

Australian Standard™

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

**Part 1: Identification of organization  
identification schemes**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT-027, Data Management and Interchange. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 21 April 2005. This Standard was published on 30 May 2005.

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT-027, Data Management and Interchange.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO/IEC 6523-1:1998, *Information technology—Structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts—Part 1: Identification of organization identification schemes*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide a structure for globally and unambiguously identifying organizations for the purpose of information interchange to facilitate electronic data interchange and data sharing for use by electronic commerce and database designers.

This Standard is Part 1 of AS ISO/IEC 6523, *Information technology—Structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts*, which is published in parts as follows:

Part 1: Identification of organization identification schemes (this Standard)

Part 2: Registration of organization information systems

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ are used to define the application of the annex to which they apply. A normative annex is an integral part of a standard, whereas an informative annex is only for information and guidance.

As this Standard is reproduced from an international standard, the following applies:

- (a) Its number appears on the cover and title page while the international standard number appears only on the cover.
- (b) In the source text ‘this part of ISO/IEC 6523’ should read ‘this Australian Standard’.
- (c) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

References to International Standards should be replaced by references to Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards, as follows:

<i>Reference to International Standard</i>		<i>Australian Standard</i>	
ISO/IEC		AS ISO/IEC	
6523	Information technology—Structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts	6523	Information technology—Structure for the identification of organizations and organization parts
6523-2	Part 2: Registration of organization identification schemes	6523.2	Part 2: Registration of organization identification schemes
11179	Information technology—Specification and standardization of data elements	11179	Information technology—Metadata registries (MDR)
11179-3	Part 3: Basic attributes of data elements	11179.3	Part 3: Registry metamodel and basic attributes

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## 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 purpose 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 to the specification of the source of the Organization Part identifier.

## AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

# 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.*

### 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO/IEC 6523 the following definitions apply.

NOTE 1: When a word or phrase appears in italics within a definition, this means that a definition exists in this part of ISO/IEC 6523 for this word or phrase.

NOTE 2: The definitions being presented in a logical order, an alphabetic list is included.

<i>Alphabetic list of the definitions</i>	<i>Subclause</i>
<i>character repertoire</i>	3.14
<i>data element</i>	3.3
<i>data element value</i>	3.4
<i>ICD</i>	3.8
<i>ICD value</i>	3.9
<i>identification scheme</i>	3.6
<i>identifier</i>	3.5
<i>International Code Designator value, ICD value</i>	3.9
<i>International Code Designator, ICD</i>	3.8
<i>OPIS</i>	3.11
<i>OPIS source indicator (OPIS)</i>	3.12
<i>OPIS value</i>	3.13
<i>organization</i>	3.1
<i>organization identification scheme</i>	3.7
<i>organization identifier</i>	3.10
<i>organization part</i>	3.2
<i>organization part identifier (OPI)</i>	3.11