



**19108 Geographic information – Temporal schema**

Temporal schema, defines standard concepts needed to describe the temporal characteristics of geographic information. These include both metadata elements that describe temporal characteristics of datasets and feature attributes that describe temporal characteristics of features. This standard identifies elements to be included in the definition of such characteristics whether in metadata, feature and attribute catalogues, or application schemas. It depends upon existing information technology standards for the interchange of temporal information. It therefore specifies the Gregorian calendar and Universal Coordinated Time as a preferred basis for interchanging temporal information. However, it also includes methods for describing calendars other than the Gregorian calendar when the use of such calendars is appropriate.

This standard is limited to describing temporal characteristics of features independently of space. There is increasing interest in describing the behaviour of features as a function of time for applications such as simulations and predictive modelling. Treating time as an independent dimension supports this only to a limited extent; combining the spatial and temporal dimensions will do better. It has been prepared in order to standardize the use of time in feature attributes, but it has also been written so as not to preclude the combination of the spatial and temporal dimensions in future parts of the standard.

The standard is of particular relevance to the following sectors:

Sector	Of particular interest
Developers of GIS products	Yes
Developers of GIS application systems	Yes
Producers/ suppliers of geographic data	
Users of geographic data and GIS	Yes
Developers of standards	

For further information on this standard and its implementation, please contact ISO/TC 211 secretariat via [www.isotc211.org](http://www.isotc211.org).