

**ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Secretariat**

National Library of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, CANADA
K1A 0N4

ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Secrétariat

Bibliothèque nationale du Canada
395, rue Wellington
Ottawa, CANADA
K1A 0N4

Telephone - Téléphone
(819) 994-6939
Fax : (819) 953-0291
Internet: iso.tc46.sc9@nlc-bnc.ca

ISO/TC 46/SC 9 N 261

1999-02-06

To: P- and O-members of ISO/TC 46/SC 9
Working Group 1 of ISO/TC 46/SC 9
Selected liaison organizations

cc. C. Deschamps, ISO/TC46/SC9 Chairperson
S. Clivio, ISO Central Secretariat

**SUBJECT: Results of voting and comments on ISO Committee Draft 15706,
“Information and documentation -- International Standard Audiovisual
Number (ISAN)”**

The attached document shows the results of voting and comments on ISO Committee Draft 15706 (TC 46/SC9 N 252) for an International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN).

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- **For discussion and response at the March 1-2, 1999 meeting of ISO/TC 46/SC 9/Working Group 1 in Santa Monica, U.S.A.**
- **For discussion at the May 18-20 meeting of ISO/TC 46/SC 9 in Paris, France.**

This document and a copy of CD 15706 are also available on the ISO/TC 46/SC 9 Web site at:
<<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/15706.htm>>.

With regards,

Jane Thacker
Secretary, ISO/TC 46/SC 9

RESULTS OF VOTING ON ISO/CD 15706

Committee Draft 15706, *Information and documentation - International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN)*. [Distributed as document ISO/TC46/SC9 N 252]

P-Members of ISO/TC46/SC9	Approve	Disapprove	Abstain	Comments
Australia	X			
Canada	X			X
China, P.R.				
Czech Republic	X			X
Denmark	X			
Finland	X			
France		X		X
Germany	X			X
Hungary				
Iran				Membership suspended
Italy	X			
Japan	X			X
Norway	X			
Poland				
Portugal	X			
Russian Federation				
South Africa				
Spain	X			X
Sweden	X			X
U.K.			X	U.K. abstains from work on ISO 15706
U.S.A.	X			X
TOTAL (21)	13	1	1	
Additional comments received from: FIAT				

**Comments on ISO Committee Draft 15706 (TC 46/SC 9 N 252)
International Standard Audivisual Number (ISAN)**

GENERAL COMMENTS

Canada (SCC)

- There is strong support in Canada for the establishment of an ISAN. However, before Canada can support the circulation of the draft standard as a DIS, a large number of concerns which were raised by Canadian respondents should be addressed.

Czech Republic (CSNI)

- The elaboration of the ISO ISAN is according to our opinion a very useful venture. The ISRC designed for identification of audio records will be complemented by further international number designed for a unique identification of other types of products of intellectual activities.

France (AFNOR)

- General comments: In our opinion, three requirements are essential for this International standard :
 1. any producer has the right to ask an ISAN for his work, if he wishes. It is the meaning of voluntary in the case of the standards.
 2. each number ISAN has to be documented by a minimum of required data (year, country, main production company) to insure the unique matching of an ISAN with its specific work.
 3. it is possible for anyone to consult the database containing the numbers ISAN and their required data.

Germany (DIN)

- Germany votes YES on ISO/CD 15706:1998. The German standards committee, DIN-NABD welcomes the publication of ISO/CD 15706. The ISAN working group has done excellent work and we are very happy with the Committee Draft. There are two things which may need some more deliberation [see German comments below re: appendices and in section A.1.9 re: "other language versions"].

- The appendices give a lot of very specific information on the screening and standing of a registrant, applicant and the handling of an application. All this makes a lot of sense, but again the practical aspect: Do these details have to be part of the ISO standard? These general statements, e.g. pertaining to registrants, applicants, etc. should be given while the details should be part of the User's Manual or Instruction Manual. If the present line would be followed practical experience might easily lead to the view that certain small details should be changed and that would lead to a revision of the standard while it would be preferable to have these practical issues changed or adapted within the ISAN community and published in the Manual.

Japan (JISC)

- This scope of CD 15706 includes moving pictures and not always audio information. The term "audiovisual" in this title should be changed to "visual".

