
**Geographic information – Geospatial
API for features —**

**Part 2:
Coordinate Reference Systems by
Reference**

*Information géographique — API géospatiale pour les entités —
Partie 2: Systèmes de coordonnées de référence par référence*

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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 (see 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).

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.

This document was prepared by the Open Geospatial Consortium (as OGC API — Features — Part 2: Coordinate Reference Systems by Reference) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was assigned to Technical Committee ISO/TC 211, *Geographic information/Geomatics*, and adopted under the “fast-track procedure”.

The main changes are as follows:

- addition of an Introduction;
- alignment of spellings with ISO spelling rules;
- renumbering and reordering of [Clauses 2-4](#) in order to accommodate the fixed structure of ISO documents;
- set texts introduced in [Clauses 2](#) and [3](#);

A list of all parts in the ISO 19168 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.

Introduction

OGC API standards define modular API building blocks to spatially enable Web APIs in a consistent way. The OpenAPI specification is used to define the API building blocks.

The OGC API family of standards is organized by resource type. This document extends the fundamental API building blocks for interacting with features. The spatial data community uses the term 'feature' for things in the real world that are of interest.

For those not familiar with the term 'feature,' the explanations on Spatial Things, Features and Geometry in the W3C/OGC Spatial Data on the Web Best Practice document^[6] provide more detail.

OGC API Features provides API building blocks to create, modify and query features on the Web. OGC API Features is comprised of multiple parts, each of them is a separate standard. This document extends the core capabilities specified in OGC API — Features — Part 1: Core (ISO 19168-1) with the ability to use coordinate reference system identifiers other than the defaults defined in the core.

By default, every API implementing this document will provide access to a single dataset. Rather than sharing the data as a complete dataset, the OGC API Features standards offer direct, fine-grained access to the data at the feature (object) level.

The API building blocks specified in this document are consistent with the architecture of the Web. In particular, the API design is guided by the IETF HTTP/HTTPS RFCs, the W3C Data on the Web Best Practices, the W3C/OGC Spatial Data on the Web Best Practices and the emerging OGC Web API Guidelines. A particular example is the use of the concepts of datasets and dataset distributions as defined in DCAT and used in schema.org.

A subset of the OGC API family of standards is expected to be published by ISO. For example, this document is published by ISO as ISO 19168-2. To reflect that only a subset of the OGC API standards will be published by ISO and to avoid using organization names in the titles of ISO standards, standards from the "OGC API" series are published by ISO as "Geospatial API," i.e. the title of this document in OGC is "OGC API — Features — Part 2: Coordinate Reference Systems by Reference" and the title in ISO is "Geographic Information — Geospatial API for Features — Part 2: Coordinate Reference Systems by Reference."

For simplicity, this document consistently uses:

- "OGC API" to refer to the family of standards for geospatial Web APIs that in ISO is published as "Geospatial API;"
- "OGC API — Features" to refer to the multipart standard for features that in ISO is published as ISO 19168 / "Geographic Information - Geospatial API for Features;"
- "OGC API — Features — Part 1: Core" to refer to the document that in ISO is published as ISO 19168-1 / "Geographic Information - Geospatial API for Features - Part 1: Core."

Geographic information – Geospatial API for features —

Part 2: Coordinate Reference Systems by Reference

1 Scope

This document specifies an extension to the Geospatial API for Features — Part 1: Core standard that defines the behaviour of a server that supports the ability to present geometry valued properties in a response document in one from a list of supported Coordinates Reference Systems (CRS).

Each supported CRS is specified by reference using a uniform resource identifier (URI).

This document specifies:

- how, for each offered feature collection, a server advertises the list of supported CRS identifiers;
- how the coordinates of geometry valued feature properties can be accessed in one of the supported CRSs;
- how features can be accessed from the server using a bounding box specified in one of the supported CRSs; and
- how a server can declare the CRS used to present feature resources.

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.

ISO 19168-1:2020, *Geographic information — Geospatial API for features — Part 1: Core*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definition given in ISO19168-1 and the following apply.

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

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

NOTE The terms *feature* (3.4) and *feature collection* (3.5) and the acronym *CRS* (3.2) are duplicated here from ISO 19168-1.

3.1

coordinate

one of a sequence of numbers designating the position of a point

Note 1 to entry: In a spatial coordinate reference system, the coordinate numbers are qualified by units.

