



Creating A Single Global Electronic Market

# EbXML Convention - Naming Convention for Core Components

## ebXML Core Components

21 March 2001

Version 1.02

16

## 17 **1 Status of this Document**

18

19 This document specifies an ebXML (DRAFT) for approval by the eBusiness community.

20

21 Distribution of this document is unlimited.

22

23 The document formatting is based on the Internet Society's Standard RFC format.

24

25 ***This version:***

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## 2 ebXML participants

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## 4 Introduction

### 4.1 Summary of Contents of Document

This specification specifies the rules for naming ebXML Core Components and Business Processes.

In addition to the naming convention rules that lead to a Dictionary Entry Name, the document also provides rules for creating definitions. It also establishes the principle of synonyms to cover the instances where a commonly used business term equates to a well-formed Dictionary Entry Name according to the rules.

The keywords MUST, MUST NOT, REQUIRED, SHALL, SHALL NOT, SHOULD, SHOULD NOT, RECOMMENDED, MAY, and OPTIONAL, when they appear in this document, are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [Bra97].

### 4.2 Audience

The target audiences for this document include business domain experts and technical experts.

### 4.3 Related Documents

These include ebXML Specifications on the following topics:

- ebXML Initial catalogue of core components Ver1.01
- ebXML Methodology for the Discovery and Analysis of Core Components Ver 1.01

## 5 Basic Information Entities – data element level

### 5.1 Introduction

These rules are derived from the guidelines and principles described in document ISO 11179-5, clause 6 (Guidelines for Structured Naming Conventions). In certain instances, these guidelines have been adapted to the ebXML CC environment. In particular, the guidelines have been extended to cover not only the naming of basic information entities or data elements but also to cover the naming of aggregated information entities.

Each ebXML basic information entity is defined by a:

- **Dictionary Entry Name** (Mandatory). Name of the component as derived from these naming convention rules. It consists of an *Object Class*, *Property Term* and *Representation Type*
- **Definition** (Mandatory) The definition of a Dictionary Entry shall provide the real business use of that entry. It shall use a structure which allows that entry to be easily

distinguished between the following: *Object Class*, the *Property Term*, and its *Representation Type*.

**Note:** Rules for creating definitions are provided in Section 8 of this document.

- **Business term** (Optional). If the Dictionary Entry Name is different from the term used in business, then this business term shall also be presented as synonym. There may be several business terms or synonyms.
  - Dictionary Entry Name e.g. Account.Identifier; Purchase Order.Identifier
  - Business Term e.g. Account Number; Order Number, PO Number,

## 5.2 Naming Rules

**Rule 1:** The Dictionary Entry Name shall be unique and shall consist of *Object Class*, a *Property Term* and *Representation Type*.

**Rule 2:** “The *Object Class* represents the logical data grouping (in a logical data model) to which a data element belongs” (ISO11179). The *Object Class* is the part of a core component’s Dictionary Entry Name which represents an activity or object in a context.

An *Object Class* may be individual or aggregated from core components. It may be named by using more than one word.

**Rule 3:** The *Property Term* shall represent the distinguishing characteristic of the business entity. The *Property Term* shall occur naturally in the definition.

**Rule 4:** The *Representation Type* shall describe the form of the set of valid values for an information element. It shall be one of the terms specified in the “list of *Representation Types*” as included in this document.

**Note:** If the *Representation Type* of an entry is “code” there is often a need for an additional entry for its textual representation. The *Object Class* and *Property Term* of such entries shall be the same. Requesters for new entries may be aware of this fact.)

**Rule 5:** A Dictionary Entry Name shall not contain consecutive redundant words. If the *Property Term* uses the same word as the *Representation Type*, this word shall be removed from the *Property Term* part of the Dictionary Entry Name.

For example: If the *Object Class* is “goods”, the *Property Term* is “delivery date”, and *Representation Type* is “date”, the Dictionary Entry Name is ‘Goods. Delivery. Date’.

In adoption of this rule the *Property Term* “Identification” could be omitted if the *Representation Type* is “Identifier”.

For example: The identifier of a party (“Party. Identification. Identifier”) will be truncated to “Party. Identifier”.

**Rule 6:** One and only one *Property Term* is normally present in a Dictionary Entry Name although there may be circumstances where no property term is included. e.g. Currency Code

**Rule 7:** The *Representation Type* shall be present in a Dictionary Entry Name. It must not be truncated.

**Rule 8:** The *Representation Type* “text” shall be used in the context of names. As names are used to identify objects the *Property Term* will be “identification”. Thus the Dictionary Entry Name of an object’s name is “Object. Identification. Text”.

**Rule 9:** A Dictionary Entry Name and all its components shall be in singular form unless the concept itself is plural e.g. goods.

