ANSI X9.121–2012
Balance and Transaction Reporting Standard

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Developed by
Accredited Standards Committee X9, Incorporated
Financial Industry Standards

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American National Standards Institute

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Contents

Foreword .............................................................................................................................................................. vi
Introduction ........................................................................................................................................................... vii

1 Balance and Transaction Reporting Standard ........................................................................................................ 1
2 Purpose .................................................................................................................................................................. 1
3 References ......................................................................................................................................................... 1
3.1 Normative References ..................................................................................................................................... 1
3.2 Informative References .................................................................................................................................. 1

4 Terms and definitions ........................................................................................................................................... 2
4.1 Account Status Terminology ......................................................................................................................... 2
4.1.1 Available Balance ...................................................................................................................................... 2
4.1.2 Float .......................................................................................................................................................... 2
4.1.3 Ledger Balance .......................................................................................................................................... 3
4.1.4 Total Credits ............................................................................................................................................ 3
4.1.5 Total Debits ............................................................................................................................................... 4
4.2 Related Terminology for INFORMATION Reporting Systems ........................................................................... 4

5 Information Reporting Transmission Files ........................................................................................................... 5
5.1 DEFINITIONS OF PARTIES ............................................................................................................................ 5
5.1.1 Customer .................................................................................................................................................. 6
5.1.2 Originator ................................................................................................................................................ 6
5.1.3 Intermediary ............................................................................................................................................ 6
5.1.4 Sender .................................................................................................................................................... 6
5.1.5 Receiver ................................................................................................................................................ 6
5.1.6 Ultimate Receiver .................................................................................................................................. 6
5.2 UNIFORM TYPE CODES ................................................................................................................................. 6
5.2.1 Type Code Ranges ................................................................................................................................... 7
5.2.2 Type Code for Non-monetary Information ............................................................................................ 7
5.2.3 Customized Type Codes ......................................................................................................................... 8
5.3 FILE STRUCTURE ......................................................................................................................................... 8
5.3.1 File ........................................................................................................................................................ 8
5.3.2 Group .................................................................................................................................................... 8
5.3.3 Account ................................................................................................................................................ 8
5.4 RECORD DESCRIPTIONS ............................................................................................................................... 9
5.5 FILE LAYOUT ................................................................................................................................................ 10
5.5.1 Groups in Files ........................................................................................................................................ 10
5.6 RECORD CHARACTERISTICS ..................................................................................................................... 11
5.6.1 Physical Records and Logical Records ................................................................................................. 11
5.6.2 Fixed Length Records and Variable Length Records ........................................................................... 11
5.6.3 Free Format Fields/Field Delimiters ...................................................................................................... 11
5.6.4 Local Language ...................................................................................................................................... 12
5.6.5 Leading Zeros ........................................................................................................................................ 12
5.6.6 End of Record ........................................................................................................................................ 12

6 Record Formats ................................................................................................................................................ 12
6.1 01 – FILE HEADER ...................................................................................................................................... 12
6.1.1 Delimiters ................................................................................................................................................. 13

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NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS .................................................................................................................... 32
ITEM COUNT ........................................................................................................................................ 31
Group Status Code Processing Matrix .............................................................................................. 31
Group Status Codes ............................................................................................................................ 29
GROUP CONTROL TOTAL .................................................................................................................. 29
FUNDS TYPE ........................................................................................................................................ 28
FILE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ........................................................................................................ 28
FILE CREATION DATE ........................................................................................................................ 27
FILE CONTROL TOTAL ....................................................................................................................... 27
CURRENCY CODE ............................................................................................................................... 27
BLOCK SIZE ......................................................................................................................................... 26
AMOUNT ............................................................................................................................................... 25
Data Elements ...................................................................................................................................... 25
ACCOUNT CONTROL TOTAL ............................................................................................................... 25
ACCOUNT CONTROL TOTAL ............................................................................................................... 25
AMOUNT ............................................................................................................................................... 25
AS-OF-DATE......................................................................................................................................... 25
AS-OF-TIME......................................................................................................................................... 25
AS-OF-DATE MODIFIER ........................................................................................................................ 26
BANK REFERENCE NUMBER ............................................................................................................. 26
BLOCK SIZE ......................................................................................................................................... 26
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NUMBER ....................................................................................................... 26
CURRRENCY CODE .............................................................................................................................. 26
CUSTOMER REFERENCE NUMBER .................................................................................................... 27
FILE CONTROL TOTAL ....................................................................................................................... 27
FILE CREATION DATE ......................................................................................................................... 27
FILE CREATION TIME ......................................................................................................................... 27
FILE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ........................................................................................................ 28
FUNDS TYPE ......................................................................................................................................... 28
GROUP CONTROL TOTAL .................................................................................................................... 29
GROUP STATUS .................................................................................................................................... 29
Group Status Codes ............................................................................................................................ 29
Group Status Code Processing Matrix .............................................................................................. 31
ITEM COUNT ......................................................................................................................................... 31
NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS ...................................................................................................................... 32
NUMBER OF GROUPS ............................................................................................................................ 32
NUMBER OF RECORDS .......................................................................................................................... 32
7.22 ORIGINATOR IDENTIFICATION .......................................................................................................... 32
7.23 PHYSICAL RECORD LENGTH ........................................................................................................ 32
7.24 RECEIVER IDENTIFICATION .......................................................................................................... 33
7.25 SENDER IDENTIFICATION ............................................................................................................... 33
7.26 TEXT ................................................................................................................................................ 33
7.27 TYPE CODE ..................................................................................................................................... 34
7.28 ULTIMATE RECEIVER IDENTIFICATION ....................................................................................... 34
7.29 VERSION NUMBER .......................................................................................................................... 35

