
**Information and documentation —
International Standard Text Code (ISTC)**

*Information et documentation — Code international normalisé des
textes (ISTC)*

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ISO 21047:2009

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 21047 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

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Introduction

The purpose of the International Standard Text Code (ISTC) is to enable the efficient identification of textual works. The ISTC provides a means of uniquely and persistently identifying textual works in information systems and of facilitating the exchange of information about those textual works between authors, agents, publishers, retailers, libraries, rights administrators and other interested parties, on an international level.

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Information and documentation — International Standard Text Code (ISTC)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the International Standard Text Code (ISTC) which is applicable to any textual work, whenever there is an intention to produce such a textual work in the form of one or more manifestations. It provides an identification data element for applications that record and exchange information about textual works and related manifestations. For example, the ISTC can be used for the purposes of collocating subsequent manifestations of the same textual work or derivations of the same textual work in applications involving electronic rights administration or information retrieval.

The ISTC is not applicable to manifestations of a textual work, including any physical products (e.g. a printed article) or electronic formats (e.g. an electronic book). Manifestations of textual works are the subject of separate identification systems.

The allocation of an ISTC to a textual work gives no meaning or value as legal evidence regarding the copyright status of, or any intellectual property rights in, the textual work.

2 Normative references

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The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 639-2, *Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 2: Alpha-3 code*

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.

3.1

administrative metadata

data collected for the management of the ISTC registration process [including data about the **registrant** (3.10)]

3.2

author

creator (3.5) wholly or partly responsible for the intellectual content of a **textual work** (3.12)

3.3

check digit

added digit that may be used to verify the accuracy of a standard number through a mathematical relationship with the digits contained in that number

- 3.4 contributor**
person or organization contributing to the making of a **textual work** (3.12) in whole or in part
- 3.5 creator contributor** (3.4) responsible for originating content in a **textual work** (3.12)
- 3.6 derivation**
distinctive **textual work** (3.12) made predominantly out of material from another **textual work** (3.12) or works
- 3.7 ISTC metadata**
descriptive data declared and recorded as part of the ISTC registration process that allows one **textual work** (3.12) identified with an ISTC to be distinguished from any other **textual work** (3.12) identified with an ISTC
- 3.8 textual manifestation**
tangible or intangible fixation of a **textual work** (3.12) in one or more copies
- EXAMPLE A manuscript, a printed publication, an electronic text file, a spoken word recording.
- 3.9 register**
structured records of registered ISTC and their associated metadata
- 3.10 registrant**
person or organization that has requested and received an ISTC for a **textual work** (3.12) from a designated **ISTC Registration Authority** (3.11) within the ISTC system
- 3.11 ISTC Registration Authority**
organization appointed by ISO for the purposes of administering the ISTC system and managing its deployment
- 3.12 textual work**
distinct, abstract creation of intellectual or artistic content composed predominantly of a combination of words, whose existence is revealed or intended to be revealed through one or more **textual manifestations** (3.8)
- NOTE For the purposes of ISTC registration, the term **textual work** (3.12) also encompasses the various categories of expression of intellectual or artistic content in textual form (e.g. a novel, a play, a translation) but excludes any aspects of physical form (e.g. print, electronic) in which such expressions are made manifest. See **textual manifestation** (3.8).
- 3.13 title**
word, phrase, character or group of characters, usually appearing on **textual manifestations** (3.8) of a **textual work** (3.12), that names the textual work and normally distinguishes it from others

NOTE Adapted from ISO 690-2:1997, definition 3.17, and ISO 5127:2001, definition 4.2.1.4.01.

4 Structure and syntax of the ISTC

4.1 Basic structure and syntax

An ISTC shall consist of 16 hexadecimal digits using numerals 0 to 9 and letters A to F. It shall be made up of the following parts:

- registration element;
- year element;
- textual work element;
- check digit.

When an ISTC is displayed in written or printed form, the letters ISTC shall precede it. To assist in accurate transcription of the ISTC, all parts should be separated from each other by hyphens or spaces, as shown in the following examples.

EXAMPLES

ISTC 0A9 2002 12B4A105 7

ISTC 0A9-2002-12B4A105-7

4.2 Registration element

The first part of an ISTC shall be the registration element. The registration element shall consist of three hexadecimal digits. The registration element shall be allocated by the ISTC Registration Authority for its internal identification purposes.