U.S.A. (ANSI/NISO)

- The U.S. supports the concept of a unique internationally recognized permanent reference number for audiovisual materials. However, a number of points need clarification for this standard to be successfully implemented. We trust that these matters will be resolved prior to the release of the standard as a DIS. [see U.S. comments under relevant clauses, below]
- It is not clear how this new number will be used in relation to existing standard numbers, (such as the ISBN, Universal Product codes, etc.), which often appear on audiovisual works. The U.S. suggests that this matter be clarified either in the standard or in a non-normative Annex to the standard.

International Federation of Television Archives (FIAT)

- The contact between the ISAN Consortium and the International Federation of Television Archives FIAT now exists for over a year and we are fundamentally acquainted with the concept of the ISAN construction. From our point of view we have no objections whatsoever against the presented draft.

3 DEFINITIONS

3.1 definition of "audiovisual work"

Canada (SCC)

- If the intention is to include multimedia products in the ISAN project, further consideration should be given to the question of including works which are so different in design, production and marketing from other audiovisual works in a standard such as this. If the intention is not to include multimedia products, they should be specifically excluded in the definition.

Sweden (SIS)

- In clause 3 (Definitions) for 3.1 audiovisual work: It must be clearly stated if this also covers computer games or not.

U.S.A. (ANSI/NISO)

- Clarify the definition of audiovisual work. The definition presented in CD 15706 includes slide sets, for example, however, all the examples listed in A.1.7 appear to be in the moving image category. An explicit example of digitized AV material on a CD-ROM or the Internet should be included, if it is, in fact such materials are encompassed by the definition.

3.3 definition of “composite audiovisual work”**Canada (SCC)**

- The word “insubstantial” needs clarification. It is also unclear whether this definition refers only to audiovisual works which have their own ISAN, or whether all existing audiovisual material is included.

3.4 definition of “registrant”**Canada (SCC)**

- 3.4 registrant: The wording of this definition should be amended to emphasise that producers and their authorised proxies will normally be the only registrants, and that registration of any “other such entity . . .” will be a rare occurrence.

France (AFNOR)

- Re: 3.4 (definition of Registrant): “(*registrant: Producer of an audiovisual work, authorized proxy of such producer, or other such entity or individual, approved by a designated ISAN agency for the purposes of obtaining ISAN for audiovisual works.*)”

In our view any producer of an audiovisual work is a registrant “ipso facto”; only individual or entity having a main activity other than producing audiovisual work, (for example museum, archive) should be approved by a designated ISAN agency.

So we propose to delete the comma before “approved by ...” in 3.4 as follows :

3.4 registrant: Producer of an audiovisual work, authorized proxy of such producer, or other such entity or individual approved by a designated ISAN agency for the purposes of obtaining ISAN for audiovisual works.

3.5 definition of “serial audiovisual work”

Czech Republic (CSNI)

- Clause 3.5 (see also Annex A, A.1.11): Instead of the term “serial audiovisual work” we recommend the term “audiovisual work in series” to prevent any confusion with serials/serial publications subjected to numbering by the ISSNs.

4 CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISAN**Czech Republic (CSNI)**

- Clause 4.1 (see also the Rules of procedure..., paragraph A.3): It is not clear what entity would form a regional ISAN agency. Should it be a country or a language, geographical or other grouping of countries (as it is in the ISBN system)? Then the three digit identifier is sufficient but the ISAN would not identify a producer of the work. If it should in a way identify both the country and a producer then 1000 options for doing that is not sufficient.

6 FIXATION OF THE ISAN**Canada (SCC)**

- Strengthen the statement in the third paragraph regarding documentation, advertising and packaging—ISAN should be affixed here, especially to documentation and packaging.

France (AFNOR)

- Re: 6 Fixation of the ISAN (“*The ISAN may be included in all documentation, advertising and packaging concerning an audiovisual work.*”):

In our view, ISAN being a unique identifier will be very useful if known and so the inclusion of ISAN in all documentation has to be strongly recommended. Therefore, in the FAQ, on the ISAN site, at the question “Where will ...” it is answered : “The ISAN should also be included in the documentation and packaging ...”.

So, at least, we ask to use “should” in place of “may“ as follows :

The ISAN should be included in all documentation, advertising and packaging concerning an audiovisual work.

Spain (AENOR)

- Re: clause 6, 3rd paragraph (“*The ISAN may be included in all documentation, advertising and packaging concerning an audiovisual work.*”):

Proposal: The ISAN should be included in all documentation, advertising and packaging concerning an audiovisual work.