[SOURCE: ISO 19111:2019, 3.1.5]

3.2 coordinate reference system CRS

coordinate system (3.3) that is related to an object by a datum

Note 1 to entry: Geodetic and vertical datums are referred to as reference frames.

Note 2 to entry: For geodetic and vertical reference frames, the object will be the Earth. In planetary application, geodetic and vertical reference frames may be applied to other celestial bodies.

[SOURCE: ISO 19111:2019, 3.1.9]

3.3 coordinate system

set of mathematical rules for specifying how *coordinates* (3.1) are to be assigned to points

[SOURCE: ISO 19111:2019, 3.1.11]

3.4 feature

abstraction of real world phenomena

Note 1 to entry: The explanations on Spatial Things, Features and Geometry in the W3C/OGC Spatial Data on the Web Best Practice document^[6] provide more detail.

[SOURCE: ISO 19101-1:2014, 4.1.11, modified – Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.5 feature collection

collection

set of *features* (3.4) from a *dataset* (ISO 19168-1, 3.1.1)

3.6 spatial feature collection

spatial collection

feature collection (3.5) that includes one or more *features* (3.4) that have properties whose value is a geometry

[SOURCE: ISO 19168-1:2020, 3.1.4]

4 Conformance

This document defines one requirements class, Coordinate Reference Systems by Reference. The standardization target is "Web APIs".

The URI of the associated conformance class is <http://www.opengis.net/spec/ogcapi-features-2/1.0/conf/crs>.

Conformance with this standard shall be checked using all the relevant tests specified in [Annex A](#) of this document. The framework, concepts, and methodology for testing, and the criteria to be achieved to claim conformance are specified in the OGC Compliance Testing Policies and Procedures and the OGC Compliance Testing web site.

5 Conventions and background

See ISO 19168-1:2020, Clauses 5 and 6.

6 Requirements Class Coordinate Reference Systems by Reference

6.1 Overview

Requirements Class	
http://www.opengis.net/spec/ogcapi-features-2/1.0/req/crs	
Target type	Web API
Dependency	OGC API - Features - Part 1: Core, Requirements Class 'core'

The OGC API — Features — Part 1: Core standard defines support for only two coordinate reference systems:

- WGS 84 longitude, latitude;
- WGS 84 longitude, latitude, ellipsoidal height.

This extension defines the behaviour of a server that supports additional coordinate reference systems.

Requirement 1	/req/crs/crs-uri
Each CRS supported by a server shall be referenceable by a uniform resource identifier (i.e. a URI).	

Recommendation 1	/rec/crs/crs-format-model
Servers that implement this extension should be able to recognize and generate CRS identifiers with the following format model:	
http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/authority/version/code	
In this format model, the token {authority} is a placeholder for a value that designates to authority responsible for the definition of this CRS. Typical values include "EPSG" and "OGC".	
The token {version} is a placeholder for the specific version of the CRS definition or 0 for un-versioned CRS definitions.	
The token {code} is a placeholder for the authority's code for the CRS.	

For more information, see [6.2](#) in OGC Name Type Specification, Part 1.

Note that while the EPSG register itself is versioned, the registered items are not versioned and the "version" is always "0" in URIs of the authority "EPSG".

6.2 Discovery

6.2.1 CRS identifier list

Requirement 2	/req/crs/fc-md-crs-list
A	The <code>crs</code> property in the collection object of a spatial feature collection shall contain the identifiers for the list of CRSs supported by the server for that collection.
B	This list shall include the default(s) defined in OGC API - Features - Part 1: Core.

The list has to include the default CRS — that is the CRS used unless something else is explicitly requested — is defined in ISO 19168-1, *Geographic information — Geospatial API for features — Part 1: Core* as:

- <http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/OGC/1.3/CRS84> (for coordinates without height);
- <http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/OGC/0/CRS84h> (for coordinates with ellipsoidal height).

6.2.2 Storage CRS

The storage CRS for a spatial feature collection is the CRS identifier that may be used to retrieve features from that collection without the need to apply a CRS transformation.

