Explanation of EIA Standards Documents

EIA Standards have been used and embedded in the electronic and electronics industry since 1956. There is currently a library of over 1000 standards and standards-related documents produced by ECIA and its former iterations. Different standards numbering systems have been used over the past 80 years, and below is a chart outlining the different prefixes and their meanings.

IS-	Interim Standard	Was used to indicate that the standard was developed in an accelerated timeline and had a life cycle of 3 years.
RS-	Recommended Standard	Used from to 1956 to 1986
EIA-	Electronic Industries Alliance Standard	Trademarked name for standards documents produced under EIA, ECA and ECIA
EIA/ECA-	EIA Standard produced by the Electronic Components Association, a sector Association of the Electronic Industries Alliance	The dual prefixes have been phased out in favor of the "EIA" designation
EIA/IS-	EIA Interim Standard	Designation to indicate interim status of document
EIA/RS-	EIA Recommended Standard	
J-STD-	Joint Standard	Standard produced through cooperation with multiple standards developing organizations
CB-	Components Bulletins	Used from 1956 – 2008, contained engineering data or information useful to the technical community, and represented approaches to good engineering practices that were suggested by the formulating committee.
CEB-	EIA Component Engineering Bulletin	Contained engineering data or information useful to the technical community, and represented approaches to good engineering practices that were suggested by the formulating committee.
QB-		
TEB		
TEP		
TIA/EIA	EIA Standard produced by the Telecommunications Industry Association	

Prefixes
Since TIA evolved from the Information Technology Group of EIA, some of the telecommunications standards created before 1988 have a prefix "EIA". After TIA was formed in 1988, and before it became directly ANSI-accredited, TIA continued to issue standards using EIA's standards-making procedures. Standards issued during this period are designated "EIA/TIA". TIA became an independently ANSI-accredited organization in 1992 and all new or revised telecommunications standards are labeled "TIA/EIA". Regardless of prefix, all standards related to telecommunications are developed and maintained by TIA Engineering Committees and Subcommittees. Standards not related to telecommunications are developed and maintained by ECIA Engineering Committees and continue to use the prefix "EIA".

Suffixes

Standards and other technical documents are periodically revised. Revised documents retaining the same basic document number can be identified by their alphabetical suffixes; e.g., "A" for the first revision and "B" for second revision.

In addition, for certain standards and specifications, the IEC specification format was used to indicate a generic specification number and designators for Sectional, Blank Detail and Detail, as well as revision information.

Prefix	EIA	EIA-123AAAAXXXXX
Standard or specification indicator	123	
Sectional specification designator	A	*or*
Blank Detail specification designator	A	
		EIA-540DBAA
Detail specification designator	AA	EIA-7000000-A
Part Number suffix	XXXXX	

Joint Standards

If a standard has been developed in cooperation with another standards-writing body, that body is also listed in the prefix of the standard. "EIA/IPC/JEDEC/ANSI/J-STD indicates that the document was produced in cooperation with EIA, IPC and JEDEC and that it has received ANSI accreditation.

Most EIA Standards carry ANSI-accreditation and these documents carry an ANSI prefix before the EIA designation. ANSI-accredited standards are reviewed on a 5-year cycle and are either withdrawn, reaffirmed or revised as part of that cycle. There are EIA standards that no longer maintain their ANSI-accreditation because the technology is obsolete or the managing Committee is no longer active. In these cases, ANSI approval of the standards process is withdrawn, but the technical content of the document remains valid.

Current EIA standards, standards that no longer have their ANSI accreditation maintained, previous versions of current ANSI-accredited documents and other related EIA publications may be purchased through ECIA's publication partner **Accuris**.