



Creating A Single Global Electronic Market

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# ebXML TR - Naming Convention for Core Components

## ebXML Core Components

10 May 2001  
Version 1.04

## 20 **1 Status of this Document**

21

22 This Technical Report document has been approved by the Core Component Project  
23 Team and has been accepted by the ebXML Plenary.

24

25 This document contains information to guide in the interpretation or implementation of  
26 ebXML concepts.

27

28 Distribution of this document is unlimited.

29

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

31

32 This version:

33 [www.ebxml.org/specs/ebCCNAM.pdf](http://www.ebxml.org/specs/ebCCNAM.pdf)

34

35 Latest version:

36 [www.ebxml.org/specs/ebCCNAM.pdf](http://www.ebxml.org/specs/ebCCNAM.pdf)

37

38

38 **2 ebXML participants**

39 We would like to recognize the following for their significant participation to the  
 40 development of this document.

41

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73

## 73 **4 Introduction**

### 74 **4.1 Summary of Contents of Document**

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

77  
78 In addition to the naming convention rules that lead to a Dictionary Entry Name, the  
79 document also provides rules for creating definitions. It also establishes the principle of  
80 synonyms to cover the instances where a commonly used business term equates to a well-  
81 formed Dictionary Entry Name according to the rules.

82  
83 The keywords **MUST**, **MUST NOT**, **REQUIRED**, **SHALL**, **SHALL NOT**, **SHOULD**,  
84 **SHOULD NOT**, **RECOMMENDED**, **MAY**, and **OPTIONAL**, when they appear in this  
85 document, are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119.

86

### 87 **4.2 Audience**

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

90

### 91 **4.3 Related Documents**

92 These include ebXML Technical Reports on the following topics:

- 93 • [ccCTLG] Guide to the Core Component Dictionary Ver 1.04
- 94 • [ebCCD&A] Core Component Discovery and Analysis Ver 1.04

95

## 96 **5 Basic Information Entities – data element level**

### 97 **5.1 Introduction**

98 These rules are derived from the guidelines and principles described in document ISO  
99 11179 (Guidelines for Structured Naming Conventions). In certain instances, these  
100 guidelines have been adapted to the ebXML Core Component environment. In particular,  
101 the guidelines have been extended to cover not only the naming of basic information  
102 entities or data elements but also to cover the naming of aggregated information entities.

103

104 Each ebXML basic information entity is defined by a:

105

- 106 • **Dictionary Entry Name** (Mandatory). Name of the component as derived from  
107 these naming convention rules. It consists of an *Object Class*, *Property Term* and  
108 *Representation Type*.

109

- 110 • **Definition** (Mandatory). The definition of a Dictionary Entry shall provide the real  
111 business use of that entry. It shall use a structure that allows that entry to be easily  
112 distinguished between the following: *Object Class*, the *Property Term*, and its  
113 *Representation Type*.

114

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

116

- 117 • **Business term** (Optional). If the Dictionary Entry Name is different from the term  
118 used in business, then this business term shall also be presented as synonym. There  
119 may be several business terms or synonyms.

120     ▪ Dictionary Entry Name     e.g. Account.Identifier; Purchase Order.Identifier

121     ▪ Business Term             e.g. Account Number; Order Number, PO Number

122

## 123 **5.2 Naming Rules**

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

126

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

131

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

134

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

137

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

141

142 **Note:** If the *Representation Type* of an entry is “code” there is often a  
143 need for an additional entry for its textual representation. The *Object Class*  
144 and *Property Term* of such entries shall be the same.  
145 (Example : “Car.colour.code” and “Car.colour.text”).