Sweden (SIS)

- There should be added information about how to identify what is published in a computer server for distance access.

7 ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISAN SYSTEM

Canada (SCC)

- What is a “region” for this purpose?
- Careful consideration should be given to the pros and cons of structuring the ISAN agencies as non-profit agencies.

U.S.A. (ANSI/NISO)

- Section 7 (Administration): Delete the second sentence. It is unduly restrictive to require that the maintenance agency be a nonprofit organization.

8 FEES

Canada (SCC)

- Will ISAN agencies run on a cost-recovery basis or receive other funding?
- In order to convince production companies that participation in the ISAN program is worthwhile, it is important to ensure that personnel and financial costs of registration are not too high.
- A differential fee structure should be contemplated to make the ISAN databases accessible to potential users with varying resources, such as rights collectives and libraries. The situation of very prolific producers should also be considered. Perhaps an annual fee instead of a per-item fee for registration would be suitable.
- What will the services be which are offered “for a reasonable fee”? Does this clause refer to the registration process or to access for users of the ISAN database?

ANNEX A ISSUANCE AND USE OF ISAN

A.1.2 (re: ISAN issued upon application to a regional agency)

Canada (SCC)

- A.1.2: Reasons for refusal to issue an ISAN for an audiovisual work shall be provided to the applicant.

France (AFNOR)

[same comment as AENOR's, below]

- Editorial comment: Re A.1.2: (*"A unique ISAN shall be issued for an audiovisual work upon application to and approval by a regional ISAN agency."*)
We suggest to replace "approval" by "validation", as we wish a wording without any legal connotation, -more neutral -.
A.1.2 A unique ISAN shall be issued for an audiovisual work upon application to and validation by a regional ISAN agency.

Spain (AENOR)

[same comment as AFNOR's, above]

- Re: A.1.2 (*"A unique ISAN shall be issued for an audiovisual work upon application to and approval by a regional ISAN agency."*)
Proposal: "A unique ISAN shall be issued for an audiovisual work upon application to approval and validation by a regional ISAN agency."

A.1.4 (re: timing of application for an ISAN)

Canada (SCC)

- Suggest including a second sentence: "ISAN will also be issued for works produced prior to the implementation of ISO 15706."

U.S.A. (ANSI/NISO)

- A.1.4 states that the ISAN can be assigned at any time during or after production. If that is the case then how can the ISAN be "fixated" to the product and its documentation?

A.1.7 (re: examples of audiovisual works eligible for ISAN)**Canada (SCC)**

- Clarification should be provided regarding computer programs with moving images.

France (AFNOR)

- Re: A.1.7 (*“Examples of audiovisual works to which an ISAN may be issued are: ...”*):
We propose to add “ etc.” at the end of the list of examples.
 - etc.

Spain (AENOR)

- A.1.7 (*“Examples of audiovisual works to which an ISAN may be issued are ...”*):
Proposal: The precedent list should include :
 - Videoclips;
 - Etc.

A.1.9 MODIFIED VERSIONS OF AN AUDIOVISUAL WORK**Canada (SCC)**

- It is not appropriate to consider a director’s cut a “version” of the original work; it is the original work. Remove the phrase “or a director’s cut” from the first example.
- Clarification is needed regarding the process of embedding code tables in the digital format of audiovisual works, which is referred to in the note regarding language versions. There is also a need to elaborate on how information regarding language versions of non-digital works will be recorded, when this information is listed as optional in Annex D.

Czech Republic (CSNI)

- Clause A.1.9, 1st paragraph: Who should assign the ISAN to a modified version of an audiovisual work when the producer of the original work (initial registrant) does not exist any more?
- In what sense the ISAN of a modified version supplements (but does not replace) the ISAN of an original work? It cannot be done by the ISAN itself because it only uniquely identifies the work but does not supplement it by any other information.
- Clause A.1.9, 2nd paragraph: How could it be concluded if a version of an audiovisual work is a modified one or not? A modified version should be that one the contents of which had been significantly changed comparing with the original work. But what does it mean “significantly changed” (50% of the work is new or 30%?).

France (AFNOR)

- Clause A.1.9 (“*The following ... may be considered as modified versions - a significantly edited version of an audiovisual work, such as: an abridged version or a “director’s cut”;*”)

To allow the standard to be consistent with the various legislation, we request that “and a director’s cut” be deleted as in France we consider always the director’s cut as the original version and the others as modified.

