

INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD  
100

This is a preview of "ISO 11800:1998". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

First edition  
1998-04-15

---

---

## Information and documentation — Requirements for binding materials and methods used in the manufacture of books

*Information et documentation — Prescriptions pour les matériaux  
et méthodes de reliure utilisés dans la fabrication des livres*



Reference number  
ISO 11800:1998(E)

This is a preview of "ISO 11800:1998". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Contents

	Page
1 Scope .....	1
2 Normative references .....	1
3 Definitions .....	2
4 Principles .....	5
5 Required characteristics .....	5
6 Statement of compliance .....	6
<b>Annexes</b>	
A Category A binding — Sewn hard cover binding .....	7
B Category B binding — Sewn soft cover binding .....	12
C Guidelines for the production of soft cover and hard cover adhesive-bound books .....	17
D Recommendations concerning fields of application .....	21

© ISO 1998

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from the publisher.

International Organization for Standardization  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Genève 20 • Switzerland  
Internet central@iso.ch  
X.400 c=ch; a=400net; p=iso; o=isocs; s=central

Printed in Switzerland

This is a preview of "ISO 11800:1998". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## 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.

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.

International Standard ISO 11800 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*, Subcommittee SC 10, *Physical keeping of documents*.

Annexes A and B form an integral part of this International Standard. Annexes C and D are for information only.

This is a preview of "ISO 11800:1998". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Introduction

The usability and durability of books held in libraries and archives is a matter of natural concern to the public. Private book buyers and readers have a similar interest in such lasting qualities of the books they purchase. Books, in principle, should remain in good physical condition for as long as their contents are worth preserving. They should be manufactured to meet the requirements of their intended use.

Industrialized manufacturing methods, unfortunately, have not improved the quality of the average book. An increasing percentage of recently produced books tend to fall apart prematurely. Tests in library laboratories and simple observation show that some of the core problems lie in the binding materials and binding methods. Libraries and archives around the world are concerned about the consequences. It is envisaged that, more and more, recently acquired books will either fall apart before they are withdrawn from the collection for textual reasons, or they will have to be replaced or rebound. In either case, library and archival systems worldwide are likely to face enormous expenses in the future if the quality of the average book is not improved. This, for many public, academic and special libraries, could be an incentive to become more selective in their acquisitions and to buy fewer new titles.

This International Standard addresses publishers and book manufacturers. It also addresses acquisition librarians and archivists with a view to informing library and archival staff about the good physical properties they should expect in the books they acquire for public use. The purpose of this International Standard is to provide a means of specifying manufacturing methods and binding materials to be used for the production and making of quality books.

Good quality book bindings should be capable of withstanding ordinary use for a satisfactory period of time without significant breakdown of the binding structure. The properties of a durable book explicitly include the permanency of all the component parts, including its paper, the secure attachment of its leaves together, preferably by sewing, to form the book block, the secure attachment of the book block to its protective cover, and the resistance of the cover to the effects of abrasion, soiling and exposure to light. The concept of durability includes the attribute of flexibility, i.e. the ability of a book to open well without stress under normal reading conditions.

For heavy wear, long-term keeping and eventually rebinding of the book block, adhesive binding is not considered by this International Standard to be as recommendable as sewn binding. For that reason, adhesive binding is not an integral part of this International Standard. Yet adhesive-bound books can be manufactured to meet such simple requirements as the secure attachment of their leaves together to form the book block, the secure attachment of the book block to its protective cover and some resistance of both paper and cover materials to the effects of wear and deterioration. Guidelines for the manufacture of well-produced adhesive-bound books, therefore, are included as an annex to this International Standard. The requirements for adhesive binding include the minimum requirements for acceptable bookbinding under circumstances mentioned in the scope of this International Standard, described in clause C.1 of annex C, and further explained in annex D. For the sake of expediency, the numbering scheme applied in annexes A and B of this International Standard is repeated in the Guidelines for adhesive-bound books in annex C.

Of concern regarding both sewn and adhesive binding are those methods and materials that affect the ease with which a volume can be rebound or repaired. With this in view, and to ensure that books will open easily when in use, this International Standard also includes minimum requirements for the size of the inner margins which must be respected during the imposition of the text matter.