
**Information technology — Unique
identifiers —**

**Part 6:
Unique identifier for product groupings**

Technologies de l'information — Identificateurs uniques —

Partie 6: Identificateur unique pour les regroupements de produits

Withhold

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Foreword

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International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 15459-6 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques*.

ISO/IEC 15459 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Unique identifiers*:

- *Part 1: Unique identifiers for transport units*
- *Part 2: Registration procedures*
- *Part 3: Common rules for unique identifiers*
- *Part 4: Unique identifiers for supply chain management*
- *Part 5: Unique identifier for returnable transport items (RTIs)*
- *Part 6: Unique identifier for product groupings*

Introduction

Unique identifiers can occur at many different levels in the supply chain, at the transport unit, at the item level, at the returnable transport item, at the product and/or material level, at the product and/or material grouping level, and elsewhere. Such distinct entities are often handled by several parties: the manufacturer, the wholesaler, the retailer, the consumer, related governmental agency, etc. Each of these parties must be able to identify and trace the product grouping so that reference can be made to associated information such as quality inspection data, the chemical substance to contain, the batch or lot number of parts, components or raw materials, etc.

The information is often held on computer systems, and may be exchanged between parties involved via EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) and XML (eXtensible Markup Language) messages.

There are considerable benefits if the identity of the product grouping is represented by linear bar code and two-dimensional symbols, radio frequency identification (RFID) transponder or other automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) media and attached to or made a constituent part of that which is being uniquely identified so that

- it can be read electronically, thus minimising errors;
- one identity can be used by all parties;
- each party can use the identity to look up its computer files to find the data associated with the product grouping;
- the identifier is unique within the class and cannot appear on any other grouping within the class during the lifetime of the product grouping.

The unique identifier for product groupings defined in this part of ISO/IEC 15459, and represented by linear bar code and two-dimensional symbols, RFID transponder or other AIDC media attached to the entities (e.g. raw material, parts, work in progress, finished goods, certain consumer products), meets these needs.

All AIDC technologies have the potential to encode a unique identifier. It is expected that application standards for items, using various automatic identification technologies, will be developed based upon the unique identifier as a prime key. These application standards may be made available from the Issuing Agency.

Information technology — Unique identifiers —

Part 6: Unique identifier for product groupings

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 15459 specifies a unique, non-significant string of characters for the unique identifier of product groupings. The character string is intended to be represented in linear bar code and two-dimensional symbols, radio frequency identification (RFID) transponder or other automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) media attached to the product and/or material to meet the management needs in a batch or lot unit. To address management needs, different classes of item are recognised in the various parts of ISO/IEC 15459. This allows different requirements to be met by the unique identifiers of each class.

The unique identifier for product grouping enables a product grouping defined by a batch or lot number to be uniquely identified from all other lots and batches compliant with this part of ISO/IEC 15459. Encoding this unique identifier in a data carrier enables information about the quality of product and end-of-life processing to be clearly identified.

The rules for the unique identifier for product grouping, to identify the unique occurrence of that quality, are defined and supported by an example.

NOTE The unique identifier for product groupings is intended for “look-up” purposes, and cannot be directly used as a unique item identifier in the strictest sense of the definition (as used, for example, in ISO/IEC 15459-1, ISO/IEC 15459-4, and ISO/IEC 15459-5).

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 646, *Information technology — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*

ISO/IEC 15459-2, *Information technology — Unique identifiers — Part 2: Registration procedures*

ISO/IEC 15459-3, *Information technology — Unique identifiers — Part 3: Common rules for unique identifiers*

ISO/IEC 15459-4, *Information technology — Unique identifiers — Part 4: Unique identifiers for supply chain management*

ISO/IEC 19762 (all parts), *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) techniques — Harmonized vocabulary*

ANS MH10.8.2, *ASC M H 10 Data Identifiers and Application Identifiers*

GS1 *General Specifications*, GS1