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**Retail financial services — Merchant
category codes**

Services financiers aux particuliers — Codes de catégorie marchande

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Information exchange for financial services*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18245:2003), which has been technically revised.

The main change is as follows:

- restructuring to facilitate maintenance of the code values by a new ISO 18245 maintenance agency (MA).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Retail financial services — Merchant category codes

1 Scope

This document 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.

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

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

4 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 a document that can be found at: https://www.iso.org/maintenance_agencies.html#79450.

The name and contact information of the maintenance agency for this document can be found at: https://www.iso.org/maintenance_agencies.html#79450.

Code assignments are maintained by the ISO 18245 maintenance agency. The scope and specific responsibilities of the ISO 18245 maintenance agency are specified in the *MA Guidelines for ISO 18245*.^[1]

5 Application procedure for code value additions, changes and deletions

An applicant shall apply to the ISO 18245 maintenance agency to request approval of a merchant category code addition, change or deletion by completing the merchant category code application specified by the ISO 18245 maintenance agency.

Bibliography

[1] *MA Guidelines for ISO 18245, Retail Financial services – Merchant category codes.* Available from: https://www.iso.org/maintenance_agencies.html#79450

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