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**Information technology — Radio
frequency identification (RFID) for item
management: Data protocol —**

**Part 1:
Application interface**

*Technologies de l'information — Identification par radiofréquence
(RFID) pour la gestion d'objets: Protocole de données —*

Partie 1: Interface d'application

Reference number
ISO/IEC 15961-1:2013(E)



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Contents

Page

Foreword	viii
Introduction.....	ix
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms, definitions and conventions	2
3.1 Terms and definitions	2
3.2 Conventions	2
4 Compliance	2
4.1 General	2
4.2 Application compliance	3
4.3 Conformance of the Data Processor	3
5 Protocol model	3
5.1 Overview	3
5.2 Layered protocol	3
5.2.1 Application layer - as defined in the various parts of ISO/IEC 15961	4
5.2.2 Application interface - as defined in ISO/IEC 15961-1	5
5.2.3 Data Protocol Processing - as defined in ISO/IEC 15962	5
5.2.4 Data Protocol Interface - as defined in ISO/IEC 15962	5
5.3 Flexible implementation configurations	6
5.4 Functional processes – interrogator implementation	6
5.4.1 Functional processes - application interface	7
5.4.2 Functional processes – interrogator	7
5.4.3 RFID tag	8
5.5 ISO/IEC 15962 and the Data Processor	9
6 Presentation conventions	9
6.1 Presentation of commands, responses and arguments	9
6.1.1 Commands and responses	9
6.1.2 Arguments	9
6.1.3 Data types	10
6.2 Object Identifier presentation in the application interface	10
6.2.1 Object identifier structure to ISO/IEC 8824-1	10
6.2.2 Presenting the Object-Identifier in the style of ISO/IEC 8824-1	11
6.2.3 Presenting the Object-Identifier as a Uniform Resource Name (URN)	12
6.3 Byte Notation	12
6.3.1 The byte: the basic unit for 8-bit coding	12
6.3.2 Bit ordering	12
6.3.3 Byte conversion	12
7 Processing application commands and responses	12
7.1 General	12
7.2 Encoding system related information in commands	13
7.2.1 Singulation-Id	13
7.2.2 AFI	13
7.2.3 DSFID	14
7.2.4 Access-Method	14
7.2.5 Data-Format	16
7.3 Preparing the basic Objects and other application-based arguments	17
7.3.1 General model	17
7.3.2 Object-Identifier	17

7.3.3	Relating Object-Identifiers	18
7.3.4	Object.....	18
7.3.5	Compact-Parameter	18
7.3.6	Object-Lock	20
7.4	Other command arguments	20
7.4.1	Access-Password	20
7.4.2	Additional-App-Bits	21
7.4.3	AFI-Lock.....	21
7.4.4	Append-To-Existing-Multiple-Record	21
7.4.5	Application-Defined-Record-Capacity	21
7.4.6	Avoid-Duplicate.....	21
7.4.7	Battery-Assist-Indicator	21
7.4.8	Block-Align	21
7.4.9	Block-Align-Packed-Object.....	21
7.4.10	Check-Duplicate.....	22
7.4.11	Data-CRC-Indicator.....	22
7.4.12	Data-Length-Of-Record	22
7.4.13	Delete-MR-Method	22
7.4.14	Directory-Length-EBV8-Indicator.....	22
7.4.15	DSFID-Lock.....	22
7.4.16	DSFID-Pad-Bytes	23
7.4.17	Editable-Pointer-Size	23
7.4.18	Encoded-Memory-Capacity	23
7.4.19	EPC-Code	23
7.4.20	Full-Function-Sensor-Indicator	23
7.4.21	Hierarchical-Identifier-Arc.....	23
7.4.22	Identifier-Of-My-Parent	23
7.4.23	Identify-Method	23
7.4.24	ID-Type.....	24
7.4.25	Instance-Of-Arc.....	24
7.4.26	Kill-Password	24
7.4.27	Length-Of-Mask.....	24
7.4.28	Lock-Directory-Entry	24
7.4.29	Lock-Multiple-Records-Header.....	24
7.4.30	Lock-Record-Preamble	25
7.4.31	Lock-UII-Segment-Arguments	25
7.4.32	Max-App-Length.....	25
7.4.33	Memory-Bank	25
7.4.34	Memory-Bank-Lock.....	25
7.4.35	Memory-Length-Encoding	25
7.4.36	Memory-Segment.....	25
7.4.37	Memory-Type.....	25
7.4.38	Multiple-Records-Directory-Length	25
7.4.39	Multiple-Records-Features-Indicator	26
7.4.40	NSI-Bits	26
7.4.41	Number-In-Data-Element-List	26
7.4.42	Number-Of-Records	26
7.4.43	Number-Of-Tags.....	26
7.4.44	Objects-Offsets-Multiplier	27
7.4.45	Packed-Object-Directory-Type	27
7.4.46	Password	27
7.4.47	Password-Type	27
7.4.48	PO-Directory-Size	27
7.4.49	PO-Index-Length.....	27
7.4.50	Pointer.....	27
7.4.51	Pointer-To-Multiple-Records-Directory	27
7.4.52	Read-Record-Type	28
7.4.53	Read-Type.....	29
7.4.54	Record-Memory-Capacity	30
7.4.55	Record-Type-Arc.....	30