Annex A (Normative)  UNIFORM INFORMATION REPORTING TYPE CODES AND TYPE CODE RANGES ............................................................................................................................................... 36
A.1 Type Codes ........................................................................................................................................ 36
A.2 Type Code Ranges .............................................................................................................................. 36
A.3 Customized Type Codes ..................................................................................................................... 37
A.4 BTRS Status Codes ............................................................................................................................ 38
A.5 BTRS Summary Codes ....................................................................................................................... 38
BTRS Summary Codes Continued ................................................................................................................. 39
B.6 BTRS Detail Credit Codes .................................................................................................................. 40
B.7 BTRS Detail Debit Codes .................................................................................................................... 41

Annex B (Normative)  SAMPLE TRANSMISSIONS ......................................................................................... 44
B.1 This file illustrates the BTRS transmission format ........................................................................... 44

Annex C (Normative) SWIFT MESSAGES ...................................................................................................... 49
C.1 SWIFT MESSAGE TYPE 940: Conventions for translation into Balance and Transaction Reporting Format, Version 1 .............................................................................................................. 49
C.2 SWIFT MESSAGE TYPE 941: Conventions for translation into Balance and Transaction Reporting Format, Version 1 .............................................................................................................. 51
C.3 SWIFT MESSAGE TYPE 942: Conventions for translation into Balance and Transaction Reporting Format, Version 1 .............................................................................................................. 53
C.4 Table M ................................................................................................................................................. 54

Annex D (Normative) Fedwire/CHIPS Wire Remittance Information in the BTRS 88 Record................... 55
D.1 Introduction ....................................................................................................................................... 55
D.2 Acceptable inclusion of Remittance information ............................................................................. 55
D.3 Fedwire/CHIPS Remittance Types (Effective November 19, 2011) ................................................. 57
D.4 Fedwire/CHIPS Tags Method to Identify Wire Remittance Data in the BTRS 88 Record .......... 59
D.5 ISO 20022 XML Tags Method to Identify Wire Remittance Data in the BTRS 88 Record .......... 63

Annex E (Normative) Status Codes ............................................................................................................... 72
Figure 1 Groups in Files ................................................................................................................................ 10
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The Balance and Transaction Reporting Standard (BTRS) is intended to increase standardization of and improve upon the Bank Administration Institute Reporting Specification version 2 (BAI2). Changes include:

1) Modernization of text to include developments in banking and technology over the past 25 years
2) Additional structure to 88 record to support extended wire remittance in CTP payments
3) New batch level (89) and invoice level (90) records providing additional remittance information using ISO 20022 component tags to assist in reconciliation and straight through processing
4) Rationalization and reduction of the number of supported transaction codes
5) Additional SEPA transaction codes to support new European payment types
6) Double byte character set support through the incorporation of UTF-8
7) Require certain balance codes to facilitate SWIFT and ISO 20022 XML interoperability.
8) Modified currency rules to make them mandatory and allow for multi currency
9) Added new 900 series code categories to define debits and credits.

The standard builds upon the BAI2 format while retaining forward compatibility. Although a BTRS file with the above changes could not be interpreted with a BAI2 reader, a BAI2 file could be interpreted with a BTRS reader.

Suggestions for the improvement or revision of this Standard are welcome. They should be sent to the X9 Committee Secretariat, Accredited Standards Committee X9, Inc., Financial Industry Standards, 275 West Street, Suite 107 Annapolis, MD 21401 USA.

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1 With some exceptions, a BAI2 file cannot be processed by a BTRS reader if deleted or repurposed codes were included in the BAI2 file
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1 Balance and Transaction Reporting Standard

Market conditions and the need for greater visibility into cash flows have caused corporations to focus increased attention on cash management. Banks have responded by offering services such as: electronic banking, information reporting, lockbox remittance processing, cash concentration, electronic transfers, and controlled disbursement, which help companies improve cash flow and utilize idle funds.

Of equal importance are improvements in the delivery of information about a company’s balances and transactions. The corporate treasurer’s office must know the company’s cash position to control usable funds effectively. By closely monitoring cash position, the treasurer is better able to:

- Analyze and project funding needs
- Assure appropriate liquidity
- Minimize idle cash balances
- Perform account reconciliation
- Maximize investment opportunities or reduce borrowings

Formerly, information needs were relatively simple and less time-critical. Data such as ledger balances, available balances, and float breakdowns were usually sufficient. However, in recent years the needs for more extensive reporting of greater transaction detail have dramatically increased. Banks have responded with increasingly sophisticated reporting systems.

As the number of banking relationships for a corporation increases, the daily task of gathering information becomes more difficult and time-consuming especially when bank cash management data is provided in a variety of formats. In order to consolidate reporting and monitor multiple banking relationships, many corporations request each of their banks to report balance information to a central agent that may be another bank or a third-party data aggregator.

2 Purpose

As reporting systems become more complex, differences in data formats can cause considerable difficulty. The Balance and Transaction Reporting Standard establishes a common format for exchanging cash management account data. By establishing an efficient mechanism for communication among multiple parties, the standard facilitates complete, accurate, and timely information reporting, and helps reduce the cost of providing this service.

3 References

3.1 Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the specific edition cited applies. For undated references, the most recent edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 4217, Codes for the representation of currencies and funds

3.2 Informative References