



**Information and documentation—  
International Standard Book  
Number (ISBN)**



AS 1519:2018

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- Australian Library and Information Association
- Charles Darwin University
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- Education Services Australia
- Institute for Metadata Management
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# **Information and documentation— International Standard Book Number (ISBN)**

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## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT-019, Information and Documentation, Information Technology—Learning, Education, Training and Research, to supersede AS/NZS 1519:2006, *Information and documentation—International Standard Book Number (ISBN)*.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to establish the specifications for the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) as a unique international identification system for each product form or edition of a separately available monographic publication published or produced by a specific publisher that is available to the public. This Standard specifies the construction of an ISBN, the rules for its assignment and use, the metadata to be associated with the ISBN allocation, and the administration of the ISBN system.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from, ISO 2108:2017, *Information and documentation — International Standard Book Number (ISBN)*.

As this document has been reproduced from an International Standard, a full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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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 on the voluntary nature of ISO 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Identification and description*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 2108:2005), which has been technically revised. It specifies the responsibilities of registrants who apply for and assign ISBN to qualifying publications. Since January 2007, ISBN is only valid in the supply chain in its 13-digit form so the specifications relating to the 10-digit ISBN and its respective calculation method have been removed. A new informative annex describes how an ISBN can be resolved on digital networks such as by being registered as an ISBN-A to become "actionable" or by incorporation into URN:ISBN. Additional specifications on associated metadata and the assignment of ISBN, particularly with respect to digital publications, are also included.

## Introduction

Since its inception in 1970, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) has been internationally recognized as the identification system for the publishing industry and its supply chains. An ISBN enables separate identification of similar publications, such as the same publication made available separately in different product forms, or with different product form features. The ISBN accompanies a monographic publication from its initial acquisition or commission by the publisher and onwards throughout the supply and distribution chain.

As an identifier for publications, ISBN fulfils a critical role in supporting the needs of the book supply chain. The ISBN system serves as a key element of ordering and inventory systems for publishers, booksellers, libraries, and other organizations. It is the basis for collecting data on all editions of monographic publications for directories and databases used throughout the book supply chain. A publication identified by ISBN can be made available more widely and through more outlets, maximizing its sales potential. The use of ISBN also facilitates rights management and the monitoring of sales data for the publishing industry.

# Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

## Information and documentation—International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

### 1 Scope

This document establishes the specifications for the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) as a unique international identification system for each product form or edition of a separately available monographic publication published or produced by a specific publisher that is available to the public. It specifies the construction of an ISBN, the rules for its assignment and use, the metadata to be associated with the ISBN allocation, and the administration of the ISBN system.

This document is applicable to monographic publications (books), not to textual works (content). Monographic publications include individual sections or chapters where these are made separately available and certain types of related products that are available to the public irrespective of whether those publications are made available for sale or on a gratis basis. Examples of applicable and non-applicable products are provided in [Annex A](#).

NOTE More detailed, operational guidance is provided in the latest version of the Users' Manual available from the Registration Authority for this document (see [Clause 7](#)).

### 2 Normative references

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 639-2, *Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 2: Alpha-3 code*

ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*

ISO/IEC 15420, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture techniques — EAN/UPC bar code symbology specification*

### 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 <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1 check digit

final character in the *ISBN* (3.8) string which is related to all preceding characters in the string by a specified mathematical algorithm and which may be used to verify the accuracy of the *ISBN* (3.8) string