



Draft SDMX Standards-Setting (Version 1.0) – Public Disposition Log

Guide to organization of comments log:

Comments are numbered on a by-institution basis, with each institution having an abbreviation (ie, “ABS” for “Australian Bureau of Statistics”, with comments starting at “ABS-1”.) Overall log is organized alphabetically by country, with institutions and abbreviations listed in parenthesis. (Note that Nordic Countries submitted together, and so are alphabetized under “N”):

- **Australia** (Australian Bureau of Statistics - ABS)
- **Austria** (Statistics Austria - SA)
- **Italy** (Bank of Italy - BOI)
- **Japan** (Bank of Japan – BOJ, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts, and Telecommunications - MPM)
- **Malaysia** (Bank Negara Malaysia – BNM)
- **Mexico** (Bank of Mexico [Banxico] - BdM)
- **Nordic Countries** (Nordic Database Group - NORD)
- **United States** (Federal Reserve Bank of New York – FED, Federal Reserve Board – FRB, FedStats - FST, National Institute of Standards and Technology - NIST)

No.	Organization	Name	Date	Document/Standard	Line No.	Problem/Issue	Suggested Solution	Disposition
ABS-1	ABS	Bryan Fitzpatrick	18/5/04	Doc05		Time period information is not normalised out to a classification in its own right Without information on the period that the time period refers to, there is not enough information to	Time period should be taken from a standard classification.	This comment is related to others (from BIS). Agreed - resolution to be further discussed.



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						unambiguously understand the data being delivered. For example if the data type is stock open, and the reference period is January 2004, does that mean the measure was taken at the start of the month, the end of the month, or at some other time		
ABS-2				Doc04	467-488	The SDMX schema does not seem to handle complex classifications. It allows the translation of a key to a label / description, but it does not provide information on how this category relates to other categories in the codelist	Support hierarchical classifications/codelists	This is an issue which will be addressed in the next version of the standard.
ABS-3					467-488	The SDMX schema does not give other information on alternate ways of using a classification like alternative labels, alternate orders of categories	Support properties on code lists/classifications such as alternative label, display order	This issue will be raised in the next version.
ABS-4				Doc05		The Unit Multipliers seem dangerous. It would be better to include the multiplication factor so that there is no ambiguity about billions in different countries	SDMX should harmonise on a standard codelist for multiplication factor, or scale factor, and avoid ambiguous semantics such as billions	Use of Unit Multipliers is not inherent in the structure of the schema – it is merely an example taken from actual practice. This is not an issue to be resolved as part of the schema specifications.
ABS-5				Doc05		Information on the quality of the statistical data used would be	Add information about the relative standard error or	Quality information is



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						very useful.	variance of each data value, or with the use of descriptive text associated with the data via Notes / Annotations (see also 6 below)	often provided within key families, but was not chosen for our example. This is again outside the scope of schema specification, and thus is an issue to be addressed elsewhere within SDMX.
ABS-6				Doc04		Notes and annotation would be useful in the schema	Include in the schema the ability to add notes/annotations at various points in the schema	Agree. This is a known issue which will be addressed.
ABS-7				Doc04	428	It would be useful to include some information in the header on data source.	Add data source information to the header such that, for example, the source could be identified as "Australian Bureau of Statistics; Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product - Quarterly."	Agree. Optional "Source" field to be added.
ABS-8				Doc04	312-313	Given that it is possible to send data separately from the structural metadata, what method will be used to ensure that the data still aligns with the structure	Clarify in the document how the data can be verified to ensure it aligns with the structure, in particular when the structure changes	You raise several issues here: (1) Key family structures will need to be versioned – data is tied to a single version of the structure. (2) Validation



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								<p>against structural descriptions are handled different ways for different schema types. This is a necessary aspect of the design. Some types of key-family-specific schemas exist to provide more validation.</p> <p>Clarification will be added to the document to highlight intended versioning approaches and validation approaches.</p>
ABS-9				Doc04/05		Is display/storage precision supported	If supported explain how	Display issues are not addressed in the schema, nor are storage ones explicitly.
ABS-10				Doc04/05		There seems not to be any support for searching on keywords or topics	Include other information for searching – topics, keywords	Association of keywords with structure and/or data will be facilitated



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								through the use of notes, which will be added to the schemas. The functionality of these is left up to the application. In future, the registry will provide functionality in this regard as well.
ABS-11				Doc05		There are no data cubes in the examples e.g. will the data cube support referencing back to time series	Clarify the support for data cubes and give examples	Support for cubes is not part of version 1.0, but will be addressed in version 2.0.
ABS-12				Doc04		Will the schemas for Compact, Generic and Structural be the same, just showing different parts	Clarify this in the document	Agreed. While there are many similarities, there are also significant differences.
ABS-13				general		Will work be undertaken to standardize codelists e.g. units - USD?	Clarify	This is an issue being addressed in other parts of the SDMX initiative, notably in the "SDMX Core Concepts." This relationship will be expanded upon in the documents.
SA-1	Statistics	Dieter	2004-	SDMX Format	42	missing word	Add "are" to the sentence:	OK.



