



ISO 20022-1

**Financial services — Universal
financial industry message
scheme —**

**Part 1:
Metamodel**

*Services financiers — Schéma universel de messages pour
l'industrie financière —*

Partie 1: Métamodèle

**Third edition
2026-04**

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Foreword	iv
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Type Library	11
5 Metamodel packages	13
5.1 General.....	13
5.2 The metamodel's use of ISO20022::TypeLibrary.....	13
5.3 Levels.....	14
5.3.1 General.....	14
5.3.2 Scope level.....	15
5.3.3 Conceptual level.....	16
5.3.4 Logical level.....	18
5.3.5 Physical level.....	21
5.4 Models Transformation.....	22
5.4.1 General.....	22
5.4.2 Scope to Conceptual.....	23
5.4.3 Conceptual to Logical.....	23
5.4.4 Logical to Physical.....	25
6 Repository	25
6.1 Repository structure.....	25
6.1.1 Overview.....	25
6.2 DataDictionary.....	27
6.2.1 Overview.....	27
6.2.2 List of Dictionary Items.....	28
6.2.3 DictionaryItem Registration Status.....	31
6.2.4 DictionaryItems description information.....	32
6.2.5 DataDictionary life cycle.....	32
6.3 BusinessProcessCatalogue.....	32
6.3.1 Overview.....	32
6.3.2 List of BusinessProcessCatalogueItems.....	33
6.3.3 CatalogueItem Registration Status.....	33
6.3.4 CatalogueItem description information.....	33
6.3.5 BusinessProcessCatalogue life cycle.....	34
7 Registration	34
8 Repository access	34
8.1 General.....	34
8.2 Repository output types.....	34
8.3 Output format.....	34
Annex A (normative) Type library	35
Annex B (normative) Metamodel	49
Bibliography	154

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Information exchange for financial services*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 20022-1:2013), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- changes:
 - Use of ISO/IEC 11404 instead of XML schema, except XML Schema temporal types remain.
 - CodeSet trace to BusinessCodeSet, formalising the two-level approach used in practice.
 - Top level entries across the catalogue and dictionary have unique names.
 - BusinessArea moved to scope level to contain BusinessProcesses
- clarifications:
 - Cardinality specified and updated related constraints.
 - Lengths of Binary, String and Text types are positiveIntegers.
 - MessageAssociationEnd aggregation to align with BusinessAssociationEnd.
 - Choreography associated indirectly with MessageDefinitions via MessageSet, instead of directly.
- additions:
 - Defined term "Conformance" to replace use of "compliance"
 - SyntaxMessageScheme linked to Syntax.
 - Import relationship amongst BusinessTransactions.

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- Conversation aggregates MessageInstances to MessagingEndpoints, as per its definition.
- Pointer data type to enable direct references within each message instance.
- Binary types specify preferred text representation.
- Minor version properties (revision, variation) and draft were added to MessageDefinition
- Path of traces from BusinessComponent to BusinessElement.
- InterfaceSpecifications traces to logical InterfaceDefinitions comprising of Operations with Parameters.
- Kind and Type of Constraint.
- Version relationships amongst RepositoryConcept.

A list of all parts in the ISO 20022 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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The ISO 20022 series defines a scalable, methodical process to ensure consistent descriptions of messages throughout the financial services industry.

The purpose of the ISO 20022 series is to describe precisely and completely the externally observable aspects of financial services messaging in a way that can be verified independently against operational messaging.

The trigger for the creation of the ISO 20022 series was the rapid growth in the scale and sophistication of messaging within financial services during the 1990s using the ISO 15022 series. The financial services industry (hereafter referred to as "the industry") created the first version of the ISO 20022 series as the successor to the ISO 15022 series in response to that trigger. Since the ISO 15022 series, the industry has broadened the scope from securities to the entire industry for the ISO 20022 series.

The ISO 20022 series is based on open technology standards, which historically have evolved more rapidly than the industry itself. Consequently, the ISO 20022 series adopted a model-driven approach where the model of the industry's messaging can evolve separately from the evolution of the messaging technology standards. The period during which the ISO 20022 series has emerged followed the widespread adoption of the internet for business. The eXtensible Mark-up Language (XML) emerged as the de facto standard for document representation on the internet and it became the first syntax for the ISO 20022 series.

The modelling process is further refined into three levels which, in addition to the messaging technology standard, is why the ISO 20022 series is based on four levels: the scope level, the conceptual level, the logical level and the physical level. This four-level approach is based on the first four levels of the Zachman Framework^[5]. The remaining two levels of the Zachman Framework are equivalent to the implementations and the operational levels, respectively.

In this document, the first, second and third levels are described in Unified Modelling Language (UML) because it is widely supported and supports multiple levels of abstraction. The models created in accordance with this document are technology independent in that they do not require any particular physical expression or implementation. Such models aim to describe all parts of the message exchange. The models form the definition of the protocol between participants exchanging messages. This document defines a process by which these models can be created and maintained by the modellers.

The model and physical level artefacts are stored in an ISO 20022 Repository (hereafter referred to as "the Repository"). The Repository and physical level artefacts are exposed in a publicly accessible location, such as a website, serviced by a Registration Authority. The name and contact information of the Registration Authority for the ISO 20022 series can be found at www.iso.org/maintenance_agencies.

The Repository is organized into two areas:

- a DataDictionary containing the industry model elements likely to have further or repeated use;
- a BusinessProcessCatalogue that contains models describing specific MessageDefinitions, and business processes and physical syntax implementations.

The ISO 20022 series is organized into the following parts:

- This document describes the metamodel of all the models and the Repository according to ISO/IEC 19502:2005 (MOF).
- ISO 20022-2 covers the UML profile, a grounding of general UML into a specific subset defined for the ISO 20022 series (to be used when UML is selected to define the models).
- ISO 20022-3 describes a modelling method to produce models for the ISO 20022 series.
- ISO 20022-4 covers XML schema generation rules to transform a logical level model into a physical level description in the syntaxes.
- ISO 20022-5 covers business concept model interoperability, and logical model alignment and reverse engineering.

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- ISO 20022-7 describes the process of managing the registration of models and physical syntax implementations.
- ISO 20022-8 gives ASN.1 syntax generation rules to transform a logical level model into a physical level description in ASN.1.
- ISO 20022-9 describes generic guidelines which are used to define schema generation rules for any specific syntax.

Defined terms of this document are in PascalCase and will use PascalCase throughout the document.