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Securities and related financial instruments — International securities identification numbering system (ISIN)

*Valeurs mobilières et autres instruments financiers concernés —
Système international de numérotation pour l'identification des
valeurs mobilières (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. www.iso.org/directives

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Securities and related financial instruments*.

This seventh edition cancels and replaces the sixth edition (ISO 6166:2001), which has been extended to cover necessary technical changes, the Registration Authority function as well as the usage of the ISIN record.

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Introduction

With the rapid expansion of the international securities business, there is 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 International Standard. Countries with a developed securities business identified issues of securities by means of code numbers, which are without any significance outside the country concerned. Securities of the same issue are identified by means of different numbers in the country where they are physically held and/or booked. As a result, 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 securities business. Such a system is provided by this International Standard. Since the publication of the first edition of this International Standard, the Registration Authority (RA) relies on the work of national numbering agencies (NNAs) which play an integral role in this rationalization effort and in the implementation of this International Standard.

In preparing this International Standard, 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 is aimed at creating a system which is easy to apply internationally and at establishing an information network which ensures that the required information can be obtained worldwide immediately.