

ebXML CC Dictionary Entry Naming Conventions

ebXML Business Process & Core Components

16 February 2001
Version 1.0

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1. Basic Information Entities – data element level

1.1. 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 the entry. It shall use a structure which allows easily to distinguish between the *Object Class*, the *Property Term*, and its *Representation Type*.

Note: Rules for creating definitions are provided as Annex II 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,

1.2. 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 in a Dictionary Entry Name, except they are used in business like real words e.g. UN, DUNS, EAN.

Rule 14: All accepted acronyms and abbreviations shall be included in a ebXML data dictionary 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).

1.3. Language specific rules

Rule 15: For the dictionary content in English Language Oxford Dictionary English spellings shall be used. 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 Dictionary into other languages. These restrictions

10 may be formulated as additional rules and added as separated language specific annexes to
11 this document.
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14 **2. List of Representation Types**

The following list contains the permissible *Representation Types* .

ebXML Definition	Representation Type
A number of monetary units specified in a currency where the unit of currency is explicit or implied.	Amount
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).	Code
The indication of the repeat of an item or process.	Count
A day within a particular calendar year. Note: Reference ISO 8601.	Date
A particular point in the progression of time.	DateAndTime
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.	Identifier
A list of two, and only two, values which indicate a condition such as on/off; true/false etc. (synonym: "boolean")	Indicator
A numeric value determined by measuring an object. Measures are specified with a unit of measure. The applicable units of measure can be taken from UN/ECE Rec. 20	Measure
A rate expressed in hundredths between two values that have the same unit of measure.	Percent
A number of non-monetary units. It is associated with the indication of objects. Quantities need to be specified with a unit of measure.	Quantity
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.	Rate
A character string generally in the form of words of a language.	Text
The time within a (not specified) day. Reference ISO 8601:1988.	Time

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3. Naming of Aggregate Information Entities

Each ebXML aggregate information entity is defined by a:

- **Dictionary Entry Name** (Mandatory). Name of the component, created following these naming convention rules. It consists of an *Object Class* and its *Property Term*.
Aggregates being reused in other aggregates shall use the *Property Term* “Details”.
According Trade/CEFACT/1999/3 aggregates which are composed of core components probably having different *Representation Types* can not own a *Representation Type* themselves.
- **Definition** (Mandatory) The definition of an aggregate shall provide the real business use. It shall use a structure which allows easily to distinguish between the *Object Class* and the *Property Term*.
- **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. Consignment Cash-on-Delivery Amount. Details
 - Business Term e.g. Consignment Cash-on-Delivery Amount

In all respects, other than the absence of Representation Type, the rules for Basic Information Entities apply.

4. Annex I - Rules for Components' Definitions

This is a collection of rules which have been agreed upon during the development of the initial set of core components:

- To avoid the definition being simply a rehashed version of the Dictionary Entry Name, the definition should repeat the Dictionary Entry Name followed by "is" and provide an understandable definition afterwards (which should be translatable too).
- One of the fundamental principles specified in ISO 11179, and supported by ebXML, is that the definition should be developed first and the Dictionary Entry Name should be extracted from it.

5. Disclaimer

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