146

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

151

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

- 155  
156 In adoption of this rule the *Property Term* “Identification” could be  
157 omitted if the *Representation Type* is “Identifier”.  
158  
159 For example: The identifier of a party (“Party. Identification. Identifier”)  
160 will be truncated to “Party. Identifier”.  
161
- 162 **Rule 6:** One and only one *Property Term* is normally present in a Dictionary Entry  
163 Name although there may be circumstances where no property term is  
164 included; e.g. Currency Code.  
165
- 166 **Rule 7:** The *Representation Type* shall be present in a Dictionary Entry Name. It  
167 must not be truncated.  
168
- 169 **Rule 8:** To identify an object or a person by its name the *Representation Type*  
170 “name” shall be used..  
171
- 172 **Rule 9:** A Dictionary Entry Name and all its components shall be in singular form  
173 unless the concept itself is plural; e.g. goods.  
174
- 175 **Rule 10:** An *Object Class* as well as a *Property Term* may be composed of one or  
176 more words.  
177
- 178 **Rule 11:** The components of a Dictionary Entry Name shall be separated by dots  
179 and a following space character. The words in multi- word *Object Classes*  
180 and multi- word *Property Terms* shall be separated by the space character.  
181 Every word shall start with a capital letter.  
182
- 183 **Rule 12:** Non-letter characters may only be used if required by language rules.  
184
- 185 **Rule 13:** Abbreviations, acronyms and initials shall not be used as part of a  
186 Dictionary Entry Name, except where they are used within business terms  
187 like real words; e.g. EAN.UCC global location number, DUNS number  
188
- 189 **Rule 14:** All accepted acronyms and abbreviations shall be included in an ebXML  
190 glossary.  
191

### 192 **5.3 Language specific rules**

- 193 **Rule 15:** The dictionary content will be in English Language following the primary  
194 Oxford Dictionary English spellings. This assures unambiguous spelling.  
195
- 196 **Rule 16:** There may be restrictions in specific languages, which need to be applied  
197 when transforming the ebXML Component Catalogue into other  
198 languages. These restrictions may be formulated as additional rules and  
199 added as separated language specific annexes to this document.

200 **6 List of Representation Types**

The following list contains the permissible *Representation Types* (as defined with ISO 11179).

| <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. Points to the CCT Amount Type   | <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). Points to the CCT Code Type | <b>Code</b>                |
| A day within a particular calendar year. Note: Reference ISO 8601. Points to the CCT Date Type  | <b>Date</b>                |
| A particular point in the progression of time. Points to the CCT Date Type  | <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 is taken from UN/ECE Rec. 20. Points to the CCT Measure Type  | <b>Measure</b>             |
| A word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person, place, thing or concept.   | <b>Name</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 quantity Points to the CCT Quantity type  | <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, kilometre per litre, etc.   | <b>Rate</b>                |
| A character string generally in the form of words of a language. Points to the CCT Text type  | <b>Text</b>                |
| The time within a (not specified) day. Reference ISO 8601:1988. Points to the CCT Date type   | <b>Time</b>                |

201



## 201 7 Naming of Aggregate Information Entities

202 Each ebXML aggregate information entity is defined by a:

203

- 204 • **Dictionary Entry Name** (Mandatory). Name of the component, created following  
205 these naming convention rules. It consists of an *Object Class* and its *Property Term*.

206

207 Core Component Types documented on their own do not have a *Representation Type*.  
208 Their different components normally have mixed *Representation Types*. As soon as a  
209 business entity re-uses a Core Component Type, the *Representation Type* of its  
210 component carrying the real business value shall be allocated to this re-used Core  
211 Component Type. Core Component Types will use the *Property Term* “Type”.

212

213 Aggregates shall use the *Property Term* “Details”.

214

215 According to Trade/CEFACT/1999/3 recommendations, aggregates which are  
216 composed of core components having different *Representation Types* must not be  
217 linked to a *Representation Type*.

218

- 219 • **Definition** (Mandatory). The definition of an aggregate shall provide the real  
220 business use. It shall use a structure which provides a clear distinction between the  
221 *Object Class* and the *Property Term*.

222

- 223 • **Business term** (Optional). If the Dictionary Entry Name is different from the term  
224 used in business, then this business term shall also be presented as a synonym. There  
225 may be several business terms or synonyms.

226

- 227     ▪ Dictionary Entry Name     e.g. Consignment Cash-on-Delivery Amount. Details
- 228     ▪ Business Term             e.g. Consignment Cash-on-Delivery Amount

229

## 230 **8 Rules for Components' Definitions**

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

233

- 234 • To avoid the definition simply being a regurgitated version of the Dictionary Entry  
235 Name, the definition should repeat the Dictionary Entry Name followed by “is” and  
236 provide an understandable definition afterwards, which should also be translatable.  
237
- 238 • One of the fundamental principles specified in ISO 11179, and supported by ebXML,  
239 is that the definition should be developed first and the Dictionary Entry Name should  
240 be extracted from it.

241

242

**243 9 Disclaimer**

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

248

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