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	Austria	Burget	07-01	Implementation Overview			"These aspects of the data model <u>are</u> not addressed here."	
SA-2	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	SDMX Format Implementation Overview	162	The sentence "If a time series has a constant time interval between its observations, this interval determines the frequency of the time series" seems to imply that frequency must have a constant time interval. However, in "Key Families: A Tutorial" in line 100 it is stated that the intervals can be irregular too.	This contradiction should be clarified.	Point taken. The inconsistency will be addressed.
SA-3	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	Key Families: A Tutorial	73	Does "January 2001" mean "January 1, 2001", "January 31, 2001", "some other day in January 2001", "no specific day in January 2001"?	Clarify the example.	This comment is closely related to several others which have been raised. The point is well taken, and the issue will be resolved.
SA-4	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	Key Families: A Tutorial	147	"every Observation is associated with a specific point in Time" → observations may also be associated with a specific period (duration), e.g. turnover of an enterprise in January 2004.	Add "or period": "every Observation is associated with a specific point <u>or period</u> in Time."	Agreed.
SA-5	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	SDMX Guidelines for the Use of Web Services	51	In SOAP Specification 1.2 "Simple Object Access Protocol" is not mentioned anymore.	Mention that SOAP initially was a shortcut for "Simple Object Access Protocol", but it should not be regarded as shortcut any longer.	Agreed.
SA-6	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model	131 and following	The description of "Aggregation" is not correct, because it describes the concept of "composition". See Booch, Rumbaugh, Jacobson, "The Unified Modeling Language User	Correct the paragraph on aggregation.	While your point is taken, the intended audience for this document is not one which would



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No.	Organization	Name	Date	Document/Standard	Line No.	Problem/Issue	Suggested Solution	Disposition
						Guide”, page 146: “Aggregation turns out to be a simple concept with some fairly deep semantics. Simple aggregation is entirely conceptual and does nothing more than distinguish a “whole” from a “part”. Simple aggregation does not change the meaning of navigation across the association between the whole and its parts, nor does it link the lifetimes of the whole and its parts.”		appreciate the distinction you draw - this is not a technical use of the term, but instead is a “lay” use of the term.
SA-7	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model	137 and following	What has been said about “aggregation” (see No. 6), in fact applies to composition. See Booch, Rumbaugh, Jacobson, “The Unified Modeling Language User Guide”, page 147: “However, there is a variation of simple aggregation – composition – that does add some important semantics. Composition is a form of aggregation, with strong ownership and coincident lifetime as part of the whole. Parts with non-fixed multiplicity may be created after the composite itself, but once created they live and die with it.”	Correct the paragraph on composition.	See above.
SA-8	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model	142	Association end names are usually called “roles” in UML.	Add the term “roles” to the description.	Accepted.
SA-9	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information	162	“Sometimes it is useful to group common classes together in a super class.”	This should probably read “common attributes and associations” instead of “common classes”	Accepted.



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				Model				
SA-10	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model	194	In "SDMX Information Model" there are diagrams where classes and aggregations are drawn with dashed lines (e.g. line 151). There is no description in "A Short Guide to UML..." of this type of notation. (By the way, I can't find this type of notation in the UML specification – is it an SDMX-specific extension of UML?).	Add description in "A Short Guide to UML..." or change diagrams in "SDMX Information Model".	This problem results for poor PDF rendering, and will be fixed.
SA-11	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	Framework for SDMX Standards	322	Missing word	Add "be" to "and will <u>be</u> subject to adjustment."	Accepted.
SA-12	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	SDMX Schema Design and Documentation	870	spelling error	Remove "u" from "all key-family-speci <u>u</u> fic schemas"	Accepted.
SA-13	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	SDMX Schema Design and Documentation	876	spelling error	Change "amy" to "may"	Accepted.
SA-14	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	SDMX Information Model	110	Description of actor "Data Reporter"	It should be clarified that the "Data Reporter" usually is an organization like an NSI, a central bank etc., but not a respondent for statistical raw data collection (like, for example, a household, person, school, enterprise). SDMX-ML is not intended for raw data collection (there exist XML schemas like Statistics Austria's e-Quest schemas and XML4DR by EEG6/WG4 which are better fitted for raw data collection).	Accepted. Clarification will be made.
SA-15	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	SDMX Information Model	493	Description of "MeasureDimension": "... dimension in a time series that <u>des</u> the concepts..."	Does "des" mean: describes? defines?	Comment noted, but other wording changes will



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								eliminate the problem.
SA-16	Statistics Austria	Dieter Burget	2004-07-01	General	See text	<p>Ad "SDMX Information Model", line 341 and following:</p> <p>Codelists in SDMX-ML currently cannot have hierarchies and properties. Statistics Austria has developed a schema for codelists and classifications which can either be flat or hierarchically structured. This schema has been developed especially to fit the requirements of statistical raw data collection and is used in Statistics Austria's e-Quest system to present classifications to the respondents of electronic questionnaires (see screenshot fig 1). The XML classifications are also loaded into a database and presented to users of the new e-Quest/Web system for web questionnaires (see screenshot fig. 2). The schema has been accepted by EEG6/WG4 and incorporated into the XML4DR specification (however, it is not clear, if XML4DR will be further developed or if it will die). The schema might be of interest to SDMX, I therefore include a paper by Frederick Rennert (frederick.rennert@statistik.gv.at) describing the UML class diagram and the schema.</p> <p>[Also: See their document for</p>		Hierarchical codelists will be addressed in version 2 of the model.



