American National Standard

INCITS/ISO 6709-2008
(ISO 6709:2008 , IDT)

Standard representation of geographic point location by coordinates

Developed by

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Approved American National Standard
ANSI

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Second edition
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Standard representation of geographic point location by coordinates

Représentation normalisée des latitude, longitude et altitude pour la localisation des points géographiques

Reference number
ISO 6709:2008(E)

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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 6709 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 211, *Geographic information/Geomatics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 6709:1983), which has been technically revised.

The first edition provided for the representation of latitude and longitude for geographic point locations. This second edition extends the use of the representation to applications requiring latitude or longitude values to be quoted separately, for example when quoting a difference in two meridian values. It also extends the representation of latitude and longitude to allow the values for each to be held in separate numeric fields.

This second edition additionally provides for the representation of horizontal point location by coordinates other than latitude and longitude, and makes provisions for a variable-length format which has the flexibility to cover these various requirements. It also includes provisions for heights and depths.

This second edition is primarily intended for data interchange between computer systems. Informative Annex D, which summarises the different requirements at the human interface, has been added.

The first edition used the term *altitude* to describe vertical position. This International Standard uses the more general term height and also allows for vertical location to be described as *depth*.

Introduction

Efficient interchange of geographic-point-location data requires formats which are universally interpretable and which allow identification of points on, above and below the earth's surface. Users in various disciplines may have different requirements. This is exemplified by the use of degrees and decimal degrees, as well as the traditional degrees, minutes and seconds, for recording latitude and longitude. Users may also require various levels of precision and may use latitude and longitude without height.

The use of this International Standard will

a) reduce the cost of interchange of data,

b) reduce the delay in converting non-standard coding structures in preparation for interchange by providing advance knowledge of the standard interchange format, and

c) provide flexible support for geographic point representation.