting of a 12-digit root segment followed by a 4-digit segment for the identification of episodes or parts of a serial audiovisual work (see A.11). A check character, in accordance with Annex B, shall be appended whenever an ISAN is presented in human-readable form.

EXAMPLE ISAN RRRR-RRRR-RRRR-EEEE-X

Additional encodings of ISAN shall be as specified in Annexes E and F.

4.2 When the work being registered is not an episode or part of a serial audiovisual work, four zeros (0000) shall be used as fill characters in the episode segment of the ISAN.

EXAMPLE ISAN 2B1A-FF17-3E20-0000-S

4.3 To avoid the possibility of duplication, any ISAN assigned to episodes or parts of a serial audiovisual work shall not contain an episode segment consisting of four zeros (0000).

EXAMPLE ISAN 0123-1230-3210-2310-J

4.4 The ISAN shall be a “dumb” number (i.e. it shall not contain any codes or meaningful components apart from the two segments specified in 4.1).

5 Issuance of an ISAN

5.1 An ISAN shall be allocated by the Registration Authority from the central register of the ISAN system upon application by a registrant.

5.2 Each ISAN shall be issued to only one audiovisual work and each audiovisual work shall be assigned only one ISAN.

5.3 An ISAN is permanently issued to an audiovisual work, and shall never be altered, replaced or reused.

5.4 Further specifications for the issuance and use of ISAN shall be in accordance with [Annex A](#).

6 Affixing and displaying the ISAN

6.1 The ISAN shall be permanently incorporated in, or affixed to, the audiovisual work in all formats (digital or analogue) and in all of the physical media in which the work is made available (e.g. celluloid film or optical disc) to the extent that it is technically feasible to do so.

6.2 The ISAN should be included in the documentation, advertising, and packaging for an audiovisual work.

6.3 When an ISAN is printed or otherwise displayed in human-readable form (e.g. on labels, physical carriers, technical documentation, etc.), it shall be preceded by the letters ISAN and its correct check character, in accordance with [Annex B](#), shall be added at the end of the ISAN character string.

6.4 As an aid to accurate transcription of ISAN in human-readable form, an ISAN should be presented as four groups of four hexadecimal characters each, followed by the check character. Each of these four groups and the check character shall be separated from each other by a hyphen or space. No internal meaning shall be ascribed to any combination of digits within these groups.

EXAMPLES

ISAN 1881 66C7 3420 6541 Y

ISAN 1181-66C7-3420-6541-Y

6.5 The characters A to F appearing in an ISAN and A to Z appearing in its check digit should be displayed in upper-case letters when the ISAN is presented in human-readable form. However, the lower-case and upper-case forms of these characters shall be treated as equivalent.

6.6 If a product number (e.g. an ISBN, a Universal Product Code, etc.) has been assigned to a particular format in which the audiovisual work is issued, the ISAN for the work should be displayed on the container and/or packaging immediately below and clearly distinguished from any standard number assigned to the physical product.

6.7 Further details regarding methods of affixing ISAN to audiovisual works are explained in the users' guide, which is available from the Registration Authority¹⁾.

1) <https://www.iso.org/mara>

7 Administration of the ISAN system

The ISAN system shall be supervised, coordinated and administered by the ISAN Registration Authority. The name and contact information of the Registration Authority for this document can be found at <https://www.iso.org/mara>.

The principal tasks of the Registration Authority shall be as specified in [Annex C](#).

8 Fees

Reasonable fees can be charged for services which the Registration Authority may provide, subject to review and approval.

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Annex A (normative)

General principles for the issuance and use of ISAN

A.1 An ISAN shall only be issued to applicants that are recognized as registrants by the Registration Authority²⁾. The requirements and procedures for registration of registrants are explained in the users' guide available from the Registration Authority.

A.2 A unique ISAN shall be issued to an audiovisual work from a central register of available ISAN, upon application to and acceptance by the Registration Authority.

A.3 Once an ISAN is issued to an audiovisual work, it shall not be issued to any other audiovisual work.

A.4 Registrants shall supply descriptive information about the audiovisual work being registered for an ISAN (see [Annex D](#)).

A.5 Subject to provision of the required descriptive information (see [Annex D](#)), a registrant may apply for the issuance of an ISAN at any time during or after the production of the audiovisual work. ISAN may also be issued retroactively to works produced prior to the implementation of this document.

