

# The Eight PDF Standards

The PDF format is the most famous one when it comes to sharing information with the world. When saving your PDF file, you can choose from a variety of standards and each one has its very own purpose. Choosing the wrong one, could bring many problems when printing or sharing it.

Currently, there are six ISO standards and two from independent organizations.

## The ISO Standards

The International Standards Organization provides certifications for products in many industries. Their purpose is to assure the quality, reliability, and universality of the product tested. These standards guarantee the quality of the PDF and each one is used in different occasions.

- I. PDF: This one is the most popular one and it is used for sharing information and viewing documents online
- II. PDF/A: Perfectly suitable for archivists and individuals who wish to store their information long-term. It has a limited set of features such as audio, video content, [Javascript](#) and encryption and they might be the reason why the document can't be opened.
- III. PDF/E: Maybe the one of the most used standards by professionals. It's a preferred choice by manufacturers, architects and engineers.
- IV. PDF/X: The preferred one for creative individuals such as graphic designers and artists, because the document will be from high quality. This standard is perfect for printing different fonts, colors, images, and etc
- V. PDF/UA: This standard is created for individuals with cognitive disabilities. It works in conjunction with assistive technology to provide an opportunity for people with problems to read and navigate through the document.
- VI. PDF/VT: Mainly used by print professionals, similar to the PDF/X standard, this one allows you to preserve transparency, colors and layers.

## Standards from Independent Organizations

- I. PDF Healthcare: This one is specially created for the creation and exchange of sensitive information about healthcare. Easily store and share DICOM images, electronic forms, lab reports, XML data, scanned image, X-rays, and etc.
- II. PadES - This standard was created to conform to the European legislation and it's mainly used for digital signatures in the EU within PDF files.

By knowing what options all standards provide, you will be able to choose the most suitable one for your needs. It will also keep the quality of the document high and you won't have problems viewing it from different devices.

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