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# Information technology — Document Schema Definition Languages (DSDL) —

## Part 3: Rule-based validation using Schematron

*Technologies de l'information — Langages de définition de schéma de documents (DSDL) —*

*Partie 3: Validation basée sur des règles à l'aide de Schematron*

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 34, *Document description and processing languages.*

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO/IEC 19757-3:2020 [1]), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— a query language binding has been added for XQuery3 (Annex M);

— new elements `group` (5.4.5), `library` (5.4.8) and `rules` (5.4.16) have been added;

— new attribute `as` has been added to element `let` (5.4.7), to enable datatyping of variables;

— new attributes `schematronEdition` (5.5.15) and `severity` (5.5.16) have been added;

— `param` elements (5.4.11) are now allowed for schemas and abstract patterns and in the latter case their value can act as a default;

— attributes `flag` (5.5.6), `role` (5.5.14) and `severity` (5.5.16) are dynamically evaluated if their value is a variable reference;

— element `extends` (5.4.4) is made available at the top level of a schema;

— the methods of base URI fixup (6.8) and language fixup (6.7) are specified;

— a mapping of schema to SVRL structures is provided in Annex D.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 19757 series can be found on the ISO website.

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ISO/IEC 19757 (all parts) [2] defines a set of Document Schema Definition Languages (DSDL) that can be used to specify one or more validation processes performed against Extensible Markup Language (XML 1.0[3]) or Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) documents. [XML is an application profile SGML (see ISO 8879 [4]).

A document model is an expression of the constraints to be placed on the structure and content of documents to be validated with the model. A number of technologies have been developed through various formal and informal consortia since the development of Document Type Definitions (DTDs) as part of ISO 8879 [4], notably by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS). A number of validation technologies are standardized in DSDL to complement those already available as standards or from the industry.

Through the validation that a structured document conforms to specified constraints in structure and content, the potentially many applications acting on the document are relieved from duplicating the task of confirming that such requirements have been met. Historically, such tasks and expressions have been developed and utilized in isolation, without consideration of how the features and functionality available in other technologies can enhance validation objectives.

The main objective of ISO/IEC 19757 (all parts) [2] is to bring together different validation-related tasks and expressions to form a single extensible framework that allows technologies to work in series or in parallel to produce a single or a set of validation results. The extensibility of DSDL accommodates validation technologies not yet designed or specified.

In the past, different design and use criteria have led users to choose different validation technologies for different portions of their information. Bringing together information within a single XML document sometimes prevents existing document models from being used to validate sections of data. By providing an integrated suite of constraint description languages that can be applied to different subsets of a single XML document, ISO/IEC 19757 (all parts) [2] allows different validation technologies to be integrated under a well-defined validation policy.

The structure of this document is as follows. Clause 5 describes the syntax of a Schematron schema. Clause 6 describes the semantics of a correct Schematron schema; the semantics specify when a document is valid with respect to a Schematron schema. Clause 7 describes conformance requirements for implementations of Schematron validators. Annex A provides the ISO/IEC 19757-2 [5] (RELAX NG) schema for Schematron. Annex B provides the Schematron schema for constraints in Schematron that cannot be expressed by the schema of Annex A. Annex C provides the default query language binding to XSLT1. Annex D provides an ISO/IEC 19757-2 [5] (RELAX NG compact syntax) schema and corresponding Schematron schema for a simple XML language Schematron Validation Report Language. Annex E provides motivating design requirements for Schematron. Annex F specifies certain Schematron elements to be used in external vocabularies. Annex G provides a simple example of a multi-lingual schema. Annex H to Annex M provide query language bindings. Annex O shows example usage of Schematron properties.

This edition is backwards compatible with ISO/IEC 19757-3:2020 [1] to the extent that validation results produced by existing schemas are unaffected by the changes this edition makes, supersedes it and provides extra query language bindings, for XQuery3.

Considered as a document type, a Schematron schema contains natural-language assertions concerning a set of documents, marked up with various elements and attributes for testing these natural-language assertions and for simplifying and grouping assertions.

Considered theoretically, a Schematron schema reduces to a non-chaining rule system whose terms are Boolean functions invoking an external query language on the instance and other visible XML documents, with syntactic features to reduce specification size and to allow efficient implementation.

Considered analytically, Schematron has two characteristic high-level abstractions: the pattern and the phase. These allow the representation of non-regular, non-sequential constraints that ISO/IEC 19757-2 [5] cannot specify and various dynamic or contingent constraints.

programming languages and from discussions in electronic forums by Schematron users and implementers.