A.6 The issuance of an ISAN does not provide evidence of ownership of an audiovisual work. The ISAN shall remain the same, irrespective of changes in ownership.

A.7 Some examples of audiovisual works to which an ISAN may be issued are

- motion pictures (e.g. a feature film),
- short films,
- trailers (i.e. previews),
- productions for television or other means of delivery, including individual episodes of serial audiovisual works such as television series,
- industrial, educational and training films,
- commercials,
- broadcasts and recordings of live events such as sports events and newscasts, and
- composite and multimedia works if they contain a significant audiovisual component, including non-linear (e.g. interactive) audiovisual components.

A.8 Some examples of works to which an ISAN shall not be issued are

- any non-audiovisual element of an audiovisual work (e.g. the soundtrack, the screenplay, or a single image from an audiovisual work),
- sound recordings,

2) Registration Authority details can be found at <https://www.iso.org/mara>.

- still photographs, slide sets and similar static images, and
- multimedia works that do not contain a significant audiovisual component.

A.9 Versions of an audiovisual work may be identified as such by using a supplementary identifier or code in conjunction with the ISAN for the audiovisual work.³⁾

Some examples of versions and other kinds of changes for which a new ISAN shall not be assigned are

- different language versions, whether subtitled or dubbed,
- a change in the rights or ownership of an audiovisual work,
- different formats or resolution (e.g. analogue or digital; wide screen or "pan and scan"),
- editing for the purposes of television broadcast, and
- changes in the physical carrier(s) for an audiovisual work.

Further details regarding the identification of versions are available from the Registration Authority.

A.10 Composite audiovisual works

A composite audiovisual work may be issued its own ISAN, independent of any ISAN that may have been issued for the component part(s).

An ISAN issued to a composite audiovisual work shall not replace any ISAN that may have been issued to the component part(s).

A.11 Serial audiovisual works

Each episode or part of a serial audiovisual work shall be issued its own ISAN.

No meaning shall be attached to sequential ISAN regarding the order in which episodes were commissioned, produced or aired.

The Registration Authority shall facilitate the ISAN registration process for individual episodes within a serial audiovisual work, by simplifying the application procedures and descriptive information required for individual episodes as described in [D.3](#) and the users' guide available from the Registration Authority.

3) Specifications for version identification can be found in ISO 15706-2.

Annex B (normative)

Check character for the ISAN

B.1 The purpose of the check character is to guard against errors resulting from improper transcription of an ISAN.

B.2 The check character for an ISAN shall be one alphanumeric character using Arabic numerals 0 to 9 and letters A to Z of the Latin alphabet. The check character shall be calculated over the 16 hexadecimal digits of the ISAN according to a MOD 37, 36 system specified in accordance with ISO/IEC 7064.

B.3 Whenever an ISAN is displayed in human-readable form, the correct check character shall be added as the 17th character at the end of the ISAN character string.

EXAMPLES

ISAN 153C-7365-B36F-844C-N

ISAN 083A 3317 3E20 0000 6

ISAN 2B1A-FF17-3E20-6541-7

B.4 Validation of an ISAN being entered into or retrieved from a database or other machine-readable format by a human shall require the correct check character for that ISAN to be verified or presented.

B.5 When ISAN are accepted into a system from human entry, the entry program shall

- a) silently discard any characters that are not either hexadecimal digits or the alphanumeric check character (e.g. spaces or hyphens used as separators in the ISAN),
- b) ensure that there are exactly 16 hexadecimal digits with one alphanumeric check character, and
- c) treat the 17th character as a check character and confirm its correctness over the previous 16 digits.

B.6 System applications involving entry and retrieval of ISAN data should apply the public domain software for ISAN check-digit calculation provided by the Registration Authority.

Annex C (normative)

Administration of the ISAN system

C.1 General

The ISAN system is a voluntary identification system for audiovisual works. The ISAN system shall be administrated by the ISAN Registration Authority in accordance with the specifications outlined in [C.2](#) and [C.3](#).

C.2 Registration Authority functions

C.2.1 The Registration Authority shall not engage in any form of rights management.

The Registration Authority shall perform the functions described in [C.2.2](#) to [C.2.10](#).

C.2.2 Maintain a central register of ISAN registrants.

