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BSI Standards Publication

## Financial services — International securities identification number (ISIN)

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## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 6166:2021. It supersedes BS ISO 6166:2013, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IST/12, Financial services.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

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## **Financial services — International securities identification number (ISIN)**



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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 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 8, *Reference data for financial services*.

This eighth edition cancels and replaces the seventh edition (ISO 6166:2013), which has been technically revised.

The main changes to the previous edition are as follows:

- clarification that the scope covers financial instruments as well as referential instruments;
- addition of new instrument types to which the ISIN code can be allocated (derivative products with EZ and ZZ prefix, baskets, emission allowances and carbon credits);
- addition of new minimum descriptive elements ([Annex B](#)).

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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## Introduction

With the rapid expansion of international business in financial instruments, there was a need for a universally applicable international securities identification number (ISIN).

No worldwide numbering system existed at the time of the publication of the first edition of this document. Countries with a developed financial market identified issues of securities by means of code numbers, which are without any significance outside the country concerned. Instruments of the same issue were identified by means of different numbers in the country where they were physically held, booked or both, with the result that the national numbers may not be applicable in cross-border transactions.

Because of its strong rationalization effect, an internationally applicable numbering system substantially facilitates and supports international business in financial instruments. Such a system is provided by this document. Since the publication of the first edition of this document, its scope has expanded from a focus on securities to a much broader range of financial instruments. In addition, since the publication of the first edition, the Registration Authority (RA) has relied on the work of national numbering agencies (NNAs) which play an integral role in this rationalization effort and in the implementation of this document.

In preparing this document, care has been taken to conserve the national systems to the maximum possible extent, not only because of the good routine and valuable experience collected in this field but also to facilitate the adoption of the worldwide system. Moreover, it provides a system which is easy to apply internationally and establishes an information network which ensures that the required information can be obtained worldwide immediately.

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# Financial services — International securities identification number (ISIN)

## 1 Scope

This document provides a uniform structure for the identification of financial instruments as well as referential instruments (see [Annex A](#)) using a unique identification code and associated minimum descriptive data (see [Annex B](#)).

## 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 3166 (all parts), *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions*

ISO 4217, *Codes for the representation of currencies*

ISO 8601 (all parts), *Date and time format*

ISO 10962, *Securities and related financial instruments — Classification of financial instruments (CFI) code*

ISO 17442 (all parts), *Financial services — Legal entity identifier (LEI)*

ISO 18774, *Securities and related financial instruments — Financial Instrument Short Name (FISN)*

## 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 <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **international securities identification number**

#### **ISIN**

alphanumeric code which uniquely identifies a specific financial or referential instrument

### 3.2

#### **ISIN record**

record which uniquely identifies a specific financial or referential instrument and consists of the ISIN and the minimum descriptive data elements

Note 1 to entry: For the minimum descriptive data elements, see [Annex B](#).

### 3.3

#### **ISIN guidelines**

document developed and maintained by the Registration Authority to promote a uniform process for allocation, registration and dissemination of the ISIN to the financial industry