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First edition  
2013-12-15

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## Geographic information — Data quality

*Information géographique — Qualité des données*



Reference number  
ISO 19157:2013(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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)).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 211, Geographic information/Geomatics

This edition of ISO 19157:2013 cancels and replaces ISO/TS 19138:2006, ISO 19114:2003 and ISO 19113:2002, which have been technically revised.

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## Introduction

Geographic data are increasingly being shared, interchanged and used for purposes other than their producers' intended ones. Information about the quality of available geographic data are vital to the process of selecting a data set in that the value of data are directly related to its quality. A user of geographic data may have multiple data sets from which to choose. Therefore, it is necessary to compare the quality of the data sets to determine which best fulfils the requirements of the user.

The purpose of describing the quality of geographic data is to facilitate the comparison and selection of the data set best suited to application needs or requirements. Complete descriptions of the quality of a data set will encourage the sharing, interchange and use of appropriate data sets. Information on the quality of geographic data allows a data producer to evaluate how well a data set meets the criteria set forth in its product specification and assists data users in evaluating a product's ability to satisfy the requirements for their particular application. For the purpose of this evaluation, clearly defined procedures are used in a consistent manner.

To facilitate comparisons, it is essential that the results of the quality reports are expressed in a comparable way and that there is a common understanding of the data quality measures that have been used. These data quality measures provide descriptors of the quality of geographic data through comparison with the universe of discourse. The use of incompatible measures makes data quality comparisons impossible to perform. This International Standard standardizes the components and structures of data quality measures and defines commonly used data quality measures.

This International Standard recognizes that a data producer and a data user may view data quality from different perspectives. Conformance quality levels can be set using the data producer's product specification or a data user's data quality requirements. If the data user requires more data quality information than that provided by the data producer, the data user can follow the data producer's data quality evaluation process flow to get the additional information. In this case the data user requirements are treated as a product specification for the purpose of using the data producer process flow.

The objective of this International Standard is to provide principles for describing the quality for geographic data and concepts for handling quality information for geographic data, and a consistent and standard manner to determine and report a data set's quality information. It aims also to provide guidelines for evaluation procedures of quantitative quality information for geographic data.