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						figures.]		
BOI-1	Bank of Italy			Doc02 and Doc03	165-167	Data Exchange Context (DEC) and Exchanged Time Series (ETS) are missing from the SDMX/IM	Either add ETS and DEC or provide an explanation of the mapping to SDMX/IM	ETS is a number of datasets in an exchange environment – we will add this to the IM. DEC is not modeled as it is part of a CPA (collaboration protocol agreement) and this is not in the scope of the SDMX/IM
BOI-2				Doc02 and Doc03	126-131	Footnotes are mentioned in DOC03 but are missing from DOC02	If required then add footnotes to the SDMX/IM	Notes will be added to the IM and other artifacts (XML schemas, etc.)
BOI-3				Doc02		Multidimensional data cubes are a useful construct and would aid the cross sectional versus time series issue. It would also help to clarify the model for OLAP users	Add Cube to the DataSet model and also add CubeStructure to the key family model	Cubes are not within scope for Phase I, but will be considered in Phase 2 – the next version of IM, schemas, etc.
BOI-4				Doc02 and Doc03		The description of cross sectional is not consistent across these documents See attached document (appendix 1) on cross sectional	Define in a precise way what a cross-sectional data is (time-slice and/or multi-values?), possibly as a specialization of a “data cube” Extend the metadata management (probably according to the Proposal for	Cross sectional will be defined and modeled taking into account the “Proposal for Cross Sectional Model and



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							<p>Cross Sectional Model and Schema Mapping in SDMX Version 1.0 Standards)</p> <p>Define in a precise way the conceptual mapping between the different supported formats</p> <p>Take into account appendix 1 for scope of cross sectional</p>	<p>Schema Mapping in SDMX Version 1.0 Standards” and comments on this proposal.</p>
BOI-5				DoC02	73-74	Concerning “The functions of SDMX registry version 1.0, its model, and the map to the SDMX-IM are documented separately”, we wonder where this documentation can be found	Reference the relevant document in Doc02	<p>This is documented in the SDMX registry architecture document which has not yet been issued.</p> <p>The reference will be added to Doc02.</p>
BOI-6				Doc02	103	. It is not obvious why the “Load data” use case includes the “Maintain KF” use case.	Clarify this.	<p>The use case model will be changed to include “Retrieve Key Family” instead of “Maintain Key Family”</p>
BOI-7				Doc02	106	In the description of use case “Maintain Key Family” the subject should be “This actor” rather than “This use case”.	Change the description	<p>The description will be changed to “Defines and maintains the key family in terms of metadata concepts that comprise the</p>



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								dimensions and attributes of the key family structure, and the code lists used".
BOI-8				Doc02		Regarding "Data Collector actor": the last part of description "This actor may define report forms based on data categories and associated key families" is not clear. Are "Data Categories and associated KeyFamilies" more a or less "Data Set with the related Key family structure"?	Clarify in the text	The text will be changed to "This actor may define report forms based on data flow definition and associated key family structure."
BOI-9				Doc02	110	Perhaps "Validate data" use case should include "Retrieve Key Family" use case, excluding "Maintain Key Family" use case.	Clarify or change description as suggested	Add line at 103 between "Validate Data" and "Retrieve Key Family" (<<includes>>) Description at line 110 has additional paragraph "This use case includes the use case Retrieve Key Family"
BOI-10	Bank of Italy	Renato Serafini	29 July 2004	Doc02	241	The attachable artefact class is not described	Describe this class	Change word "Attachable" at line 292 to "Attachable Artefact" and add description of attachable artefact to the end of the



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								narrative explanation.
BOI-11				Doc02	495	Coded Attribute and UncodedAttribute are described twice. Is there a reason for that?	Remove duplicate or clarify	Duplicate definitions will be removed
BOI-12				Doc02	504	Figure 15. "from Key Family" text is missing in the GroupKeyDescriptor Class	Add the text	This was caused by the disabling of the "visibility" option for this class in this diagram in the modeling package. The option will be enabled
BOI-13				Doc02	540	CrossSectionalKey class is not described	Describe CrossSectionalKey	This will be added in a way that is consistent with the agreed model for cross sectional data
BOI-14				Doc02	138 580	Regarding "multi-language" feature, it is not clear to us whether the modeling approach shown at page 12 (figure 3) and the related examples (like the "Metadata concept schema" at page 62) allows either a variable language to be specified (but just once at a time) or multiple language descriptions to be used at the same time	Clarify this	This part of the model has been revised and the new structure makes it clear that multiple locales are supported for each international string..
BOI-15				Doc03		This document is really mainly concerned with the Information Model issue rather than implementation issues; only Point III (from row 317 on) is concerned with implementation issues	This document is really mainly concerned with the Information Model issue rather than implementation issues; only Point III (from row 317 on) is concerned with implementation	The content, format and title of this document will be reviewed. At the very least, and if retained,