7.4.56	Record-Type-Classification	30
7.4.57	Sector-Identifier	30
7.4.58	Simple-Sensor-Indicator	31
7.4.59	Start-Address-Of-Record	31
7.4.60	Tag-Data-Profile-ID-Table	31
7.4.61	Tag-Mask	31
7.4.62	Update-Multiple-Records-Directory	31
7.4.63	Word-Count	31
7.4.64	Word-Pointer	31
7.5	Command-related field names	31
7.5.1	Data-Set	32
7.5.2	Identities	32
7.5.3	Length-Lock Byte	32
7.5.4	Length-Of-Encoded-Data	32
7.5.5	Lock-Status	32
7.5.6	Logical-Memory-Map	32
7.5.7	Memory-Capacity	32
7.5.8	Module-OID	32
7.5.9	Number-Of-Tags-Found	32
7.5.10	PO-ID-Table	32
7.5.11	Protocol-Control-Word	32
7.5.12	Read-Data	33
7.6	Data security	33
8	Data flows and processes to the air interface	33
8.1	Establishing communications between the application and the RFID tag	33
8.1.1	Air interface services	33
8.1.2	System information	34
8.2	Application system services	34
9	Command-Codes, Completion-Codes, and Execution-Codes	34
9.1	Final arc values of the command and response modules	35
9.2	Completion-Code	36
9.3	Execution-Code	39
10	Commands and responses	40
10.1	Configure-AFI	40
10.1.1	Configure-AFI command	40
10.1.2	Configure-AFI response	40
10.2	Configure-DSFID	41
10.2.1	Configure-DSFID command	41
10.2.2	Configure-DSFID response	42
10.3	Inventory-Tags	42
10.3.1	Inventory-Tags command	42
10.3.2	Inventory-Tags response	44
10.4	Delete-Object	44
10.4.1	Delete-Object command	44
10.4.2	Delete-Object response	45
10.5	Modify-Object	46
10.5.1	Modify-Object command	46
10.5.2	Modify-Object response	47
10.6	Read-Object-Identifiers	48
10.6.1	Read-Object-Identifiers command	48
10.6.2	Read-Object-Identifiers response	49
10.7	Read-Logical-Memory-Map	49
10.7.1	Read-Logical-Memory-Map command	49
10.7.2	Read-Logical-Memory-Map response	50
10.8	Erase-Memory	50
10.8.1	Erase-Memory command	50
10.8.2	Erase-Memory response	51
10.9	Get-App-Based-System-Info	51

