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**Document management — Minimum  
requirements for the storage of  
documents**

*Gestion de documents — Exigences minimales pour le stockage des  
documents*

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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 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 171, *Document management applications*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Quality, preservation and integrity of information*.

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO/TS 19475-1, ISO/TS 19475-2, and ISO/TS 19475-3.

Any feedback or questions about 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 specifies the minimum requirements for the operation of a document management system necessary to maintain authenticity, integrity and readability of those managed documents.

Overall business operations are composed of the functions of receiving the document(s), performing the work processes according to its contents, reporting the results of the processes and delivering an outcome. A document management system serves the basic purpose of controlling the handling of the received document, establishing the work processes and delivering the result of those processes. Therefore, the reliability of the business processes and the process itself heavily depend on the reliability of the document used as well as the reliability of the document management system.

The following operations are specified in this document, which relate to maintaining the reliability of business activities:

- an operation that maintains the reliability of the received documents;
- an operation that maintains the integrity of the process activities; and
- an operation that ensures the authenticity of the delivered documents.

The reliability of the work processes is demonstrated by the effectiveness evaluation of the internal controls of the organizations. Management is responsible for creating evidence during the organization's business activities, ensuring and maintaining authenticity and integrity of the documents. Retained documents produced as evidence of work are audited and assessed for validity. The framework and the controls for preserving documents are described in ISO 15489.

ISO 14641 describes the methods for storing created or received electronic documents and provides the guidelines for maintaining their integrity.

An electronic document management system (EDMS) is an effective technology for handling storage to ensure the reliability of documents processed internally in an organization.

The above-mentioned mechanisms are a useful foundation for demonstrating the integrity of work processes.

However, in executing their business operations, organizations create or receive various types of documents and deliver them to other organizations. Sharing documents has the potential for a variety of risks.

There is the risk that the organization can receive a document without any right to use it. There is also the risk that the document contains false information, that the information was received through inappropriate communication channels or, that the information is inappropriate for business purposes. Any of these circumstances degrade the reliability of the work processes.

There are also risks involved when delivering a document to another organization. For example, it can be delivered to the wrong party or the information is not appropriate to be shared. Organizations need to take the necessary steps to mitigate these risks.

Organizations need to clarify their handling process procedures for receipt and delivery of documents. Document handling procedures need to include quality criteria for the documents to be processed.

By applying the controls described in this document, an organization can operate their document management system appropriately.

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# Document management — Minimum requirements for the storage of documents

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the minimum requirements necessary to maintain the authenticity, integrity and readability of documents managed by an electronic document management system. Clarifying the methods and procedures for appropriately handling electronic documents promotes the usability of the documents, in both a legal and business context.

This document expresses a general business process as a document handling process. The document handling processes include receiving, processing and delivering the documents as follows:

- approving the receipt of a document in a manner that is appropriate for a work process;
- storing the formal document in the work process environment;
- delivery of the document to another organization.

This document establishes the controls for execution of the work processes while maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the document received.

This document establishes the policies for the storage of documents used as part of the work process. It also details the controls for performing the receipt and conversion process appropriately.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes the 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 14641, *Electronic document management — Design and operation of an information system for the preservation of electronic documents — Specifications*

## 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

#### **enterprise content management**

#### **ECM**

strategies, methods and tools used to capture, manage, store, preserve and deliver content and documents (3.6) related to organizational processes

[SOURCE: ISO 12651-1:2012, 4.53, modified — Note 1 to entry has been removed.]

**3.2**  
**electronic document management system**  
**EDMS**

software program that manages the creation, storage and control of *documents* (3.6) electronically

**3.3**  
**preservation system**

system that maintains the authenticity, *integrity* (3.7) and readability of *documents* (3.6) over time

**3.4**  
**storage system**

information technology system that has the capability of managing electronically stored *documents* (3.6)

**3.5**  
**database**

collection of machine-readable information organized so that it can be easily accessed, managed and updated

[SOURCE: ISO 5127:2017, 3.1.13.03]

**3.6**  
**document**

information and the medium on which it is contained

[SOURCE: ISO 9000:2015, 3.8.5, modified — The Example and Notes 1 to 3 to entry have been removed.]

