AS 3521—1988

Australian Standard®

IDENTIFICATION CARDS—PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IS/1, Information Processing Systems. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 17 December 1987 and published on 5 February 1988.

The following interests are represented on Committee IS/1:

Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies
Australian Bankers' Association
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian Computer Equipment Manufacturers Association
Australian Computing Services Association
Australian Computer Society
Australian Computer Users Association
Australian Information Industry Association
CSIRO
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Information Processing Systems. It has been reproduced from International Standard ISO 7810—1985 drawn up by ISO/TC 97, Information Processing Systems.

An additional recommendation, which is not a part of the requirements of this Standard but which has been added for the guidance of users is set out in Annex A. This additional recommendation does not appear in the International Standard ISO 7810—1985.

This Standard (AS 3521), together with all the parts of the AS 3522[1] series and, in addition, AS 3523[2], AS 3524[3] and AS 3525[4], supersedes the following Standards:

AS 2623.1, Credit Cards—Part 1—1983: Specifications, Numbering System and Registration Procedure.

AS 2623.2, Credit Cards—Part 2—1983: Magnetic Stripe Encoding for Tracks 1, 2 and 3.

AS 2623.3, Credit Cards—Part 3—1983: Magnetic Stripe Data Content for Track 3.

Numeric values in the SI system in this Standard may have been rounded during conversion from imperial measurements, and are therefore consistent with, but not exactly equal to, the values in the original design which were given using the imperial system. In use, the two should be neither intermixed nor reconverted. However, following the practice in the International Standard, imperial values are given parentheses.

For the purpose of this Australian Standard, the text of the International Standard used herein should be modified as follows:

(a) *Terminology:* The words 'Australian Standard' should replace the words 'International Standard' wherever they appear.

(b) *Decimal comma:* The decimal point should replace the decimal comma wherever it appears.

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[1]AS 3522, Identification Cards—Recording Technique

[2]AS 3523, Identification Cards—Numbering System and Registration Procedure for Issuer Identifiers

[3]AS 3524, Identification Cards—Financial Transaction Cards

[4]AS 3525, Bank Cards—Magnetic Stripe Data Content for Track 3

Identification cards — Physical characteristics

0 Introduction

This International Standard is one of a series of standards describing the parameters for identification cards as defined in clause 2 below and the use of such cards for international interchange.

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies the physical characteristics of identification cards including card materials, construction, characteristics, and nominal dimensions for three sizes of cards.

2 Definition

For the purpose of this International Standard the following definition applies.

identification card: A card identifying its bearer and issuer which may carry data required as input for the intended use of the card and for transactions based thereon.

3 Card construction

The card may be made of solid, laminated, or bonded materials, with or without inserts.

4 Card materials

The card shall be made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) and/or PVCA (polyvinyl chloride acetate) or materials having equal or better performance characteristics such as polyesters and polyethylene. Card insert materials may be used. They are not, however, specified in this International Standard and shall not interfere with other requirements specified in this International Standard.

WARNING: Rigid PVC and PVCA are sensitive to the effects of plasticizers which may be incorporated in some flexible plastic materials. Identification cards kept in contact with such flexible plastics may soften, harden, or deform.

5 Card characteristics

5.1 General

The following general characteristics apply to identification cards.

NOTE — Specific test methods applicable to several of the characteristics are under study and will be added to this International Standard at such time as the test methods are deemed satisfactory.

5.1.1 Deformation properties

The nature of the card shall be such that deformations in normal use (bends not creases) can be reduced elastically to flatness by the recording or printing device without impairing the function of the card.

5.1.2 Flammability

Resistance to flammability, where required, is specified in the International Standards dealing with the various applications of identification cards.

5.1.3 Toxicity

The card shall present no toxic hazards in the course of normal use.

5.1.4 Resistance to chemicals

The card shall be resistant to chemical effects arising in normal handling and use.

5.1.5 Temperature stability

The card shall remain structurally reliable and usable at environmental temperatures between –35°C and +50°C (–30°F and +122°F).

NOTE — Environmental temperatures as defined do not mean card temperatures but refer to the environment in which the card is used.

5.1.6 Humidity

The card shall be reliably usable at a relative air humidity between 5 % and 95 % with a maximum wet bulb temperature of 25°C (77°F).