C.2.3 Maintain a central register of unique ISAN and associated descriptive information and make it available to authorized users. The Registration Authority shall not link such information to any rights database.

C.2.4 Promote, coordinate and supervise the ISAN system in compliance with the specifications of this document.

C.2.5 Develop, implement, monitor and enforce policies and procedures governing the operations and the process of ISAN registration, including any fees associated with that process.

C.2.6 Develop, implement, monitor and enforce policies and procedures regarding access, including access through digital networks, to the ISAN data maintained by the Registration Authority.

C.2.7 Facilitate the review and resolution of duplicative applications for, or registration of, audiovisual works.

C.2.8 Review and decide on appeals of decisions by the Registration Authority in such matters as

- a) applications to become a registrant,
- b) rejection of ISAN applications, and
- c) disputes concerning the accuracy of registration information about a work.

C.2.9 Develop documentation for users of the ISAN system.

C.2.10 Maintain records of rejected applications for, or cancellations of, registrant status and for ISAN.

C.3 ISAN registration services

- C.3.1** The Registration Authority shall provide the services described in [C.3.2](#) to [C.3.12](#).
- C.3.2** Process applications for registrant status and ISAN and provide guidance to ISAN applicants regarding recommended practices of the ISAN system.
- C.3.3** Ensure that accepted applications are registered in the ISAN system in a timely and accurate manner.
- C.3.4** Issue notification of registrant status to the applicant concerned.
- C.3.5** Issue notification of the issuance of an ISAN to the registrant(s) involved.
- C.3.6** Correct inaccurate descriptive information if appropriate proof of such inaccuracy is provided.
- C.3.8** Maintain records of ISAN issuances and of rejected applications for an ISAN.
- C.3.9** Manage and maintain data concerning registrants and ISAN information in a secure fashion.
- C.3.10** Compile and maintain statistical and financial data on its operations.
- C.3.11** Make ISAN and associated descriptive information available to users.
- C.3.12** Promote, educate and train others in the use of the ISAN system, in accordance with the specifications of this document.

C.4 Delegation to ISAN Registration Agencies

The ISAN Registration Authority may delegate certain tasks and services listed in [C.3](#) to Registration Agencies. Potential registrants are advised to consult the website of the Registration Authority⁴⁾ to find information concerning the most appropriate Registration Agency to contact and the task and services it has been delegated with.

4) ISAN Registration Authority details can be found at <https://www.iso.org/mara>.

Annex D (informative)

Descriptive information for registration of an audiovisual work

D.1 General

In order to adequately describe the specific audiovisual work to which an ISAN is assigned, registrants shall supply the Registration Authority with a specified amount of descriptive information about the audiovisual work being registered, as shown below. Registrants are permitted to update this descriptive information as appropriate.

The Registration Authority is responsible for maintaining this descriptive information in a format that is in accordance with the specifications it has established.

The specifications concerning the type and format of this descriptive information may be modified only by the Registration Authority, in accordance with its rules of procedure and the specifications of this document.

D.2 Descriptive information for registration of new audiovisual works

[Table D.1](#) shows the descriptive data elements to be supplied for the registration of a new audiovisual work.

NOTE See [D.3](#) and [Table D.2](#) for descriptive information concerning episodes within a serial audiovisual work.

Table D.1 — Descriptive data elements for registration of new audiovisual works

Data element	Status ^a	Comments
Title of audiovisual work	R	Using the form in which it appears in the work.
Original language(s) of audiovisual work	R	Using categories represented by ISO 639-2 language codes.
Alternate title(s) in the original language, if applicable	R	
Year of reference	R	Using the year which appears in the work, where applicable.
Year of first publication or communication to the public	O	
Full name(s) of principal director(s)	R	Including surname and forename, if known and applicable
Full name(s) of principal cast member(s) ^b or participant(s)	R	Minimum of three principal cast members, if applicable and available. See footnote b. Include surname and forename, if known and applicable.
Other language version(s), if known	O	Using categories represented by ISO 639-2 language codes.
Title(s) of other language version(s), if known	O	
Is this a composite audiovisual work?	R	If so, supply the title and ISAN of each component part, if applicable and available.

^a R = Required; O = Optional

^b If necessary (e.g. if the cast members cannot be identified), the names of principal characters may be supplied in lieu of the names of principal cast members. The ISAN Registration Authority should be informed of such substitutions at the time of registration.