[i.e. change first bullet to:]

“- a significantly edited version of an audiovisual work, such as an abridged version.”

Germany (DIN)

- Other language versions are not eligible for individual ISANs. While this certainly supports the importance of the visual aspects of a work, we wonder whether it is practical to have the respective information only in the metadata (support information). Nowadays identifiers are more and more used to identify an object uniquely (and directly), and it may not be a good idea to have the same identifier for a group of closely related items: Somebody in Thailand may be interested in the English-language or a Thai-language version, even a Chinese-language version, but not in a German-language version. It would be easier for practical purposes to assign individual ISANs to language versions; they might all be linked in the database by means of the support information.

A.1.11 SERIAL AUDIOVISUAL WORKS**Canada (SCC)**

- This section, which refers to “each episode”, should be made consistent with definition 3.5, which refers to “episodes or parts”.

ANNEX B ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISAN SYSTEM**Canada (SCC)**

- Some Canadian agencies have already expressed an interest in becoming authorised users of ISAN support information. The question of access to ISAN databases is touched on in clauses B.1.5, B.1.8 and B2.10, but needs to be greatly expanded on. Canadian respondents wish to see assurances that authorised user status will be readily obtainable, for a reasonable fee, in relation to the resources of the respective users
- Those seeking access to ISAN databases to identify works and administer rights will encompass a much broader group than the producers who are the registrants. The interests of potential users such as audiovisual authors and performers should be respected and their needs

must be considered in administrative questions. ISAN users should have a voice in the governance and rule-setting of the ISAN agencies.

B.1 INTERNATIONAL ISAN AGENCY

Canada (SCC)

- There must be a way for individual countries to be sure that rigorous rules govern the international agency and that these are applied.
- How will the international agency be financed? By the regional ones?

B.1.5 (re: the ISAN database)

Canada (SCC)

- B.1.5 The second sentence of the paragraph is not useful. Such a link might be very helpful in years to come, without entailing any responsibility for rights administration on the part of the International ISAN Agency.

B.1.9 (re: duplicative registrations)

Canada (SCC)

- B.1.9: How will such resolution be achieved? It is important to know how priority for registration will be assigned.

B.1.10 (re: appeals of decisions)

Canada (SCC)

- B.1.10: The appeal procedure must be clarified. There must be an impartial, competent dispute resolution mechanism.

France (AFNOR)

- B.1.10 c) (*“Review and decide on appeals of decisions by regional ISAN agencies in such matters as: c) disputes about appropriate evidence for proof of inaccurate support information.”*)

We propose to clarify the wording and change c) as follows :

“c) disputes about accuracy of support information.”

B.2 REGIONAL ISAN AGENCIES

Canada (SCC)

- The process for issuing ISANs must be rapid--i.e. a couple of days--and flexible enough to accommodate last-minute title changes, etc. A paper-free process would be preferable.
- The second sentence of the introductory paragraph should be altered or removed. The phrase “shall be considered . . . at the request of producers’ representative organisations” is too restrictive.

France (AFNOR)

- Editorial comment: Re: B.2, 1st paragraph (“.... *The regional ISAN agencies shall be considered for possible approval at the request of producers’ representative organisations....*”)
We propose the deletion of “possible” [i.e. 1st paragraph to read]:
“The International ISAN Agency shall appoint appropriate regional ISAN agencies. The regional ISAN agencies shall be considered for approval at the request of producers’ representative organisations. Regional ISAN agencies shall not engage in any form of rights management.”

Spain (AENOR)

- Re: B.2, 1st paragraph (“.... *The regional ISAN agencies shall be considered for possible approval at the request of producers’ representative organisations....*”)
Proposal [change 1st paragraph to]:
“The International ISAN Agency shall appoint appropriate regional ISAN agencies. The regional ISAN agencies shall be considered for possible approval and validation at the request of producers’ representative organisations. Regional ISAN agencies shall not engage in any form of rights management.”

B.2.1 (re: applications for registrant status)

Canada (SCC)

- The rules for acceptability of an applicant should be permissive. All legitimate film producers, including first-time and independent producers, should be able to register.
- Producers should warrant that they are the appropriate registrant for a particular ISAN application and that they are in a position to ensure that the ISAN is affixed to the audiovisual work.
- If an applicant is refused registrant status, the reasons for the refusal shall be provided to the applicant and to other ISAN agencies concerned in the application.