Note that coordinates referenced to a dynamic coordinate reference system are ambiguous if the coordinate epoch is unknown. It is therefore recommended to also provide the coordinate epoch when the storage CRS is dynamic, such as an ITRF realization or WGS 84. For more information on dynamic coordinate reference systems and coordinate epoch, please see ISO 19111, *Geographic information — Referencing by coordinates* (same as OGC Abstract Specification Topic 2: Referencing by coordinates).

Requirement 3	/req/crs/fc-md-storageCrs
If all features in a spatial feature collection are stored using a particular CRS then the property <code>storageCrs</code> shall be specified in the collection object of the spatial feature collection to indicate the identifier for this storage CRS.	

Recommendation 2	/rec/crs/fc-md-coordinateEpoch
If the storage CRS of the spatial feature collection is a dynamic coordinate reference system, the property <code>storageCrsCoordinateEpoch</code> in the collection object of the spatial feature collection should provide the coordinate epoch of the coordinates.	

This document does not provide a mechanism to associate different coordinate epochs with feature geometries in a collection. If data with different coordinate epochs is merged in a collection, one option is to perform point motion operations (PMO) to convert all geometries to the same coordinate epoch. See ISO 19111, *Geographic information — Referencing by coordinates* (same as OGC Abstract Specification Topic 2: Referencing by coordinates), for more information.

Requirement 4	/req/crs/fc-md-storageCrs-valid-value
The value of the <code>storageCrs</code> property shall be one of the CRS identifiers from the list of supported CRS identifiers found in the collection object using the <code>crs</code> property.	

The following schema fragment extends the collection object to add the `storageCrs` and `storageCrsCoordinateEpoch` properties.

```

type: object
required:
  - id
  - links
properties:
  id:
    description: identifier of the collection used, for example, in URIs
    type: string
    example: address
  title:
    description: human readable title of the collection
    type: string
    example: address
  description:
    description: a description of the features in the collection
    type: string
    example: An address.
  links:
    type: array
    items:
      $ref: link.yaml
    example:
      - href: http://data.example.com/buildings
        rel: item
      - href: http://example.com/concepts/buildings.html
        rel: describedby
        type: text/html
  extent:
  
```

```

    $ref: extent.yaml
  itemType:
    description: indicator about the type of the items in the collection (the default
value is 'feature').
    type: string
    default: feature
  crs:
    description: the list of CRS identifiers supported by the service
    type: array
    items:
      type: string
    default:
      - http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/OGC/1.3/CRS84
    example:
      - http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/OGC/1.3/CRS84
      - http://www.opengis.net/def/crs/EPSG/0/4326
  storageCrs:
    description: the CRS identifier, from the list of supported CRS identifiers, that
may be used to retrieve features from a collection without the need to apply a CRS
transformation
    type: string
    format: uri
  storageCrsCoordinateEpoch:
    description: point in time at which coordinates in the spatial feature
collection are referenced to the dynamic coordinate reference system in
`storageCrs`, that may be used to retrieve features from a collection without
the need to apply a change of coordinate epoch. It is expressed as a decimal
year in the Gregorian calendar
    type: number
    example: '2017-03-25 in the Gregorian calendar is epoch 2017.23'

```

6.2.3 Global list of CRS identifiers

To prevent unnecessary duplication of lists of supported CRS identifiers in the collection object, a global list of supported CRS identifiers may be provided as part of the collections object.

This global list of CRS identifiers is not automatically inherited by each collection offered by the service. Rather the global list of CRS identifiers must be explicitly referenced in the `crs` property of the collection object using a JSON Pointer (RFC 6901).

Requirement 5	/req/crs/fc-md-crs-list-global
If the <code>crs</code> property in the collection object of a spatial feature collection includes a JSON Pointer to the global list of CRS identifiers (<code>#/crs</code>), then all CRS identifiers in the global list shall be valid for the referencing collection.	

Note that only a local JSON Pointer within the same document is supported.

The following schema fragment extends the collections object to add the `crs` property which contains the global list of CRS identifiers.

```

allof:
- $ref:
'http://schemas.opengis.net/ogcapi/features/part1/1.0/openapi/schemas/collections.yaml'
- type: object
  properties:
    crs:
      description: a global list of CRS identifiers that are supported by spatial feature
collections offered by the service
      type: array
      items:
        type: string
        format: uri

```

The following example illustrates the use of a global list of CRS identifiers.

EXAMPLE Collections object containing a global list of CRS identifiers.