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						(interoperability limit and data representation in EDIFACT and XML).	issues (interoperability limit and data representation in EDIFACT and XML).	the title will be changed.
BOI-16				Doc04	279-281	What is the meaning of "not maintained by SDMX" and what is the reason for that?		SDMX only maintains the core schemas – not those created from SDMX-compliant key family descriptions. Note, however, that the mapping between an SDMX key family and each of the non-core schema types is standard (and maintained by SDMX). This mechanism allows the key-family owners to create and maintain key-family-specific schemas, while still permitting interoperability (if you know the mapping and have the key family, you can predict exactly what the schema will look



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								like.)
BOI-17				Doc04	1246-1250	(Special "Notes" Attributes)". "Notes" are a very useful concept. We are not able to understand at the moment how big is the impact on the current Information Model. (see issue No. 2)		Note will be added to the schema – see BOI-2, above, regarding IM.
BOI-18				Doc04	1241	For all issues concerning Cross-Sectional data, please refer to point 1.1 and to appendix 1 of this document.		Cross-sectional issues will be addressed – see BOI-4.
BOI-19				Doc04	1295	(Character encoding): UTF-8 Unicode should be anyway proposed. For specific needs, a file using ISO8897-1 format can be generated, using conversion tools, like IBM ICU4J International Components for Unicode for Java		Agreed. We will amend the spec to reflect this viewpoint.
BOI-20				Doc06		Since XML formats used to exchange data are quite verbose (and in any case data set can be very large!!), problems could arise in managing large Web Services results; it should be clarified whether SDMX Web Services are able to support one or more of the following features in order to manage large results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compression; • a way to inform users of the result size before data downloading; • a default SIZE LIMIT implemented in the Services, that is a parameter that can be modified by the user according, for instance, to the connection speed. 		Agreed. We propose that the SDMX query document allows the sender to specify an acceptable maximum size, and that there be an error condition expressed by the service when the response would be greater than the requested size, and include how big it is. Would the return



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								of a truncated data set be advisable?
BOI-21				Doc07	124-130	“Cross-sectional” data are marginally treated in the tutorial. After having clarified all the involved issues (see point 1.1), it would be very useful to give a more important role to the different ways of packaging Observations and attributes (including an example, like, for instance, the example of appendix 1 of this document).		Agreed.
BOJ-1	Bank of Japan	Yoshihide ICHIKAWA (Mr.) Director, Head of Statistics Planning Section, Research and Statistics Department	22 July 2004	SDMX Schema Design and Documentation	1297 1300	We understand the SDMX is currently having problems with character transformation. We expect the SDMX to continue the good work with their battle against the character transformation problem, and overcome the impediment as UNICODE is imperative for the internationalization of the SDMX standard for data exchange.		For the XML formats, UTF-8 will be required. We have identified programs that will handle the EDIFACT/XML transformations in a sufficient fashion. To date, this seems to be the only feasible approach to this issue, but we will remain vigilant in identifying technical solutions to further this alignment between character



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								encoding in the relevant syntaxes.
MPM-1	Statistics Bureau Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications Japan	Masato AIDA Director International Statistical Affairs Division Statistical Standards Department	[Sent July 27, 2004 from Lars at OECD]	General	General	<p>With regard to the draft of SDMX standards, I am sending herewith a comment by Mr.Yoshihide Ichikawa, the Director of the Head of Statistics Planning Section, the Research and Statistics Department, the Bank of Japan as attached.</p> <p>As my colleague,Mr.Hayashi stated in the Meeting of the Expert Group on Statistical data and metadata exchange held in last April, we are apprehensive that it will be difficult for Japan to use the SDMX standards if you adopt the format corresponding to only 1 bite character because we use 2 bites characters for encoding.</p> <p>The comment by Mr.Ichikawa also represents our concern mentioned above.</p> <p>I would be also grateful if you could pay attention to our working situation that some agencies of the Japanese Government are still considering the standards, and might make some comments.</p>		We are embracing the use of UTF-8 for all XML formats, and relying on existing transformation capability where necessary. The need for international use remains a hard requirement for our standards. (See comment above.)
BNM-2	Bank Negara Malaysia	Ng Lee See	31/07/04	DOC02	578	How would a ragged hierarchy be presented in the scheme?		Ragged hierarchies are supported by the