- It should be made clear that the process of applying for registrant status happens only once and is separate from the ISAN application process.

B.2.6 (re: maintaining registers of registrant applications)

France (AFNOR)

- Editorial comment: Re: B.2.6 (“*Maintain registers of registrants and records of rejected applications for, or revocations of, registrant status, and communicate such information to the International ISAN Agency.*”)

We suggest a wording more neutral, more technical : “cancellation” instead of “revocation”:

B.2.6 Maintain registers of registrants and records of rejected application for, or cancellation of, registrant status, and communicate such information to the International ISAN Agency.

B.2.9 (re: compiling financial data)

Czech Republic (CSNI)

- Is there any need for the regional ISAN agency would maintain financial data on its operations?

B.2.10 (re: making ISAN support information available to users)

France (AFNOR)

- Re: B.2.10 (“*Make ISAN and ISAN support information available to authorised users, as determined in consultation with the International ISAN Agency [see footnote 1].*”)

ISAN as an international information tool has to be public and no authorization needed to anyone wishing to retrieve ISAN and the relative information.

So we propose to delete “authorized” [i.e. change wording to]:

B.2.10 Make ISAN and ISAN support information available to users, as determined in consultation with the International ISAN Agency [see footnote 1].

B.2.12 (re: regional agencies adhering to policies)

France (AFNOR)

- Editorial comment: Re: B.2.12 (“*Adhere to the ISAN policies and procedures established by the International ISAN Agency in compliance with the specifications of this International Standard.*”)

We propose a wording more neutral, more technical : “rules” instead of “policies”:

B.2.12 Adhere to the ISAN rules and procedures established by the International ISAN Agency in compliance with the specifications of this International Standard.

ANNEX D SUPPORT INFORMATION

France (AFNOR)

- The status Required applies for the following elements of the support information:
 - Year of production,
 - Country of production,
 - Main production company.
 as these three data elements are necessary for the unique and international identification of audiovisual works.

D.1 Support information for new audiovisual works

Canada (SCC)

- Some optional elements should be required, particularly if the ISAN is to be as useful as possible to the widest group of users:
 - year of production
 - co-production
 - name of main producer
 - main production company
 - country or countries of production
 - alternate title(s) in the original language
 - name of script writer(s)
 - name of music composer(s)
 - name of author of underlying work (if any)
 - title(s) of underlying work(s), e.g. play, novel or musical composition
 - titles of versions in other languages

- ISAN number of component parts of composite works should be optional or subject to availability.

Sweden (SIS)

- Refer to ISO 639-2 instead of ISO 639.
- For language if required, there must also be the option “None”
- At least one of “year of production” and “year of first publication” should be required.

U.S.A. (ANSI/NISO)

- Section D.1
Title of audiovisual work
If possible define the location or source for the title information. Titles for audiovisual works often appear differently in different areas or segments of an item and its containers and packaging.
- Annex D “Any Supplementary Information” [appears in section D1 and D.3]:
Provide examples of the type of data that would be considered “any supplementary information”.

D.3.1 Support information for episodes**Canada (SCC)**

- As with D.1, more information should be required:
 - year of production
 - names of director(s)
 - names of principal cast members
 - names of scriptwriter(s)

Sweden (SIS)

- At least one of “year of production” and “year of first publication” should be required.

COMMENTS ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE (not part of CD 15706)**A.4 Rules of procedure re: Regional ISAN agencies****Canada (SCC)**

- There is a typographical error in the first line of the 3rd paragraph. The ‘s’ should be removed from the word “registrations”.
- Governance: While the draft rules prohibit the international ISAN agency from engaging in any form of rights management, no such prohibition is mentioned for the regional agencies. This seems to be an oversight, since such a prohibition is mentioned in Annex B.

E Rules of procedure re: ISAN databases**Canada (SCC)**

- This section of the Rules should contain procedures for approving “authorised users” of the database, including criteria which will be applied in determining whether access will be granted. These should be permissive, since the information to be included in the database is not confidential and the ISAN system will benefit from wide use.

C Rules of procedure re: Registration of audiovisual works

Czech Republic (CSNI)

- Re: Rules of procedure, Section C, last paragraph: The supervision upon duplicative registration of audiovisual works should be done by regional ISAN agencies which are in duty of assigning the ISANs not the International ISAN Agency.
-