**3.7**  
**integrity**

property of accuracy and completeness

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 27000:2018, 3.36]

**3.8**  
**metadata**

data about other data, *documents* (3.6) or records that describes their content, context, structure, data format, provenance, and/or rights attached to them

[SOURCE: ISO 5127:2017, 3.1.10.26.01]

## 4 General

### 4.1 Policy

This document specifies the minimum requirements for the handling of electronic documents in the framework of a business process. Storage of the document(s) involved with the general handling processes are controlled in accordance with EDMS and ECM requirements (see [Annex A](#)). The preservation and maintenance of the evidential value of the information used in business processes are in accordance with the preservation system specified in ISO 14641.

This document describes a document handling process. The document handling process includes, but is not limited to, receipt, processing and delivery of documents. The relationships are shown in [Figure 1](#).

When a document is received, the receiving organization stores it and, if necessary, sets the data format and form appropriate for the processing process.

Each receiving organization stores the document in a storage system so that the change history of the document throughout the handling process is securely maintained. Maintaining a log of the handling process in the preservation system also is required.

After processing is complete, if necessary, the delivering organization formats the document appropriately for the recipient's use. The organization sending the document transfers or shares it to another organization.

The integrity of a delivered document should be tracked throughout the document processing process. Therefore, organizations can use work-related documentation to fulfil accountability.

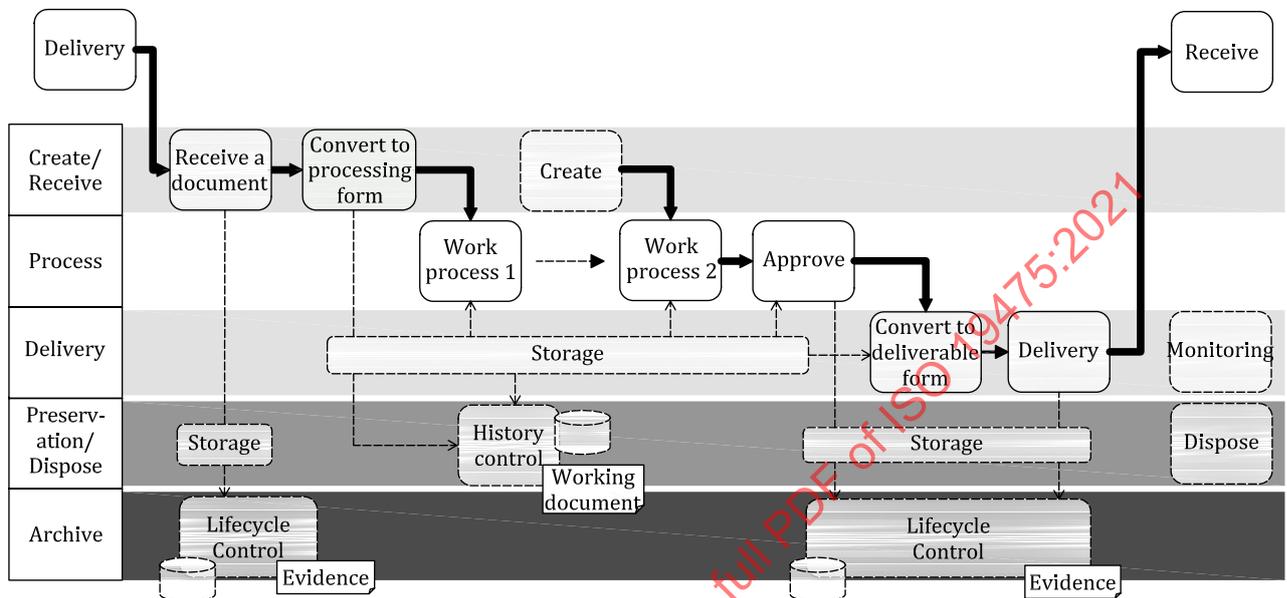


Figure 1 — Document handling processes

The organization validates that the document received contains the information required for processing, and whether the organization had the right to receive it. After the document is received, it can be converted into a format appropriate for handling. There is also a process for the verification that the conversion was made accurately.