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								model. We will modify the example to reflect this.
BNM-3	Bank Negara Malaysia	Ng Lee See	31/07/04	DOC04	1244	Yes. Perhaps a mandatory attribute could be attached to different "measure" attribute to indicate if observation for such "measure" is required.		The structuring of this issue will be discussed further as part of the model revision around cross-sectional data. Your point is noted.
BdM-1	Banco de México	A. Torfer	5-May-04	All documents			To add in the package a readme file with a brief description of the documents and a suggested reading order	Noted for review. For formal submission, there are alternative mechanisms.
BdM-2	Banco de México (Banxico)	A Torfer	5-May-04	Framework for SDMX Standards (version 1.0)	37, 143	Index out of sequence	It should say: C.- SDMX and Process Automation	OK – fixed.
BdM-3	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	Format Implementation Overview (Version 1.0)	45	Missing "are" in the last sentence: These aspects of the data model not addressed here.	It should say: These aspects of the data model are not addressed here.	OK – will fix.
BdM-4	Banxico	M. Hurtado	5-May-04	Format Implementation Overview (Version 1.0)	120-123	Data sets may be organized into groups of time series; this is a particularly useful mechanism for attaching metadata to groups of timeseries. One such group is called the "sibling group", which shares dimension values for all but the frequency dimension (the frequency dimension is said to be "wildcarded").	This paragraph seems contradictory with other paragraphs. For example: Paragraph 51-53: "the sibling group construct has been generalized to permit any dimension or dimensions to be wildcarded, and not just frequency, as in GESMES/TS"	This is a known issue, and will be addressed.



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BdM-5	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	Format Implementation Overview (Version 1.0)	111, 121	timeseries	time series	We will look into the correct usage of the term, and make sure it is consistent everywhere it is used.
BdM-6	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	Format Implementation Overview (Version 1.0)	182	The ETS	The exchanged time series (ETS)	OK.
BdM-7	Banxico	A. Torfer	5-May-04	A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model	149	However, if there an intent	It should say: However, if there is an intent	Agreed.
BdM-8	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model	155	To navigate from a B	It should say: to navigate from B to A.	Agreed.
BdM-9	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model	162	is a sub classes	is a sub class	Agreed.
BdM-10	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	SDMX: Information Model			To explain what MCV stands for. I think it is for Meta-Data Common Vocabulary but I'm not sure.	OK.
BdM-11	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	SDMX Guidelines for the Use of Web Services	180	The link http://www.ws-i.org/Documents.asp does not work.	Change to http://www.ws-i.org/Documents.aspx	OK.
BdM-12	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	SDMX Guidelines for the Use of Web	184	sepcification	specification	OK.



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				Services				
BdM-13	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	SDMX Information Model (Version 1.0)			To include a reference to the document "A Short Guide to UML in the SDMX Information Model".	Comment noted, but re-organization may make this irrelevant.
BdM-14	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	General			<p>We are a bit worried about the size of the files. For daily series that go a few years back we are getting XML files considerably bigger than files in other formats such as CSV or XLS. The reason is that we have to add at least the following tags: <Observation>, <Time> and <Value> for each observation. We consider this could be a problem when interchanging large amounts of data. As an exercise to reduce the size of the files we shorten these 3 tags to <O>, <T> and <V> respectively. By doing this we got files considerably smaller. We think this could be a reasonable convention considering we have a higher element in the XML structure called Observations that could keep its long name. This is just an idea to address the problem but we would like to know if there are similar concerns, and if so, how are they going to be addressed.</p>	Comment noted, and we will consider this approach in revisions.
BdM-15	Banxico	A Torfer	5-May-04	General			Regarding the names of the Meta-data used to describe concepts that define the dimensions and attributes of key	Concept naming will be primarily determined by the key-family



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							families, we think that limitations on their names imposed by the GESMES model could be put aside. We know that this comes from trying to keep compatibility with GESMES, but we think there should be a migration path that privileges readability of the XML files which is one of its main advantages. However and although it may seem contradictory (but it isn't), we fully agree on using ISO standardized codes for the "values" of the concepts because we understand this will enable the interchange of information.	designers. Note that some requirements are tools driven (compatibility with FAME, etc.) and some are conventions – not rules – for interoperating between EDIFACT and XML syntaxes.
NOR D-1	Nordic Database Group	Lars Nordbäck, Statistics Sweden Rune Glørsen, Statistics Norway Annegrete Wulff, Statistics Denmark [sent by Lars at OECD]	April 29, 2004	General	General	The idea to substitute the <i>push</i> via Statel/Stadium with a <i>pull</i> via Internet and data share modelis regarded to be positive.		Noted.
NOR D-2	Nordic Database Group	As above	April 29, 2004	General	General	It is important that confidential data can be handled correctly. We are not sure how this is handled in SDMX.		For further discussion (and implementation in version 2.0)
NOR D-3	Nordic Database	As above	April 29,	General	General	We do not regard the file format as problematic to create (Noted.



