

---

## 2 Transitioning the PDF Specification to ISO

Adobe has transferred responsibility for the PDF specification to the International Standards Organization (ISO) which has published ISO 32000, Document management, Portable document format, PDF 1.7 - otherwise known as ISO 32000-1:2008. Consequently, this document normatively references that document..

### Extensions to the PDF specification

The language extensions described in this guide have been submitted to ISO as proposed changes to the PDF specification and the ISO 32000 committee has accept them for inclusion into part 2 of ISO 32000. The text in this document reflects the exact syntax and semantics of the ISO versions as implemented in Acrobat & Reader 9.1 and later.

In the past, Adobe identified extensions to the PDF specification with PDF version identifiers, such as PDF 1.7. Now that ISO has responsibility for the PDF specification, such identification is no longer within Adobe's control. As an alternative, Adobe will use the extensions mechanisms defined for ISO 32000-1 by which Adobe and other companies can identify extensions to the PDF specification.

The new convention lets companies and other entities identify their own extensions relative to a base version of PDF. Additionally, the convention identifies extension levels relative to that base version. For normative information on the use of base versions and extension levels in a PDF document, see ISO 32000-1:2008, 7.12.

### Behavior of PDF consumers that does not support an extension

The extension convention also relies on the behavior of PDF consuming applications when they encounter PDF properties they do not recognize. The Section 2.2.8 "Extensibility" in the PDF Reference, sixth edition, version 1.7 describes this behavior as follows:

PDF is designed to be extensible. Not only can new features be added, but applications based on earlier versions of PDF can behave reasonably when they encounter newer features that they do not understand. Appendix H describes how a PDF consumer application should behave in such cases.

And Appendix H in PDF Reference, sixth edition, version 1.7 provides this additional guidance:

Both viewer applications and PDF have been designed to enable users to view everything in the document that the viewer application understands and to ignore or inform the user about objects not understood. The decision whether to ignore or inform the user is made on a feature-by-feature basis.

### Subsequent extensions to a BaseVersion

Each subsequent company-specific extension level for a particular PDF base version is cumulative. In other words, PDF-processing applications that support the third extension level for a particular base level shall also support the first and second extension levels.

It is Adobe's intent to increment the base version extensions only with major releases of its PDF-processing applications. This document reflects that by documenting those extensions from Acrobat 9.1.