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## **Gas cylinders — Identification and marking using radio frequency identification technology —**

### **Part 1: Reference architecture and terminology**

*Bouteilles à gaz — Identification et marquage à l'aide de la technologie d'identification par radiofréquences —*

*Partie 1: Architecture de référence et terminologie*



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Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
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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 21007-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 58, *Gas cylinders*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Operational requirements for gas cylinders*.

ISO 21007 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Gas cylinders — Identification and marking using radio frequency identification technology*:

- *Part 1: Reference architecture and terminology*
- *Part 2: Numbering schemes for radio frequency identification.*

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## Introduction

Throughout industry and in commerce, trade and the domestic sector, the employment of gas cylinders to enable the local consumption and use of gases and liquids without the need for *in situ* high-cost permanent pressure vessel installations is an important part of modern practice.

Such cylinders may provide complex gas mixes for medical, industrial or research use.

The cylinders are made and used in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. All are controlled by international, regional or national regulations in respect of safety, and all require clear marking, and periodic safety checks and maintenance under the provisions of regulations for pressure testing. The requirements for testing will vary according to the design of the cylinder and its contents.

Although manufactured to a specific design for a specific content, the life of such cylinders may be long, often exceeding 50 years. During that lifetime, the cylinders may be used to contain different materials at different fill pressures. As a consequence, the amount of material contained in the cylinders may also vary. It is possible that during this lifetime the regulatory framework permitting and controlling their use may also change.

As the cylinders may contain a wide variety of gases, identification is of paramount importance. It is often mandatory to be able to uniquely identify each cylinder. As many contents are of limited life, and for product quality and liability tracking and tracing, in some circumstances it may be necessary or desirable to identify not only the type of gas or liquid, but also such details as filling station, batch and date of fill.

Various methods and technologies such as physical identification of cylinder characteristics through stamp marking (for information, see ISO 13769); paint (for information, see ISO 32), paper (for information, see ISO 7225), card, metal, and plastic labelling; colour code identification; bar coding and, in some circumstances, other means are already used to make or assist such identifications.

The technology of radio frequency identification (RFID) involves a reader/interrogator station that transmits a predetermined signal of inductive, radio or microwave energy to one or many transponders located within a read zone. The signal is returned in a modified form to the reader/interrogator and the data are decoded. The data component in a gas cylinder's environment provides the basis for unambiguous identification of the transponder and may also provide a medium for a bi-directional interactive exchange of data between the host and transponder. The signal may be modulated or unmodulated according to the architecture of the system.

In many cases, it will be necessary or desirable to use one air carrier frequency and protocol, but this will not always be possible or even desirable in all situations, and it may be useful to separate fundamentally different cylinders by the response frequency.

However, there is benefit in using a standard common core data structure that is capable of upwards integration and is expandable from the simplest low-cost cylinder identification system to the more complex functions. Such a structure will have to be flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, thus enabling different systems degrees of interoperability within and between their host systems.

The use of Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) from ISO/IEC 8824 and ISO/IEC 8825 as a data identifier structure is widely used and gaining popularity. Its usage will provide maximum interoperability and conformance to existing standards and will meet the specifically defined requirements for a generic standard model for portable gas container identification in that it

- enables and uses existing standard codings,
- is adaptable and expandable,
- does not include unnecessary information for a specific application, and
- has a minimum of overhead in storage and transmission.