4.3 Year element

The second part of an ISTC shall be the year element. The year element shall consist of the four digits representing the year in which the ISTC is allocated.

4.4 Textual work element

The third part of an ISTC shall be the textual work element. The textual work element shall consist of eight hexadecimal digits.

The textual work element shall be allocated by the ISTC Registration Authority to the textual work.

4.5 Check digit

The fourth and final part of an ISTC shall be the check digit. The check digit shall be calculated on a MOD 16-3 system defined in accordance with ISO/IEC 7064. See Annex A for further details.

5 Allocation of an ISTC

See Annex B for the principles for the allocation and use of ISTC.

6 Administration of the ISTC system

The ISTC system shall be administered by the ISTC Registration Authority for this International Standard (hereafter referred to as the ISTC Registration Authority).

The principal tasks of the ISTC Registration Authority are outlined in Annex C.

7 Association of an ISTC with ISTC metadata

An ISTC shall be associated with ISTC metadata (see Annex D) about the textual work it identifies by means of a register. The ISTC Registration Authority shall maintain the register.

8 Relationship with other identifiers

Examples of the relationship between an ISTC and other ISO identification systems such as the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) are given in Annex E.

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Annex A (normative)

Method for calculation of the check digit for an ISTC

The algorithm for calculating the check digit for an ISTC shall be based on ISO/IEC 7064 but uses a MOD 16-3 to handle the hexadecimal character of the ISTC, as shown in Table A.1.

Table A.1 — Hexadecimal (MOD 16-3) check digit routine for the ISTC

Parameter	ISTC component elements													Check digit		
	Registration element			Year element				Textual work element								
n = ISTC number input value	0	A	9	2	0	0	2	1	2	2	3	F	3	3	2	0
i = Position index	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
w_i = Weight for MOD 16-3 using pure system weights	11	9	3	1	11	9	3	1	11	9	3	1	11	9	3	1
h = Hex conversion of n	0	10	9	2	0	0	2	1	2	2	3	15	3	3	2	0
p = Product ($h \times w_i$)	0	90	27	2	0	0	6	1	22	18	9	15	33	27	6	
s = Sum of products	256															
c_d = Decimal check digit (MOD 16 of 256)	0															
c = ISTC check digit based on the hexadecimal of c_d	0															

Annex B (normative)

Principles for the allocation and use of ISTC

B.1 Allocation of ISTC

B.1.1 The ISTC Registration Authority shall allocate an ISTC to a textual work upon request from an author or other person or organization responsible for the creation of that textual work (a “creator”), or from any person or organization authorized to represent the creator. Where reasonable investigation has not located and could not locate a creator or an authorized representative of a creator, any person or organization may request an ISTC.

B.1.2 The same ISTC shall not be allocated to more than one textual work.

B.1.3 The same textual work shall not be allocated more than one ISTC.

B.1.4 Registrants shall supply metadata about the textual work being registered in accordance with the specifications established by the ISTC Registration Authority. See B.2 and Annex D.

B.1.5 Textual works that are eligible for an ISTC include any distinct abstract entity, predominantly composed of a combination of words, that can be described to satisfy the ISTC metadata requirements.

B.1.6 In order to be assigned an ISTC, the declared metadata for any textual work at the time of registration shall contain at least one element pertaining to the work itself that distinguishes it from every other textual work to which an ISTC has already been assigned. If two entities share identical ISTC metadata, they shall be treated as the same textual work and shall have the same ISTC.

B.1.7 An ISTC may be allocated to a textual work at any time; this includes retrospective allocation of an ISTC to textual works already in existence before the implementation of this International Standard.

B.1.8 Any derivation of a textual work can be allocated an ISTC as long as it is distinguished from, and referenced to, the textual work from which it is derived through ISTC metadata.

B.1.9 Once allocated, an ISTC shall never be re-used for another textual work even if it is found to have been issued in error.

B.2 ISTC metadata

Elements of essential metadata for each ISTC registration shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- a) at least one title for the textual work with the appropriate title type indicated (see D.2);
- b) the name of at least one author or other creator of the textual work if on record. If not, the name of at least one other contributor to the textual work with their respective roles indicated (see D.3);
- c) whether or not the textual work is derived from another textual work and, if so, the type of derivation (see D.4.1);
- d) in the case of a derived textual work, the ISTC of the source textual work(s) or, where no ISTC exists for the source textual work(s), the title(s) and the author(s) or other creator(s) of the source textual work(s) (see D.4.2);