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	Group		2004			whatever it will be). The big job and the problematic job will for the receiving organisation be to define the key families.		
NOR D-4	Nordic Database Group	As above	April 29, 2004	General	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We understand that SDMX-ML is a GESMES/TS format in XML. • We wonder if GESMES/TS is sufficient in order to fulfil all needs. We could not really see if the mentioned "cube-variant" really described multi dimensional tables, or if it was more to understand as a set of timeseries (in one dimension). 		Cube support intended for version 2.0. Cross-sectional support is in version 1.0.
NOR D-5	Nordic Database Group	As above	April 29, 2004	General	General	<p>We would prefer a SDMX format that suits our dissemination systems as good as possible. We would like to work on the idea creating a PX-ML format as output from the databases, based on PX. The PX-format is for the time being used in around 20 countries, so it could be very useful and it could be adjusted to the needs of international organisations. If so- we need to enlarge our metadata in the Nordic meta data model in the SQL-database so it will contain all needed metadata.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We wonder whether any more meta data is required? 		We believe that SDMX-ML should have sufficient metadata to round-trip with the PX format. We should verify that this is the case, as transformation filters back and forth are obviously useful tools.
NOR D-6	Nordic Database Group	As above	April 29, 2004	General	General	We were not sure if there exists or will be made routines to convert from GESMES/TS to SDMX-ML. Anyway, it is important that this		Tools will be provided.



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						will we taken care of.		
FED-1	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	104	It is not clear to me why the use cases Maintain Report Instrument and Load Data include the use case Maintain Key Family.	Change the relationship to extend if Maintain Report Instrument and Load Data may but need not invoke Maintain Key Family.	Relationship should be to Retrieve Key Family, as access to this will be required for these use cases. Will fix.
FED-2	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	108	Collect Data "is optionally extended by Validate Metadata and Load Metadata." On the chart at line 104, these use cases are Validate Data and Load Data.	'Data' seems to be used more than 'Metadata' is this context, so standardize on that.	Change text to read "is optionally extended by Validate Data and Load Data"
FED-3	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	110	The use case "Validate Data" states, "Validation of the reported data according to the key family definition i.e. check that valid metadata concepts are used for dimensions and attributes, and valid values are reported for coded concepts."	I take the part before the 'i.e.' to refer to validation of data against a structure, and the part after the 'i.e.' to refer to validation of a structure. I think that validation should include both, but as a technical term would include only the latter. Perhaps this could be separated out (or reworded).	The part after the i.e. pertains to validation of data against a structure. Text is re-worded " check that metadata concepts used for dimensions and attributes are consistent with the key family definition, and the code values reported for coded concepts are contained in the code list linked to the concept in the key family definition"



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FED-4	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	141	Description is "in one or more natural languages." But description is an attribute, and will therefore have one value for any given instance	"Textual description of the object in a natural language."	Description is no longer an attribute in revised model – concern is addressed. This capability will also extend to the XML representation, which allows for multi-valued representation.
FED-5	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	141	International string has label and locale and nothing else. Given definition of locale, label is the description itself, for which the word 'label' seems misleading.	Use a different attribute name, such as description, or add an attribute to hold description.	This concern has already been addressed – see above.
FED-6	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	151 et al. (427)	I am familiar with the use of dotted lines for dependencies in UML, but not for aggregations or class boxes.	Either illustrate dotted lines in DOC08, or replace with solid lines.	[COMMENT This was caused by bad rendering by Adobe Acrobat PDF Writer. The lines should be solid. Solution: Use Acrobat Distiller as this renders the lines properly]
FED-7	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	175 et al.	MaintainableArtefact is not defined previously. I am also not clear why this relationship is stated in the Attribute column.	Define MaintainableArtefact previously, or link to its subsequent definition (line 217). Clarify use of Attribute column.	Reference will be made to Figure 6 (now figure 10) See No FED-12 for clarity on



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								issue of relationship in attribute column
FED-8	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	188	Why is the cardinality of Component to ComponentList 1?	Shouldn't it be 1..*?	A Component is unique in a ComponentList, so its cardinality is 1 e.g. a Dimension (Component) is unique in a KeyDescriptor (ComponentList)
FED-9	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	188 et al.	Private access symbols appear for attributes (from Rational Rose?).	Eliminate private access symbols.	These have been eliminated from the diagrams.
FED-10	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	195	"An example of a concrete class is KeyFamily" - this should state of which class KeyFamily is a concrete example.	"An example of a concrete ComponentStructure is KeyFamily"	Agreed.
FED-11	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	196	"are physically embedded" seems wrong for a diagram (and does not reflect DOC08)	"are embedded" or "have no existence apart from".	OK: will remove "physically", and consult authoritative UML bible to get proper definition of composition as a source for possible further clarification.
FED-12	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	213 et al.	The Attribute column holds associations and inheritance information. (Attributes can be	Perhaps rename column, and explain use of italics to indicate associations.	OK – will rename column "feature".



