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Information technology — Structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts —

Part 1: Identification of organization identification schemes

*Technologies de l'information — Structure pour l'identification des
organisations et des parties d'organisations —*

Partie 1: Identification des systèmes d'identification d'organisations



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO/IEC 6523-1 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 32, *Data management services*.

This edition, together with ISO/IEC 6523-2:1998, cancels and replaces ISO 6523:1984, which has been technically revised.

ISO/IEC 6523 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts*:

- *Part 1: Identification of organization identification schemes*
- *Part 2: Registration of organization identification schemes*

Annex A forms an integral part of this part of ISO/IEC 6523. Annex B is for information only.

Introduction

The increased use of data processing and telecommunications capabilities in commercial, governmental and other applications has made possible the interchange of information in an effective machine-processable form. As this type of automated interchange increases, the need for International Standards covering data also increases. ISO/IEC 6523 defining a structure for a globally unique and unambiguous identification of organizations and organization parts is one of a number of International Standards that have been developed as a means for improving the accuracy and effectiveness of data processing and data interchange.

In the development of this part of ISO/IEC 6523, it has been recognized that a single method for identifying all organizations on an international basis is neither feasible nor practicable. Instead, this part of ISO/IEC 6523 recognizes existing methods of identification and provides a means for systematically incorporating these in a uniform structure for the purposes of information interchange. In this part of ISO/IEC 6523 an organization may be identified by more than one identification method.

The use of the structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts, for the purpose of interchange of information, will:

- a) Improve the accuracy of the identification of organizations and organization parts, and hence of the interchange of data;
- b) reduce the need for human intervention in the interchange of information in machine-to-machine environments;
- c) diminish the time required to specify interchange agreements;
- d) as a consequence of the foregoing, reduce the cost of the interchange of data.

Examples illustrating the use of the structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts are given in informative annex B.

The significant changes since the preceding edition of ISO/IEC 6523 (1984) are the following:

- The standard has been split into two parts, according to the ISO/IEC rules for the elaboration of standards;
- The organization name has been removed from the structure;
- The format of the ICD has been changed to variable length;
- The length limit for the organization identifier has been changed to 35 characters;
- The restrictions on the types of characters in the organization identifier have been removed;
- The identification of organization parts, which was only implicit in the preceding version of the standard, through the generic definition given for the word "organization", is now explicit, through a separate data element;
- A component has been added for the specification of the source of the Organization Part identifier.

Information technology — Structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts —

Part 1:

Identification of organization identification schemes

1 Scope

1.1 This part of ISO/IEC 6523 specifies a structure for globally and unambiguously identifying organizations, and parts thereof, for the purpose of information interchange.

This part of ISO/IEC 6523 also makes recommendations regarding cases where prior agreements may be concluded between interchange partners.

1.2 This part of ISO/IEC 6523 does not specify file organization techniques, storage media, languages, etc. to be used in its implementation.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO/IEC 6523. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO/IEC 6523 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO/IEC 6523-2:1998, *Information technology — Structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts — Part 2: Registration of organization identification schemes.*

ISO/IEC 11179-3:1994, *Information technology — Specification and standardization of data elements — Part 3: Basic attributes of data elements.*