STAR Data Compliance Guidelines

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Revision History

Date	Version	Description
10/18/04	1.0	Initial Version

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The purpose of this document is to assist STAR members to ensure that their implementation of STAR standards is, in fact, "STAR STANDARD", in terms of data compliance.

Data Compliance

Within STAR there are two standards for the movement of data: 1) DTS (Data Transfer Specifications) standards which define batch-oriented flat file formats, and 2) XML (Extensible Mark-up Language) standards which define data formats used for more direct server to server exchange, such as over the Internet. Making sure data format and content is adequately defined is important for all STAR members wishing to adhere to the STAR standards. It is important that format and content be defined so that STAR members have the ability to build a data interface once and then be able to use it many times.

General STAR Data Compliance criteria:

- All required fields must be populated or they will not pass schema validation. If a user does not have data to send for a required field, the field should be populated with N/A.

  NOTE: While N/A is currently an approved method for populating required fields, in the future STAR will work to eliminate the use of N/A as a value for required fields. Ultimately required fields will only be populated with actual data.

- Optional fields do not need to be sent over the wire. Empty tags should not be sent. Sender must send all optional fields available in their system, and the Receiver will be responsible for only recognizing fields that they need.

- All XML transactions must validate against STAR schema to be compliant.

- Fields must only contain the information that has been defined for that field per the definition in the schema, Implementation Guidelines or data transfer specification (DTS).

- When an enumerator is defined for a field, only those values are compliant.

- If data is sent from an originating system in a particular format, it must be sent back to the originating system in the same format.

  For example, if the OEM sends a part number with dashes (123-0487-487), the DSP must return the part number with dashes.

- It is expected that the initial STAR member implementation of each DTS would be at least at the current version of the DTS and any BOD implementations would be done at least at the current effective version of the STAR XML Repository. For example, STAR member should not implement N-1 as their initial implementation.

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STAR XML BOD Compliance criteria:

- Must be XML schema, based on the STAR schema repository. There are two forms of STAR schema that may be used:
  - Developer
  - Standalone

- STAR XML BOD must be used as specified by the schema and the implementation guidelines as approved by the STAR members

- STAR XML BOD must contain
  - ApplicationArea
    - Sender component
    - Destination component
    - CreationDateTime
  - DataArea
    - Verb
    - Noun
      - All required Components in the Noun

- If a component were Optional, it would not need to be included. If there are required fields on an Optional component, they only need to be sent if the Optional component is used.

STAR DTS Compliance criteria:

- Interface file must comply with the current STAR General File Format specification.

- STAR DTS must be used as specified and approved by the STAR members.

Some Examples of what would NOT be STAR Data Compliant:

- DTD and XDR are not STAR compliant

- Using a field for something that it was not defined for is not STAR compliant

- Use of a "UserArea" is not STAR compliant

- If any extensions or modifications were made to the STAR BODs, schema repository, or DTS they would not be considered STAR compliant.

- Adding additional enumerators or valid values to the STAR XML Repository or DTS would not be STAR compliant.

- For DTS, an interface file with spaces between the data instead of commas is not STAR compliant.

- For DTS, an interface file in non-ASCII character set is not STAR compliant.