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	York					recast as associations, but that doesn't seem to be the intent.)		
FED-13	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	213	There are associations to item and item scheme that are not in the class diagram – classify, concept, and codelist.	Put all components in Definitions in class diagram, or explicitly defer to line 302.	Point taken – this will be fixed.
FED-14	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	241	I see why some associations are on the diagram (e.g. items and components), but not others, e.g. responsibleFor, given that all associations are not present (e.g. aggregation between OrganizationRole and Organization).	Include only those associations relevant to the Explanation.	This is an editorial judgement call – we will re-consider.
FED-15	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	298-300	These three classes are missing from the diagram.	Include them.	This too is an editorial judgement call – we will re-consider. (Some things were originally omitted for clarity.)
FED-16	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	330-339	This introductory material applies to what has gone before – what is put on a single diagram, and the representation of derived association.	Move either all or some of this material earlier. (Derived associations are explained in DOC08, and may not be needed in DOC02.)	First paragraph of the introduction is retained – remainder deleted.
FED-17	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	399 et al.	I do not believe that the use of braces around a word on an association ({ordered}) is defined in DOC08.	Define this usage.	DOC08 is revised to include an explanation of constraints (eg, {ordered})
FED-18	Federal Reserve	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	455	TimeDimension is new to me, so I looked for more information. The	Describe TimeDimension, and explain its importance. (And	Description changed to: “a



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	Bank of New York					description at line 491 (“a metadata concept used to refer to and identify the dimension in a time series that is the time dimension”) didn’t help. I looked at StructureSample.xml, and found a code list with one value – Time (unused).	perhaps explain why it is unused in the example.)	metadata concept used to refer to and identify the dimension in a series which, in its instance in the data set, will contain a discrete TimePeriod to which the instance of the related Measure or Measures (the Observation) pertains.”
FED-19	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	464-468	Since there may be multiple GroupKeyDescriptor, ‘identify the group’ seems wrong.	‘identify the groups’	Text changed to: “Optionally there may be multiple GroupKeyDescriptors each of which identifies the group of Dimensions that can form a partial key.”
FED-20	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	525f, 539	Is SeriesKey anything other than an abstraction that covers TimeSeriesKey, CrossSectionalKey, and GroupKey? What is the dimensionality of an abstract SeriesKey? What does it mean to have the same dimensionality as “the series key” and to “group together a set of series keys” (l.	Describe SeriesKey at line 539.	The following description is added: “The SeriesKey comprises the product of values of all the Dimensions comprising the full Key of a



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						539)?		Series (often called the Cartesian product.)” Description for GroupKey expanded to include the bracketed ‘ie’: “...that has the same dimensionality as the Series Key (ie, the scope of the Series Keys identified by the Group Key is defined using the same Dimensions as the Series Key)...”
FED-21	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-02	DOC02	541	CrossSectionalKey not described.	Describe CrossSectionalKey (as for TimeSeriesKey).	This will be added after further discussion.
FED-22	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-05-27	DOC03	116f	As per lines 47f, any dimension can be wildcarded to form a sibling group, not just frequency	Change clause at line 116f to read, “which shares dimension values for all but one dimension (which is said to be ‘wildcarded’), or change as per lines 230f, i.e., “which shares dimension values for all but the frequency (or other) dimension (which is said to be ‘wildcarded’).	Agreed. (Note that we may also wish to indicate that more than one dimension may be wildcarded.)
FED-	Federal	Paul	2004-	DOC03	205	Issue: in line 162, the use of the	I would like to see an additional	Two responses:



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23	Reserve Bank of New York	Asman	05-27			conditional (“if a time series has a constant time interval ...”) implies that a time series need not have a constant interval.	note to line 205 noting that time series can be aperiodic. I see that version 1.0 does not retain the SDMXCore attribute from version 0.1, and that an agency can specify such a value in a code list that it maintains. Nonetheless, I believe that the suggested note would demonstrate a use of SDMX of which potential clients may be unaware.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note regarding aperiodicity will be added – we agree. - The “SDMX Core” is no longer handled as a simple attribute, but the concept is still very much present in SDMX.
FED-24	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-05-27	DOC03	257f	I take “empty value” to indicate “”, as in <element attribute = "" />, and not to indicate that the attribute may be omitted.	“a conditional attribute is permitted to take empty values or be omitted within the key family.”	Point taken. This will be reworded for clarity – this might typically be thought of as the absence of a value, rather than the presence of an “empty” value – not to be taken literally regarding XML, however.
FED-25	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-05-27	DOC03	330	Extraneous question mark.	Remove.	Agreed.
FED-26	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-04	DOC04	422	“Prepared is the date prepared.” In line 430 (and SDMXMessage.xsd) it is xs:dateTime, not xs:date. (In dateTime, time is not optional.)	Change type in xsd to xs:date, or use TimePeriodType from SDMXCommon.xsd, or use the union of xs:date and xs:dateTime. I see dateTime as	Generally speaking, timeperiods and their expression in XML need to



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							necessary only for Extracted (with ReportingBegin and ReportingEnd also either date or a choice).	be made consistent throughout after some further discussion. Input noted.
FED-27	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-04	DOC04	450	ContactType omits the elements of Choice – telephone et al.	Add those elements to the discussion.	Typo – will be fixed.
FED-28	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-04	DOC04	523	TimeDimension would seem to be a required part of the structure, yet it is not present in SDMXGeneric.xsd or GenericSample.xml. It is present in SDMXStructure.xsd and StructureSample.xml.	I don't understand the role of the Time dimension. How can it be part of the structure but not given a value in the data file? I would welcome clarification.	This will be changed, pending further discussion. Point taken.
FED-29	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-04	DOC04	602	The attribute action has a default value of Update. The enumeration of this attribute has only two values, Update and Delete. These strike me as insufficient.	Eliminate the default value, so that the attribute is optional. In cases such as our posting of rates, I suppose that Update is in some sense accurate, but it is misleading, and I'd rather not use it. (Alternatively, create a value for NotStated in the enumeration, but this seems to be a weasel way of stating that the attribute is optional.)	Disagree. This field is in place to support the legacy action found in GESMES/TS. Because anything which is not explicitly a deletion is considered an "update", the default is felt to be appropriate. Should we clarify in text?
FED-30	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-04	DOC04	654	I do not see the use to which TIME_PERIODValueType is put.	Refer to the use of this type.	We will reconsider pending further discussion of the issue. This is