The organization review documents that are created or received by following the specified processes. These processes include checks that confirm the integrity of the processing results and approved the document.

The approved document may be reformatted as appropriate for the recipient's use prior to delivery. The delivered document is then stored within the preservation system. The delivered document is monitored in terms of use, transfer, copying, updates and disposal.

By handling the document according to the methods described in this document, the integrity of document handling is assured.

## 4.2 Document types

Types of document to be received by the organization are as follows:

- in paper form, such as an application document;
- a scanned electronic document from an original hard copy or photograph (.jpeg image), etc.;
- a document that was packaged with other forms of data (office systems, CAD, etc.);
- a document extracted from database information using an application program interface (API);
- a document obtained through a network via API (in this case, the document is not actually moving);
- a document that is part of a data stream.

Each type of information needs a different type of control. Therefore, having specific controls for each type reduces the risk of losing information or creating an error.

### **4.3 Controlling a received and delivered document**

To maintain the quality of the handling process, the integrity of the document received and delivered shall be confirmed.

This is critical to ensure the integrity and reliability of the receipt the document, converting where appropriate into a usable format and this approving the deliverable form and delivery processes of the document.

To maintain reliability of these processes, manage the document as follows:

- define the type of document to be handled;
- define the handling procedure for each type of document;
- note the context of the handling process so that each process can be audited;
- when any problems are found during an audit, conduct correction and improvement actions.

NOTE “Context” is defined as information related to the document handling history. Examples include the document author, references, update log, handling logs related to processing, etc.

### **4.4 Risks in document handling and measures**

#### **4.4.1 Receipt and conversion**

An organization receives and, where necessary, converts the documents it receives into a format that is appropriate for use in the organization. This document is then used according to the handling process specified in this document.

This subclause describes the risks associated with the organization responsible for receiving and converting the documents.

Examples of the risks are as follows:

- an organization can receive a document that it does not have the right to use;
- an inadequate decision can be taken if inappropriate documentation is processed
- incorrect worker assignments can cause information leakage and false information;
- when authenticity of the document received is not confirmed, it is not possible to maintain the integrity of the documentation process and the delivered documents.

#### **4.4.2 Recipient and delivery**

This subclause describes the risks associated delivery processes.

Examples of the risks are as follows:

- the delivery of the document is inconsistent with the work process (tampering);
- inappropriate documents are delivered (error);
- the document is delivered to unauthorized users;
- the document is destroyed while in use.

## 5 Receipt and approval

### 5.1 Requirements

Organizations should define handling methods for each type of document to properly control the documents they receive.

The type of document and the handling methods are defined according to the receiving policy and the contract with the vendor or customer.

NOTE The type of document is defined by its use and purpose. The format of the document is defined by its handling method.

### 5.2 Controls for receipt

The organization shall confirm the skill level of the person responsible for receiving the document before giving the work order.

The organization shall confirm whether it has the rights and privileges to receive and use a received document.

An organization shall not receive types of document they do not have the rights and privileges to use.

The organization shall maintain the integrity of the document received and approved in accordance with its purpose for processing.

The organization shall maintain the quality of the equipment involved in the receiving and approval processes.

When outsourcing receipt duties to another organization, care shall be taken to avoid receiving documents not authorized to be outsourced.

NOTE The authenticity and reliability of the document received is either confirmed by such public credibility information as an electronic signature or time stamp, or the organizational trust or credibility of the party who sent the information.

### 5.3 Controls for approval

Controls for the approval process of the document received from an outside organization into a format appropriate for the document handling process are explained below.

Approval processes for the purpose of conversion include digitizing a paper document received, registering or duplicating the document, whether received in paper form or an electronic file, and deploying a data file received into processing.

NOTE Security risks in terms of physical security or system security are not discussed in this document. Please refer to the relevant IT security standards.

When converting a document into a format that is appropriate for processing, the organization should ensure that the information content of the received document and the converted document are not compromised.

