

ISO/IEC 19785-3**Information technology — Common
Biometric Exchange Formats
Framework —****Part 3:
Patron format specifications**

*Technologies de l'information — Cadre de formats d'échange
biométriques communs —*

Partie 3: Spécifications de format d'utilisateur

**Fourth edition
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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 37, *Biometrics*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO/IEC 19785-3:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the patron format “TLV-encoded patron format, for use with smartcards or other tokens (with implicit tag allocation authority)” was deprecated for new applications;
- references previously listed as normative were moved to the bibliography, including ISO/IEC 19785-2, ISO/IEC 8825-1 and ISO/IEC 24787;
- element <sbX> is newly added to the XML-full patron format in [Clause 13](#);
- vocabulary was updated and corrected;
- the ASN.1 definition for the patron format “TLV-encoded patron format for ICCs and other tokens (with explicit tag allocation authority)” and related information in [Clause 19](#) was moved to a new informative [Annex E](#).

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 19785 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

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Biometric-based authentication systems and applications are expected to support multiple biometric devices and multiple biometric data formats. The Common Biometric Exchange Formats Framework (CBEFF) promotes interoperability of biometric-based application programmes and systems developed by different vendors by facilitating biometric data interchange.

ISO/IEC 19785-1 defines the following items that enable standardized biometric data interchange:

- a) a three-part standardized structure for biometric information records (BIRs) consisting of:
 - 1) standardized biometric headers (SBHs);
 - 2) biometric data blocks (BDBs, which can be standardized or proprietary); and
 - 3) optional security blocks (SBs);
- b) variations of the three-part structure to support BIRs containing:
 - 1) only one SBH, at least one or more BDBs and possibly one SB (simple CBEFF BIRs),
 - 2) only one self-identifying SBH, at least one or more BDB and possibly one SB (self-identifying simple CBEFF BIRs), and;
 - 3) more than one BDB along with some number of SBHs necessary to encode the BIR's structure and some number of SBs (complex CBEFF BIRs, multiple CBEFF BIRs);
- c) a self-identifying concept, which can be applied to any variation of the three-part structure for BIRs, using the 'SBIR' field as defined in ISO/IEC 19785-1;
- d) more than 40 data elements and their associated abstract values that can be used in an SBH to describe attributes of a BDB within a BIR, as well as attributes of the BIR itself;
- e) the concept of a CBEFF patron format (but ISO/IEC 19785-1 does not itself define any patron formats), which is a detailed specification of the structure and content of a particular, standardized BIR;
- f) the concept of a CBEFF patron, which is a recognized standards organization that has registered with the Biometric Registration Authority (BRA) and declared its intention to define CBEFF patron format specifications;
- g) the concept of the BRA, which is the mechanism by which unique identifiers are assigned to organizations (standards organizations, vendors and others) that create BDB formats and CBEFF patron formats (ISO/IEC 19785-2 defines the identification scheme for biometric objects and organizations registered by the BRA);
- h) CBEFF data elements [see c) above] that support, within the SBH, the unique identifiers assigned by the BRA for biometric organizations, BDB formats, biometric products, capture devices, feature extraction algorithms, comparison algorithms, quality algorithms, compression algorithms, PAD mechanisms, patron formats (self-identifying or not), and SB formats.

Patron formats can be specified in other standards documents and registered with the BRA (see ISO/IEC 19785-2). For example, there is a registered patron format specified in ISO/IEC 19784-1. For a complete list of registered patron formats, consult the CBEFF Biometric Registration Authority website.

This document specifies a number of CBEFF patron formats that are considered to be of general utility in a variety of domains of use. Additional ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 37 patron format specifications can be published as new clauses in future amendments or editions of this document, or in other ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 37 International Standards.

The CBEFF patron format type unambiguously identifies the CBEFF patron format within the scope of the CBEFF patron format owner. The CBEFF patron format type is unambiguous within the scope of an ASN.1 Object Identifier (see ISO/IEC 9834-1) that identifies the BRA (see ISO/IEC 19785-2). That ASN.1 Object

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NOTE ASN.1 OIDs are used by ITU-T, ITU-R, the UPU and many ISO and IEC Standards, to identify some IETF MIME types and for many other purposes. These acronyms have not been spelled out, as the precise identification of these organizations is not relevant to this document.

The combination of the BRA OID, the CBEFF patron format owner, and the CBEFF patron format type forms a larger ASN.1 OID that provides an unambiguous identification of the CBEFF patron format. This document specifies, for each CBEFF patron format that it defines, the ASN.1 OID that unambiguously identifies that CBEFF patron format.

New implementations can make use of the tag-oriented CBEFF version 4.0 patron formats, i.e. [Clauses 16](#) and onwards.

It is also important to note that, for legacy reasons, the technical content of patron format type 5, TLV-encoded patron format for use with smartcards or other tokens (with implicit tag allocation authority) in [Clause 11](#), is presented as it was originally published in ISO/IEC 19785-3:2007 (with minor editorial updates and technical comments introduced in [Annex D](#)). New implementations can use the explicit tag allocation authority alternative provided by the patron format included in [Clause 19](#).