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**Electronic business eXtensible  
Markup Language (ebXML) —  
Part 1:  
Messaging service core specification**



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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 documents 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by the OASIS ebXML (Electronic business eXtensible Markup Language) Messaging Services Committee (as "OASIS ebXML Messaging Services Version 3.0") and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was assigned to Technical Committee ISO/TC 154, *Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration* and adopted under the "fast-track procedure".

This first edition incorporates content from ISO/TS 15000-2:2004 and ISO/TS 15000-1:2004, which have been withdrawn.

The main changes compared to ISO/TS 15000-2:2004 and ISO/TS 15000-1:2004 are as follows:

- The original ISO/TS 15000-2:2004 specification for the ebXML Messaging Service (ebMS) has been updated and refactored into multiple parts, including this document, the "Core" specification for ebMS, resubmitted to become this document.
- A separate "AS4 Profile of ebMS 3.0 Version 1.0" is submitted separately to ISO/TC 154. It provides a select limited profile of the ebMS3 specification sufficient for Web Services business-to-business messaging applications over the HTTP transport protocol, and is to become ISO 15000-2.
- This document defines the basic (and some optional) features necessary for reliable electronic messaging and the transactional interactions that support such messaging.
- This document noted the availability of several newer methodologies, represented by normative references and informative references included here, that were not available as of the 2004 version.

A list of all parts in the ISO 15000 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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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## Introduction

This document describes a communication-protocol neutral method for exchanging electronic business messages. It defines specific enveloping constructs supporting reliable, secure delivery of business information. Furthermore, the specification defines a flexible enveloping technique, permitting messages to contain payloads of any format type. This versatility ensures that legacy electronic business systems employing traditional syntaxes (i.e. UN/EDIFACT, ASC X12, or HL7) can leverage the advantages of the ebXML infrastructure along with users of emerging technologies.

The prime objective of the ebXML messaging service (ebMS) is to facilitate the exchange of electronic business messages within an XML framework that leverages common Internet standards, without making any assumption on the integration and consumption model these messages will follow on the back-end. These messages may be consumed in different ways that are out of scope of this document: they may bind to a legacy application, to a service, be queued, enter a message workflow process, be expected by an already-running business process, be batched for delayed processing, be routed over an Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) before reaching their consumer application, or be dispatched based on header data or payload data, etc.

It is becoming critical for broad adoption among all partners – large or small - of a supply-chain, to handle differences in message flow capacity, intermittent connectivity, lack of static IP addresses or firewall restrictions. Such new capabilities played an important role in the motivation that led to ebMS 3.0, along with the need to integrate and profile the emerging SOAP-based QoS-supporting standards. The message header profiling that provided, in ebMS 2.0, a standard business-level header, has also been extended to better address the diversity of back-end binding models, as well as the emerging trend in business activity monitoring, the eBusiness side of which a message handler should be able to support.

The ebXML messaging framework is not a restrictive one: business messages, identified as the 'payloads' of ebXML messages, are not limited to XML documents. Traditional EDI formats may also be transported by ebMS. These payloads can take any digital form—XML, ASC X12, HL7, AIAG E5, database tables, binary image files, etc. Multiple payloads, possibly of different MIME types, can be transported in a single ebMS message. An objective of ebXML Messaging protocol is to be capable of being carried over any available transfer protocol. This version of the specification provides bindings to HTTP and SMTP, but other protocols to which SOAP may bind can also be used. The choice of an XML framework rather reflects confidence in a growing XML-based Web infrastructure and development tools infrastructure, the components of which can be leveraged and reused by developers.



# Electronic business eXtensible Markup Language (ebXML) —

## Part 1: Messaging service core specification

### 1. Scope

This document provides a communication-protocol neutral method for exchanging electronic business messages. It defines specific enveloping constructs supporting reliable, secure delivery of business information. Furthermore, this document defines a flexible enveloping technique, permitting messages to contain payloads of any format type.

It specifies each of the following:

- Messaging model
- Message pulling and partitioning
- Processing modes
- Message packaging
- Error handling
- Security module
- Reliable messaging module

This document is applicable to all types of organizations (e.g., commercial enterprises, government agencies, not-for-profit organizations) that exchange documents or data electronically using messaging.

### 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.

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### 3. Terms and definitions

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

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

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

#### 3.1

##### **ebMS error generation**

Operation of creating an *ebMS error* (3.14) based on some failure or warning condition

#### 3.2

##### **ebMS error reporting**

Operation of communicating an *ebMS error* (3.14) to some other entity

#### 3.3

##### **ebMS message**

*SOAP message* (3.29) that contains SOAP header(s) qualified with the ebMS namespace and that conforms to this document

#### 3.4

##### **ebMS message exchange pattern**

##### **ebMS MEP**

Choreography of *ebMS user messages* (3.11) which are all related through the use of the referencing feature (`eb:RefToMessageId`)