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								required again by GESMES/TS legacy and SDMX-EDI round-tripability, however – we will clarify in text.
FED-31	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-04	DOC04	695	This is the first use of Category and CategoryType in this document, and they are not used outside this section (D).	Explain Category in other sections (as, e.g., for Concept).	Agreed. Will add explanation: "Category refers to the classification scheme use by a data provider in their web service or database, where relevant. It is not a pre-determined scheme, but exists for generic use. This field will contain the text value corresponding to a value in the target classification scheme."
FED-32	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Paul Asman	2004-06-04	DOC04	900 et al.	This is the first mention of extension through the addition of attributes, so I thought that was the point of compact data messages. But they also differ from Generic in that structural	Move section D to before section A.	Disagree. Moving D before A has some confusing effects, even though it would



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						references and information are missing. I found this confusing until I reached the explanations of section D.		clarify the point as you suggest. Alternately, clarification will be added to the earlier section, without moving D.
FST-1	FedStats	Marshall DeBerry	7/23/04	SDMX	Observation Status Variable	No "Preliminary" or "Embargoed" categories	Add the categories "Preliminary" or "Embargoed"	OK. See above.
FRB-1	Federal Reserve Board	San Cannon	29 June 2004	SDMXCommon.xsd	82-98	The valid set of values for the representation of the OBS_STATUS concept is too restrictive. To require the use of this specification for the Utility and Compact data formats is prohibitively restraining.	Either make the SDMXCommon.xsd version extendible or do not require it for some of the schema types. For example, I would need to be able to have indicators for Preliminary and Revised status for an observation.	Agreed. We will either provide an extended list or allow additions to be made. (Ideally, this is an issue addressed by the Core Concepts standard, and not the schema.) Note that this ideally should be user-specified (IMF has 25 different statuses, as example.)
FRB-2	Federal Reserve Board	San Cannon	7/29/04	SDMXStructure.xsd		Lack of an extensible description for Key family Components For example the ability the describe parent/child or other relationships between dimensions, the ability to specify a rank order to dimensions, text comments, data availability	There should be come kind of optional description tag whose contents can be ignored by processing, but might include useful extensible dimension/attribute metadata that is not necessarily part of a rigid standard. Application specific	Disagree – can be done with attributes (even optional ones) in the key family, and failing that, in notes.



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						ranges, or description of data definitional changes.	uses of this tag could suggest ways in which the standard needs to evolve.	
FRB-3	Federal Reserve Board	San Cannon	7/29/04	SDMXTS03.xsd		Provide a data documentation mechanism similar to the NotesType in working draft .1	Provide a data documentation mechanism similar to the NotesType in working draft .1	Agreed.
NIST-1	National Institute of Standards and Technology	Lynn Rosenthal	July 16, 2004	General	General	<p>Looking at the documents, I noticed that there is no conformance clause or statement. This is something we strongly recommend be in every standard. ISO, OASIS and W3C also support this; in fact W3C mandates it. It is critical that implementers, users, testers, and the community understand what SDMX conformance it. Basically, (1) what must conform and how and (2) what does it mean to claim conformance to SDMX. Conformance to SDMX is probably not simple, thus, there needs to be a conformance statement providing the reader with information about how conformance is defined.</p> <p>I did see a conformance section in the web services document. Is this the only way to conform to SDMX? If this is true (and I don't think it is)?</p> <p>A conformance clause is a high-level description of what is required of implementers and application developers. It is a section of a specification (that is</p>		We will add conformance statements to documents as necessary.



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						<p>easily found) that states all the requirements or criteria that must be satisfied to claim conformance to the specification. It should address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - who (what types of products) may conform - how - what must they do to conform - It may, for conformance purposes, refer to functional subsets, such as profiles, levels, modules or other structures - Additionally, it should specify the permissibility of extensions, options, and alternative approaches and how they are to be handled - specifically, their conformance consequences (how conformance is affected) <p>Conformance language provides a communication for articulating buyers' requirements and sellers' offerings. A <i>conformance clause</i>, which exists as normative language in a standard, defines the meaning of a 'conformant implementation' to the standard's implementer. It provides the basis for buyers' to express their purchasing requirements. a conformance clause may refer to specializations of a given standard (e.g., profiles). It may require the use of a PICS (Implementer's conformance statement) to be completed by the</p>		



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						implementer to express the degree to which an implementation has met the requirements articulated in the conformance clause. This provides the basis for achieving interoperability.		