10.9.1	Get-App-Based-System-Info command.....	51
10.9.2	Get-App-Based-System-Info response.....	51
10.10	Write-Objects.....	52
10.10.1	Write-Objects command	52
10.10.2	Write-Objects response	54
10.11	Read-Objects.....	55
10.11.1	Read-Objects command.....	55
10.11.2	Read-Objects response.....	56
10.12	Write-Objects-Segmented-Memory-Tag	56
10.12.1	Write-Objects-Segmented-Memory-Tag command.....	56
10.12.2	Write-Objects-Segmented-Memory-Tag response	58
10.13	Write-EPC-Ull.....	59
10.13.1	Write-EPC-Ull command	59
10.13.2	Write-EPC-Ull response	60
10.14	Inventory-ISO-Ullmemory	60
10.14.1	Inventory-ISO-Ullmemory command	60
10.14.2	Inventory-ISO-Ullmemory response	61
10.15	Inventory-EPC-Ullmemory	62
10.15.1	Inventory-EPC-Ullmemory command.....	62
10.15.2	Inventory-EPC-Ullmemory response	62
10.16	Write-Password-Segmented-Memory-Tag	63
10.16.1	Write-Password-Segmented-Memory-Tag command	63
10.16.2	Write-Password-Segmented-Memory-Tag response	63
10.17	Read-Words-Segmented-Memory-Tag	64
10.17.1	Read-Words-Segmented-Memory-Tag command	64
10.17.2	Read-Words-Segmented-Memory-Tag response	64
10.18	Kill-Segmented-Memory-Tag	65
10.18.1	Kill-Segmented-Memory-Tag command.....	65
10.18.2	Kill-Segmented-Memory-Tag response.....	65
10.19	Delete-Packed-Object.....	65
10.19.1	Delete-Packed-Object command.....	65
10.19.2	Delete-Packed-Object response.....	66
10.20	Modify-Packed-Object-Structure.....	67
10.20.1	Modify-Packed-Object-Structure command.....	67
10.20.2	Modify-Packed-Object-Structure response.....	68
10.21	Write-Segments-6TypeD-Tag.....	69
10.21.1	Write-Segments-6TypeD-Tag command	69
10.21.2	Write-Segments-6TypeD-Tag response	70
10.22	Read-Segments-6TypeD-Tag.....	71
10.22.1	Read-Segments-6TypeD-Tag command.....	71
10.22.2	Read-Segments-6TypeD-Tag response.....	73
10.23	Write-Monomorphic-Ull	73
10.23.1	Write-Monomorphic-Ull command	73
10.23.2	Write-Monomorphic-Ull response	75
10.24	Configure-Extended-DSFID	76
10.24.1	Configure-Extended-DSFID command	76
10.24.2	Configure-Extended-DSFID response	77
10.25	Configure-Multiple-Records-Header	77
10.25.1	Configure-Multiple-Records-Header command.....	77
10.25.2	Configure-Multiple-Records-Header response.....	80
10.26	Read-Multiple-Records.....	80
10.26.1	Read-Multiple-Records command.....	80
10.26.2	Read-Multiple-Records response.....	81
10.27	Delete-Multiple-Record.....	82
10.27.1	Delete-Multiple-Record command.....	82
10.27.2	Delete-Multiple-Record response.....	83
11	Arguments	84
11.1	Add-Objects.....	84
11.2	DSFID-Constructs	85

11.3	EPC-Ullmemory	85
11.4	Ext-DSFID-Constructs	85
11.5	ISO-Ullmemory	87
11.6	Item-Related-Add-Objects	87
11.7	Item-Related-DSFID-Constructs	87
11.8	Multiple-Records-Constructs	87
11.9	Multiple-Records-Directory-Structure	89
11.10	Multiple-Records-Header-Structure	89
11.11	Multiple-Records-Preamble-Structure	90
11.12	Packed-Object-Constructs	91
11.13	Read-Objects	93
11.14	Read-Objects-Response	93
11.15	Read-OIDs-Response	93
11.16	Ull-Add-Objects	93
11.17	Ull-DSFID-Constructs	94
11.18	Write-Responses	94
Annex A	(informative) Abstract syntax and transfer encoding rules	95
Annex B	(informative) Accommodating established data formats	104
Annex C	(informative) Relating data Objects	106
Annex D	(informative) Data security issues	108
Annex E	(informative) Original commands and responses using ASN.1 abstract syntax	110
Annex F	(informative) Example of a transfer encoding to ISO/IEC 15961:2004	139
Bibliography	142

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 15961-1 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 31, *Automatic identification and data capture techniques*.

