

**BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS**  
**DRAFT FOR COMMENTS ONLY**

(Not to be reproduced without the permission of BIS or used as a STANDARD)

मसौदा भारतीय मानक  
सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी- मानव लिंगों के  
प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए कोड  
(पहला पुनरीक्षण)

---

**Draft Indian Standard**  
**Information Technology —**  
**Codes for the Representation of Human Sexes**  
***(First Revision)***

**ICS 35.040.50**

---

**Data Management System Sectional  
Committee, LITD 15**

**Last Date for Comments: 14 April 2025**

**NATIONAL FOREWORD**

(Formal clauses will be added later)

This draft Indian Standard (First Revision) which is identical to ‘ISO/IEC 5218:2022 Information technology — Codes for the representation of human sexes’ issued by the International Organization Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) will be adopted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on the recommendations of the Data Management System Sectional Committee and approval of the Electronics and Information Technology Division Council.

This Standard was originally published in 2019 and was identical with ISO/IEC 5218 : 2004. The first revision of this standard has been undertaken to align it with the latest version of ISO/IEC 5218:2022.

The main changes are as follows:

- clarification that the scope of this standard does not provide codes for human gender identities;
- the mandatory Normative references and Terms and definitions clauses have been added and subsequent clauses have been renumbered.

The text of ISO/IEC Standard may be approved as suitable for publication as an Indian Standard without deviations. Certain conventions and terminologies are, however, not identical to those used in Indian Standards. Attention is particularly drawn to the following:

- a) Wherever the words ‘International Standard’ appear referring to this standard, they should be read as ‘Indian Standard’, and
- b) Comma (,) has been used as a decimal marker while in Indian Standards, the current practice is to use a point (.) as the decimal marker.

**Scope of ISO/IEC 5218: 2022 is as follows:**

“This document specifies a uniform representation of human sexes for the interchange of information. It is intended to:

- reduce the time required to record and/or format the representation of sexes and transmit the corresponding data;
- improve clarity and accuracy of interchange;
- minimize the amount of human intervention required for communicating the representation of sexes; and
- reduce costs.

This document does not prescribe file sequences, storage media, programming languages, or other features of information processing to be used in its implementation.

This document meets the requirements of most applications that need to code human sexes. It does not provide codes for sexes that can be required in specific medical and scientific applications or in applications that need to code sex information other than for human beings. It also does not provide codes for human gender identities that can be required in other applications.

This document does not supplant national standards for coding sexes that are designed based upon codes derived from names of sexes in the various languages (for example “M” for “male” and “F” for “female” in the English language). It provides a numeric code that is independent of language-derived codes and as such is intended to provide a common basis for the international exchange of information containing human sex data elements.”

Note: - The Technical content of this document has not been enclosed as these are identical with the corresponding ISO/IEC Standard. For details please refer to ISO/IEC 5218:2022 or kindly contact

**Head,**

Electronics & IT Department

Bureau of Indian Standards

9, B.S. Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

Email: hlitd@bis.gov.in, litd15@bis.gov.in

Telephone: 011-23608450