

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications –  
Part 5-21: Application layer service definition – Type 21 elements**



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**Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications –  
Part 5-21: Application layer service definition – Type 21 elements**

INTERNATIONAL  
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Type 21 elements****FOREWORD**

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NOTE Combinations of protocol types are specified in IEC 61784-1 and IEC 61784-2.

International Standard IEC 61158-5-21 has been prepared by subcommittee 65C: Industrial networks, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial process measurement, control and automation.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2010. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- added Write and Read service;
- miscellaneous editorial corrections.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
65C/947/FDIS	65C/950/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61158 series, published under the general title *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications*, can be found on the IEC web site.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be:

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.



## INTRODUCTION

This document is one of a series produced to facilitate the interconnection of automation system components. It is related to other standards in the set as defined by the “three-layer” fieldbus reference model described in IEC 61158-1.

The application service is provided by the application protocol making use of the services available from the data-link or other immediately lower layer. This document defines the application service characteristics that fieldbus applications and/or system management may exploit.

Throughout the set of fieldbus standards, the term “service” refers to the abstract capability provided by one layer of the OSI Basic Reference Model to the layer immediately above. Thus, the application layer service defined in this document is a conceptual architectural service, independent of administrative and implementation divisions.

## INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS – FIELDBUS SPECIFICATIONS –

### Part 5-21: Application layer service definition – Type 21 elements

#### 1 Scope

##### 1.1 Overview

The Fieldbus Application Layer (FAL) provides user programs with a means to access the fieldbus communication environment. In this respect, the FAL can be considered a window between corresponding application programs.

This part of IEC 61158 provides the common elements for basic time-critical and non-time-critical messaging communications between application programs in an automation environment as well as material specific to the Type 21 protocol. The term “time-critical” is used to represent the presence of a time-window within which one or more specified actions are required to be completed with some defined level of certainty. Failure to complete specified actions within the time window risks failure of the applications requesting the actions, with attendant risk to equipment, plant, and possibly human life.

This International Standard defines, in an abstract way, the externally visible service provided by the FAL in terms of:

- a) an abstract model for defining application resources (objects) capable of being manipulated by users via the FAL service;
- b) the primitive actions and events of the service;
- c) the parameters associated with each primitive action and event, and the form that they take;
- d) the interrelationship between these actions and events, and their valid sequences.

The purpose of this document is to define the services provided to:

- a) the FAL-user at the boundary between the user and the application layer of the fieldbus Reference Model;
- b) systems management at the boundary between the application layer and systems management of the fieldbus Reference Model.

This document describes the structure and services of the IEC FAL, in conformance with the OSI Basic Reference Model (ISO/IEC 7498) and the OSI Application layer Structure (ISO/IEC 9545).

FAL services and protocols are provided by FAL application entities (AEs) contained in the application processes. The FAL AE is composed of a set of object-oriented Application Service Elements (ASEs) and a Layer Management Entity (LME) that manages the AE. The ASEs provide communication services that operate on a set of related application process object (APO) classes. One of the FAL ASEs is a management ASE that provides a common set of services for management of the instances of FAL classes.

Although these services specify how requests and responses are issued and delivered from the perspective of applications, they do not include a specification of what the requesting and responding applications are to do with them. That is, these services only define what requests and responses applications can send or receive, not the functions of the applications

themselves. This permits greater flexibility to the FAL-users in standardizing such object behavior. In addition to these services, some supporting services are also defined in this document to provide access to the FAL to control certain aspects of its operation.

## 1.2 Specifications

The principal objective of this document is to specify the characteristics of conceptual application layer services suitable for time-critical communications, and thus supplement the OSI Basic Reference Model in guiding the development of application layer protocols for time-critical communications.

A secondary objective is to provide migration paths from previously existing industrial communications protocols. This latter objective gives rise to the diversity of services standardized as the various types of IEC 61158, and the corresponding protocols standardized in subparts of IEC 61158-6.

This document may be used as the basis for formal application programming interfaces. Nevertheless, it is not a formal programming interface, and any such interface must address implementation issues not covered by this document, including:

- a) sizes and octet ordering of various multi-octet service parameters;
- b) correlation of paired primitives for request and confirmation, or indication and response.

## 1.3 Conformance

This document does not specify individual implementations or products, nor does it constrain the implementations of application layer entities in industrial automation systems.

There is no conformance of equipment to this application layer service definition standard. Instead, conformance is achieved through the implementation of conforming application layer protocols that fulfill any given type of application layer services as defined in this document.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE All parts of the IEC 61158 series, as well as IEC 61784 1 and IEC 61784 2 are maintained simultaneously. Cross-references to these documents within the text therefore refer to the editions as dated in this list of normative references.

ISO/IEC/IEEE 60559:2011, *Information technology – Microprocessor Systems – Floating-Point arithmetic*

IEC 61158-3-21:2019, *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications – Part 3-21: Data-link layer service definition – Type 21 elements*

IEC 61158-4-21:2019, *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications – Part 4-21: Data-link layer protocol specification – Type 21 elements*

IEC 61158-6-21:2019, *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications – Part 6-21: Application layer protocol specification – Type 21 elements*

ISO/IEC 7498-1, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model: The Basic Model*

ISO/IEC 7498-3, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model: Naming and addressing*

ISO/IEC 8822, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Presentation service definition*

ISO/IEC 8824 (all parts), *Information Technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN-1)*

ISO/IEC 9545, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Application layer structure*

ISO/IEC 10731, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model – Conventions for the definition of OSI services*

### **3 Terms, definitions, symbols, abbreviations, and conventions**

For the purposes of this document, the following terms, definitions, symbols, abbreviations and conventions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

#### **3.1 Terms and definitions from other ISO/IEC standards**

##### **3.1.1 ISO/IEC 7498-1 terms**

- a) application entity
- b) application process
- c) application protocol data unit
- d) application service element
- e) application entity invocation
- f) application process invocation
- g) application transaction
- h) real open system
- i) transfer syntax

##### **3.1.2 ISO/IEC 8822 terms**

- a) abstract syntax
- b) presentation context

##### **3.1.3 ISO/IEC 8824-1 terms**

For the purposes of this document, the following terms as defined in ISO/IEC 8824-1 apply:

- a) object identifier
- b) type