**Rule 10:** An *Object Class* as well as a *Property Term* may be composed of one or more words.

**Rule 11:** The components of a Dictionary Entry Name shall be separated by dots and a following space character. The words in multi-word *Object Classes* and multi-word *Property Terms* shall be separated by the space character. Every word shall start with a capital letter.

**Rule 12:** Special characters may only be used if required by language rules.

**Rule 13:** Abbreviations, acronyms and initials shall not be used as part of a Dictionary Entry Name, except where they are used in as business terms/words e.g. UN, DUNS, EAN.

**Rule 14:** All accepted acronyms and abbreviations shall be included in a ebXML glossary. If an acronym or abbreviation shall be accepted for inclusion within ebXML it shall be checked whether it is already mentioned in the glossary or needs to be added.

### 5.3 Language specific rules

**Rule 15:** The dictionary content will be in English Language following Oxford Dictionary English spellings. This assures unambiguous spelling and interpretation.

**Rule 16:** There may be restrictions in specific languages, which need to be applied when transforming the ebXML Component Catalog into other languages.

192                   These restrictions may be formulated as additional rules and added as  
 193                   separated language specific annexes to this document.  
 194

## 195   **6 List of Representation Types**

The following list contains the permissible *Representation Types* .

<b>ebXML Definition</b>	<b>Representation Type</b>
A number of monetary units specified in a currency where the unit of currency is explicit or implied.	<b>Amount</b>
A character string (letters, figures or symbols) that for brevity and / or language independency may be used to represent or replace a definitive value or text of an attribute. Codes usually are maintained in code lists per attribute type (e.g. colour).	<b>Code</b>
The indication of the repeat of an item or process.	<b>Count</b>
A day within a particular calendar year. Note: Reference ISO 8601.	<b>Date</b>
A particular point in the progression of time.	<b>DateAndTime</b>
A character string used to identify and distinguish uniquely, one instance of an object within an identification scheme from all other objects within the same scheme.	<b>Identifier</b>
A list of two, and only two, values which indicate a condition such as on/off; true/false etc. (synonym: "boolean")	<b>Indicator</b>
A numeric value determined by measuring an object. Measures are specified with a unit of measure. The applicable units of measure may be taken from UN/ECE Rec. 20	<b>Measure</b>
A rate expressed in hundredths between two values that have the same unit of measure.	<b>Percent</b>
A number of non-monetary units. It is associated with the indication of objects. Quantities need to be specified with a unit of measure.	<b>Quantity</b>
A quantity or amount measured with respect to another measured quantity or amount, or a fixed or appropriate charge, cost or value e.g. US Dollars per hour, US Dollars per EURO, kilometer per liter, etc.	<b>Rate</b>
A character string generally in the form of words of a language.	<b>Text</b>
The time within a (not specified) day. Reference ISO 8601:1988.	<b>Time</b>

## 196   **7 Naming of Aggregate Information Entities**

197  
 198   Each ebXML aggregate information entity is defined by a:

- 199
- 200 • **Dictionary Entry Name** (Mandatory). Name of the component, created following
- 201 these naming convention rules. It consists of an *Object Class* and its *Property Term*.
- 202
- 203 Aggregates being reused in other aggregates shall use the *Property Term* “Details”.
- 204
- 205 According Trade/CEFACT/1999/3 aggregates which are composed of core
- 206 components probably having different *Representation Types* can not own a
- 207 *Representation Type* themselves.
- 208
- 209 • **Definition** (Mandatory) The definition of an aggregate shall provide the real business
- 210 use. It shall use a structure which provides a clear distinction between the *Object*
- 211 *Class* and the *Property Term*.
- 212
- 213 • **Business term** (Optional). If the Dictionary Entry Name is different from the term
- 214 used in business, then this business term shall also be presented as a synonym. There
- 215 may be several business terms or synonyms.
- 216
- 217     ▪ Dictionary Entry Name   e.g. Consignment Cash-on-Delivery Amount. Details
- 218     ▪ Business Term           e.g. Consignment Cash-on-Delivery Amount
- 219
- 220 In all respects, other than the absence of Representation Type, the rules for Basic
- 221 Information Entities apply.

## 222 8 Rules for Components' Definitions

223 This is a collection of rules which have been agreed upon during the development of the

224 initial set of core components:

225

- 226 • To avoid the definition simply being a regurgitated version of the Dictionary Entry
- 227 Name, the definition should repeat the Dictionary Entry Name followed by “is” and
- 228 provide an understandable definition afterwards, which should also be translatable.
- 229
- 230 • One of the fundamental principles specified in ISO 11179, and supported by ebXML,
- 231 is that the definition should be developed first and the Dictionary Entry Name should
- 232 be extracted from it.
- 233

234

235 **9 Disclaimer**

236 The views and specification expressed in this document are those of the authors and are  
237 not necessarily those of their employers. The authors and their employers specifically  
238 disclaim responsibility for any problems arising from correct or incorrect implementation  
239 or use of this design.

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262 **Copyright Statement**

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265 To be defined