
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



2108

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION • МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ • ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Technical Committees are circulated to the Member Bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 2108 was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Documentation*.

It was approved in September 1971 by the Member Bodies of the following countries:

Austria	Iran	Portugal
Belgium	Ireland	South Africa, Rep. of
Czechoslovakia	Israel	Sweden
Finland	Italy	Switzerland
France	Netherlands	Turkey
Germany	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Hungary	Norway	U.S.A.
India	Poland	

The Member Body of the following country expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds:

Japan

Documentation — International standard book numbering (ISBN)

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

The purpose of this International Standard is to co-ordinate and standardize internationally the use of book numbers so that an international standard book number identifies one title, or edition of a title, from one specific publisher, and is unique to that title or edition. To this end, it specifies the construction of an international standard book number and the location of the printed number on the book.

2 CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK NUMBER

An international standard book number consists of ten digits¹⁾ made up of the following parts :

- group identifier (i.e. national, geographical, language or other convenient group);
- publisher identifier;
- title identifier;
- check digit.

When an international standard book number is either written or printed it shall be preceded by the letters ISBN, and each part shall be separated by a space or a hyphen as in the following examples :

ISBN 0 571 08989 5
ISBN 90-7000-234-5

2.1 Group identifier

The group identifier will be allocated by an international standard book number agency. It will vary in length from

1) These digits are the arabic numerals 0 to 9; in the case of the check digit only, an X can sometimes occur (see 2.4).

group to group according to the title output of the group concerned.

2.2 Publisher identifier

The publisher identifier will be allocated internally within the group, by the agency appointed for this purpose. It will vary in length from publisher to publisher according to the title output of the publisher concerned.

2.3 Title identifier

The length of the title identifier will be determined by the length of the group and publisher identifiers which precede it.

2.4 Check digit

The check digit is calculated on a modulus 11 with weights 10-2, using X in lieu of 10 where 10 would occur as a check digit.²⁾

3 PRINTING ON BOOKS

The international standard book number shall be printed on the verso of the title-leaf or, if this is not possible, at the foot of the title-leaf itself (see ISO/R 1086). It shall also appear at the foot of the outside back cover if practicable, and at the foot of the back of the jacket if the book has one; if neither of these alternatives is possible, then the number shall be printed in some other *prominent* position on the outside.

REFERENCE

ISO/R 1086, *Title-leaves of a book*.

2) See International Standard ISO... concerning ISBN guidelines. (In preparation.)