

Australian Standard[®]

**Electronic funds transfer—
Requirements for interfaces**

Part 16: Merchant category codes



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- Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies
 - Australian Bankers Association
 - Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association
 - Australian Payments Clearing Associations
 - Australian Retailer Association
 - Reserve Bank of Australia
-

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT-005, Financial Transactions Systems.

The objective of this Standard is to align Australian MCC (merchant category codes) usage with international conventions.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO 18245:2003, *Retail financial services—Merchant category codes*.

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 International Standard’ should read ‘this Australian Standard’.
- (c) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

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.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

Electronic funds transfer—Requirements for interfaces

Part 16: Merchant category codes

1 Scope

This International Standard defines code values used to enable the classification of merchants into specific categories based on the type of business, trade or services supplied. Values are specified only for those merchant categories that are generally expected to originate retail financial transactions.

This International Standard also establishes the procedures for a Registration and Maintenance Management Group (RMMG), which considers requests for new code values, and a Maintenance Agency (MA), which provides the administrative procedures required to maintain an up-to-date list of codes.

It is not within the scope of this International Standard to mandate the use of merchant category codes in any given situation.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

Maintenance Agency

MA

group responsible for carrying out the administrative duties relating to the processing of merchant category code applications and the publication of up-to-date lists of merchant category codes

2.2

Registration and Maintenance Management Group

RMMG

group responsible for the registration of merchant category codes and the maintenance of the code value list, which includes but is not limited to reaching a decision to approve or reject each application received from the MA, and responding to requests for guidance regarding the submission of applications for merchant category code additions, changes or deletions

3 Merchant category codes

Merchant category codes shall be allocated to enable the classification of merchants into specific categories based on the type of business, trade or services supplied.

New businesses, trades or services shall be allocated a code value that is reasonable and substantially different from other code values and that is separate and distinct from other industries. Each merchant category code assigned or reserved for future assignment is listed in Annex A of this document. Annex A shall be updated by the MA and updates shall be issued, at a minimum, at quarterly intervals in the event of any addition, change or deletion of a merchant category code in the previous quarter. The MA shall announce the availability of updates via its Internet site or other method of dissemination, and by notice to the Secretariat of ISO/TC 68/SC 6. Each member body of the Secretariat of ISO/TC 68/SC 6 shall determine its own method of distributing the updates to its members. Annex A shall be kept up to date by the MA and shall be issued as required by users.