During the receipt process, handling shall be suspended if the information includes a document that is not able to be approved. When the receipt process is suspended, the organization shall store the information in question and return the relevant document to the sender.

NOTE See [Annex B](#) for the controls for inspection of the document format received.

### 5.4 Document to be used at processing

Metadata shall be extracted from the received document that will be used during processing.

Metadata to be used during the document handling processes contains rights and privileged information, information for identifying the document, and the purpose of the document being processed for use.

Metadata is used to control the processes of the users and custodians of the document, as well as to identify the processing procedures.

The organization shall store the extracted metadata as well as the received contents into the EDMS or ECM.

NOTE The requirements for EDMS and ECM are shown in [Annex A](#).

### 5.5 Preserving the receiving and approved context

The context of the receiving and approval operations shall be recorded as a system log or as an operations log. The context information contains the received and approved documents; the software used for approval and the converted documents (if necessary) for use, and stores this information in the preservation system.

The document metadata shall contain the name of the person that created it, an electronic signature and a time stamp marking the date it was preserved. The use of an electronic signature and time stamp shall be as described in ISO 14641.

NOTE 1 The requirements for ensuring the authenticity of the preserved document can vary depending on local regulations.

- 1) Authorize the output document.
- 2) Authenticate and apply a time stamp for both the received document and the output document.
- 3) Documents are stored with a trusted storage service. This document is called a true copy.

In addition, the context information (use log, reference log, update log, etc.) related to the generation of the document is preserved with an electronic signature and time stamp.

- 4) In addition to 2), the name and version of the software program used for editing and creation is also recorded and stored.

In addition to above, the usage history of the system program should be required.

NOTE 2 Local legislation can exist concerning the evidential requirements of documents.

NOTE 3 The document to be stored contains the name of the person, the date of creation, etc. It is critical to decide on the handling procedures to ensure data integrity according to the information handling rules.

## 6 Delivery

### 6.1 Requirements

Organizations should define the handling methods for each type of document to be controlled and delivered.

The type of document and the handling methods are defined according to the delivery policy and the contract with the vendor or customer.

NOTE See [Annex C](#) for the controls for inspection of the document format that is deliverable.

### 6.2 Controls for the delivery process

The organization shall preserve appropriate and validated business processes according to roles and responsibilities. Thus, the organization maintains the integrity of the processing process.

The organization shall assign appropriate workers to the delivery process.

The organization shall ensure that the organization to which the document is to be delivered has the rights and privileges to use the document that is being shipped to them.

The organization shall only deliver documents that they have the authority and privileges to deliver.

The organization shall maintain the integrity of the delivery process.

The organization shall maintain the quality of the equipment used for the delivery process.

The organization shall suppress the format and range of the document against the request of the delivery destination.

In addition, the organization shall convert to the format and range of the documents that have been made to the destination request.

The organization shall select an appropriate communication channel.

The organization shall be able to monitor the usage status of the information delivered.

The organization shall define the expiration date of the delivered document.

The document delivered and the preservation of the delivery log shall not be destroyed within the period specified.

The delivered document shall be recovered or disposed of upon expiration.

### 6.3 Controls for the recipient process

The receipt process is the process of converting the document into a format appropriate for its delivery and use by the other party, where this is necessary. This includes editing or redacting the document according to the rights and privileges of the receiving organization.

When converting a document to a format that is appropriate for delivery, the organization should ensure that the information content of the processed document and the converted document are not compromised.

The organization shall not convert a document that is not appropriate for delivery.

The organization shall handle the documents to be delivered in accordance with confidentiality or integrity requirements.

### 6.4 Preservation of the delivery context

The organization shall preserve within the created document the context information related to approval for recipient and delivery. This context information contains approval for recipient and delivery details and the content of the document. It also includes details of the software used for processing, usage information and data regarding storage of the document into the preservation system.

Document metadata includes the name of the person who created the document and an electronic signature and time stamp marking the date it was preserved. The use of an electronic signature and time stamp shall be as described in ISO 14641.

NOTE 1 Local legislation can exist concerning the business rules related to the management of documents.