This first edition of ISO/IEC 15961-1, together with ISO/IEC 15961-2, ISO/IEC 15961-3 and ISO/IEC 15961-4, cancels and replaces ISO/IEC 15961:2004, which has been technically revised.

ISO/IEC 15961 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Radio frequency identification (RFID) for item management: Data protocol*:

- *Part 1: Application interface*
- *Part 2: Registration of RFID data constructs*
- *Part 3: RFID data constructs*

The following part is under preparation:

- *Part 4: Application interface commands for battery assist and sensor functionality*

Introduction

The technology of radio frequency identification (RFID) is based on non-contact electronic communication across an air interface. The structure of the bits stored on the memory of the RFID tag is invisible and accessible between the RFID tag and the interrogator only by the use of an air interface protocol, as specified in the appropriate part of ISO/IEC 18000. The result of the transfer of data between an application and an interrogator in open systems requires data to be encoded in a consistent manner on any RFID tag that is part of that open system. This is not only to allow equipment to be interoperable, but in the special case of data carriers, for the data to be encoded on the RFID tag in one systems implementation and to be read at a later time in a completely different and unknown systems implementation. The data bits stored on each RFID tag must be formatted in such a way as to be reliably read at the point of use if the RFID tag is to fulfil its basic objective. This reliability is achieved through the specification of a data protocol in this part of ISO/IEC 15961 and the data encoding rules of ISO/IEC 15962. Additionally, ISO/IEC 24791-1 specifies a software system infrastructure architecture that enables RFID system operations between business applications and RFID interrogators. Specific parts of the infrastructure standards address data management requirements (ISO/IEC 24791-2) and device interface requirements (ISO/IEC 24791-5). These support defined implementations that incorporate the encoding rules of ISO/IEC 15962 and the functional rules of the commands and responses in this part of ISO/IEC 15961.

Manufacturers of RFID equipment (interrogators, RFID tags, etc.) and users of RFID technology require standards-based data protocols for RFID for item management. This part of ISO/IEC 15961, ISO/IEC 15962, and ISO/IEC 24791 specify these protocols, which are layered above the air interface standards defined in ISO/IEC 18000.

The transfer of data to and from an application, supported by appropriate application commands, is the subject of this part of ISO/IEC 15961. The companion International Standard, ISO/IEC 15962, specifies the overall process and the methodologies developed to format the application data into a structure to store on the RFID tag.

Information technology — Radio frequency identification (RFID) for item management: Data protocol —

Part 1: Application interface

1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 15961 focuses on the abstract interface between an application and the data processor, and includes the specification and definition of application commands and responses. It allows data and commands to be specified in a standardised way, independent of the particular air interface of ISO/IEC 18000.

This part of ISO/IEC 15961

- provides guidelines on how data shall be presented as objects;
- defines the structure of Object Identifiers, based on ISO/IEC 9834-1;
- specifies the commands that are supported for transferring data between an application and the radio frequency identification (RFID) tag;
- specifies the responses that are supported for transferring data between the RFID tag and the application;
- does not specify any required transfer syntax with ISO/IEC 15962, but provides the non-normative information in Annex A to provide backward compatibility with ISO/IEC 15961:2004.

It is expected that this part of ISO/IEC 15961 will be used as a reference to develop software appropriate for particular applications, or for particular RFID equipment.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 9834-1, *Information technology — Open Systems Interconnection — Procedures for the operation of OSI Registration Authorities: General procedures and top arcs of the International Object Identifier tree* (equivalent to ITU-T Recommendation X.660)

ISO/IEC 15961-3, *Information technology — Radio frequency identification (RFID) for item management: Data protocol — Part 3: RFID data constructs*

ISO/IEC 15962:2013, *Information technology — Radio frequency identification (RFID) for item management — Data protocol: data encoding rules and logical memory functions*

ISO/IEC 19762-1, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) techniques — Harmonized vocabulary — Part 1: General terms relating to AIDC*

ISO/IEC 19762-3, *Information technology — Automatic identification and data capture (AIDC) techniques — Harmonized vocabulary — Part 3: Radio frequency identification (RFID)*