



IEC 61158-6-26

Edition 1.0 2019-06

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications –
Part 6-26: Application layer protocol specification – Type 26 elements
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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 25.040.40; 35.100.70; 35.110

ISBN 978-2-8322-7016-5

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International standard IEC 61158-6-26 has been prepared by subcommittee 65C: Industrial networks, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial-process measurement and control.

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

FDIS	Report on voting
65C/948/FDIS	65C/956/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 the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

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

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- withdrawn,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.

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INTRODUCTION

This part of IEC 61158 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 protocol provides the application service by making use of the services available from the data-link or other immediately lower layer. The primary aim of this document is to provide a set of rules for communication expressed in terms of the procedures to be carried out by peer application entities (AEs) at the time of communication. These rules for communication are intended to provide a sound basis for development in order to serve a variety of purposes:

- as a guide for implementers and designers;
- for use in the testing and procurement of equipment;
- as part of an agreement for the admittance of systems into the open systems environment;
- as a refinement to the understanding of time-critical communications within OSI.

This document is concerned, in particular, with the communication and interworking of sensors, effectors and other automation devices. By using this document together with other standards positioned within the OSI or fieldbus reference models, otherwise incompatible systems may work together in any combination.

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INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS – FIELDBUS SPECIFICATIONS –

Part 6-26: Application layer protocol specification – Type 26 elements

1 Scope

1.1 General

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

This part of IEC 61158 provides common elements for basic time-critical and non-time-critical messaging communications between application programs in an automation environment and material specific to Type 26 fieldbus. 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 STANDARD PREVIEW

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This International Standard defines in an abstract way the externally visible behavior provided by the Type 26 of the fieldbus Application Layer in terms of:

- a) the abstract syntax defining the application layer protocol data units conveyed between communicating application entities;
[IEC 61158-6-26:2019](https://standards.iec.ch/catalog/standards/sst/da4c5233-2e5a-4f44-9462-9fab28b02e7a/iec-61158-6-26-2019)
- b) the transfer syntax defining the application layer protocol data units conveyed between communicating application entities;
- c) the application context state machine defining the application service behavior visible between communicating application entities; and
- d) the application relationship state machines defining the communication behavior visible between communicating application entities.

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

- a) define the wire-representation of the service primitives defined in IEC 61158-5-26, and
- b) define the externally visible behavior associated with their transfer.

This document specifies the protocol of the Type 26 fieldbus Application Layer, in conformance with the OSI Basic Reference Model (see ISO/IEC 7498-1) and the OSI Application Layer Structure (see ISO/IEC 9545).

FAL services and protocols are provided by FAL application-entities (AE) contained within 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 the management of the instances of FAL classes.

Although these services specify, from the perspective of applications, how request and responses are issued and delivered, they do not include a specification of what the requesting and responding applications are to do with them. That is, the behavioral aspects of the applications are not specified; only a definition of what requests and responses they can