NOTE 2 When storing the document, the name of the person who created and the date it was created are included. The handling methods by which the integrity of the stored information is ensured shall be defined based on the document handling rules.

## 6.5 Monitoring of the delivered document

An organization shall monitor the use of delivered documents.

Monitoring methods for the document to be delivered shall be defined according to the confidentiality and rights of the document.

The organizations shall prohibit unauthorized users from accessing documents.

The organization shall assign an expiration date to the documents they deliver. The organization to which the document is delivered may use the document until its date of expiration.

## 7 Storage

The receiving organization shall store the documents it receives in its EDMS/ECM systems, as well as in their preservation systems.

Requirement for EDMS/ECM are shown in [Annex A](#).

When processing of a document is complete, the document and metadata processed are combined and stored in the preservation system.

The organization that delivers a document also makes a copy of the delivered document or preserves the original in its preservation system.

Detailed requests of the preservation system shall be as described in ISO 14641.

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## Annex A (informative)

### Requirements for EDMS/ECM

#### A.1 Purpose of EDMS/ECM

Information technology systems for the business use of documents are often difficult to manage in terms of maintaining document integrity. For example, a user may not be able to control whether a document is transferred to an appropriate party.

In this situation, it is advised to use an electronic document management system (EDMS) (see ISO/TR 22957).

According to ISO 14641, to confirm the integrity of a stored document, it is required that data be related to the context of the machine generation. Authentication by organization also is required. During processing, it is desirable that the document being handled via EDMS is controlled.

#### A.2 Requirements

The organization stores information related to the preparation, updates, etc., of the document to be processed.

The organization restricts access to document in progress from parties who do not have permission to process it.

#### A.3 Controls

The organization assigns a user, person to make updates, etc., to the document in question for each step of the document handling process.

The organization determines the type of document information to be processed.

The organization determines the type of data to be processed.

The organization assigns a unique ID to the document to be processed.

Through this ID, the organization recognizes the document and track its generation, use and sharing.

The organization uses the documents stored in its preservation system when quoting document information that has been processed.

When information is cited, the organization retains the data indicating that it has been cited.

An organization undertakes a delivery process if the organization needs to deliver in-process documents to other organizations during processing.

An organization, in the middle of processing, can receive documents from other organizations and continue processing in terms of receipt of the document.

When an organization uses data to publish the processing results in a database, it undergoes a reliability assessment of the database handling program.

The organization undergoes an audit of its EDMS/ECM.

Audit criteria is developed with reference to ISO 18829.

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## Annex B (informative)

### Approval processes

#### B.1 Documents to be approved

##### B.1.1 Identify the document

The organization needs to identify the receiving process and type of document.

NOTE Local legislation can exist concerning the requirements for storage and for storage systems.

The document has identifiers so that it can be retrieved using this identifier. Identifiers can consist of metadata as context or semantic information.

During receiving process, the document is inspected to confirm that it is the one defined. The handling process is determined depending on the type and category.

This way, the type of document received and the type of document to be used during the work process is accurately determined.

##### B.1.2 Approval for each type of format

###### B.1.2.1 Paper document

The following steps are to be taken to use a paper document that has been received:

- input the information on a paper form into the database;
- approval of the quality of the image data while maintaining its physical layout (scanning).

When inputting the information on paper form into the database, the original needs to be compared to the information that is in the database. Verification that this comparison was made is required.

The paper original is archived as evidence. When scanning for archive purposes, the conversion is done in the format specified in ISO 14641.

When scanning a paper document, make sure that the number of pages, orientation and image quality are appropriate for the equipment to be used.

To ensure the authenticity of the electronic document that was received and digitized, the paper original received needs to be destroyed. To ensure the integrity of the receipt and digitizing processes, electronic signature or time stamp technology is to be used to authenticate the digitized document so that the reliability of the document can be confirmed.

###### B.1.2.2 Scanned document

When a scanned image is received via facsimile (fax) machine or as an e-mail attachment, it is often necessary to extract text data for further processing. When the corresponding document is manually approved, the receiving organization collates the received document and the approval data.