Table D.1 (continued)

Data element	Status ^a	Comments
Approximate duration (in minutes and/or seconds)	R	If not known at the time of initial registration, the duration should be supplied as soon as possible thereafter. This element may be subject to variation if there is more than one version of a work. It provides a general indication for comparison purposes but is not intended as a precise measurement. The duration is not required for non-linear (e.g. interactive) audiovisual works.
Type	R	For example: feature film; series; commercial; recording of a live event, etc. Using categories specified by the Registration Authority.
Live action or animation?	R	Specify whether the work is animated or live action, or a combination of both.
Is this a co-production?	O	
Full name of main producer	O	Include surname and forename, if known and applicable.
Main production company	O	
Country (or countries) of reference	O	Using categories represented by ISO 3166 country codes. Specify whether country of production or of location of shoot.
Full name(s) of script writer(s)	O	Include surname and forename, if known and applicable.
Any supplementary information, as desired	O	
^a R = Required; O = Optional ^b If necessary (e.g. if the cast members cannot be identified), the names of principal characters may be supplied in lieu of the names of principal cast members. The ISAN Registration Authority should be informed of such substitutions at the time of registration.		

D.3 Descriptive information for registration of episodes within a serial audiovisual work

For ease of registration, the amount of descriptive information to be supplied for episodes within a series or other serial audiovisual work may be reduced (as specified in [Table D.2](#)) once the descriptive information for an initial episode within a grouping of episodes has been registered in accordance with [D.2](#) and [Table D.1](#). In such cases, the first episode registered will become the episode of reference for subsequent ISAN registrations within that same group.

At the discretion of the registrant, new groupings of episodes may be established at any time, but each group must have its own episode of reference. Each new group of episodes will be cross-referenced to the first group within the ISAN database.

Table D.2 — Descriptive data elements for registration of episodes

Data element	Status ^a	Comments
Title of entire serial audiovisual work	R	Using the form in which it appears in the work.
ISAN of episode of reference	R	Normally the ISAN for the first episode registered.
Title of episode	R	Required if applicable; if the episode has no title the episode number must be supplied.
Number of episode	R	Required if applicable; if the episode has no number, the episode title must be supplied.
Year of reference for episode	R	Using the year which appears in the episode, where applicable.
Year of first publication or communication of episode to the public	O	
Full name(s) of principal director(s) of episode	O	Including surname and forename, if known and applicable.
Full name(s) of principal cast member(s) ^b or participants in episode	O	See footnote b. Include surname and forename, if known and applicable.
Full name(s) of script writer(s) of episode	O	Include surname and forename, if known and applicable.
Approximate duration (in minutes and/or seconds) of episode	O	If not known at the time of initial registration, the duration should be supplied as soon as possible thereafter. This element may be subject to variation if there is more than one version of an episode. It provides a general indication for comparison purposes but is not intended as a precise measurement.
Any supplementary information concerning the episode, as desired	O	Include any of the data listed in Table D.1 that are different for the individual episode (e.g. a different country of production).

a R = Required; O = Optional

b If necessary (e.g. if the cast members cannot be identified), the names of principal characters may be supplied in lieu of the names of principal cast members. The ISAN Registration Authority should be informed of such substitutions at the time of registration.

D.4 Descriptive information for registration of back stock of audiovisual works

For registration of back stock or other audiovisual works produced prior to the implementation of ISAN by the registrant, descriptive information specified as “required” is required only if it is available at the time of registration. A registrant or the ISAN Registration Authority may supply any missing data after the initial registration of the work.

Annex E
(normative)

Binary encoding of ISAN for audiovisual works

The human-readable form of an ISAN for an audiovisual work consists of 16 hexadecimal digits as defined in [Clause 4](#). When represented in a binary, machine-readable form, it shall be encoded as 64 binary bits with the leading letters, “ISAN”, and trailing check digit that are used in the human-readable form omitted. The 64 bits are encoded and transmitted as an unsigned integer, most significant bit first (*uimssf*, as used in ISO/IEC 13818-1). This is illustrated in [Figure E.1](#) below.



Key
msb = most significant bit
lsb = least significant bit

Figure E.1 — Binary encoding of ISAN for audiovisual works

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