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Supply chain interoperability and integration —

Part 3: Verification of trading entity identity

Sample Document

Interopérabilité et intégration dans la chaîne d'approvisionnement —

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Partie 3: Vérification de l'identité de l'entité commerciale

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 184, *Automation systems and integration*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Interoperability, integration, and architectures for enterprise systems and automation applications*.

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Introduction

The effectiveness, efficiency, and security of a supply chain can be increased through standardization to create greater interoperability and integration across applications, facilities, companies, and borders. At each step of the supply chain from planning, sourcing, making, delivering, and returning, buyers and suppliers need a standardized way to quickly identify and verify legal trading entities to limit corporate identity theft and potentially fraudulent transactions.

A legal entity is created when it is formally recognized by the governing body of a nation, state or community that has the authority to set and enforce laws relating to property and trade. The most common way for a business to obtain legal status is through registration of its legal name in an authoritative business register. The business register creates a record and assigns a local record number; this is the authoritative legal entity identifier (ALEI). A business formed in one jurisdiction can also be required to register as a legal entity in another jurisdiction where it regularly conducts business, which is called a foreign registration (as opposed to domestic registration). Some legal entities, like government agencies, are typically formed through legal actions such as proclamations, regulations, and acts and are not typically referred to by an identifier within those acts. Thus, a government agency's legal name is its ALEI.

Some legal entities attain proxy identifiers (identifiers issued by an organization that is not the originator of the legal entity or object identified) through various sources and, unlike ALEI issuers that follow legal requirements for assigning identifiers and granting access to the datasets they represent, there are no requirements for proxy identifier issuers for the assignment of and access to the proxy legal entity identifiers (or the datasets they represent) that they control. However, every legal entity has a government issued, verifiable authoritative identifier, an ALEI, issued at its formation by the governing body under which it was created and that maintains its legal existence; this governing body is the authoritative source of data on that legal entity. As part of the supply chain meeting know your customer (KYC) and know your supplier (KYS) demands, each legal entity can be verified with the authoritative source. This verification is typically done by either searching authoritative source's online database, with its own structure and terminology, or asking (via phone call, email, fax, or postal mail) an employee of the governing body to search its paper or electronic documents to verify the entity's details. These methods are not suited for automated processing and add time and cost to the verification process, especially for buyers or suppliers looking to verify a large number of current or potential trading partners or government agencies looking to verify the identities of a large number of entities or which wish to do so as part of regular verification processes of any legal entities for which or on which they process data.

What is needed is a reliable and low-cost process for stating and verifying the identity, legal status, and other data of trading entities, both for individual trading entities as well as for lists of hundreds or thousands of them. This is needed in the supply chain and for government agency operations, such as implementing regulations, or for business registers to verify the domestic registrations of businesses seeking to attain or renew foreign registrations in their jurisdictions.

ISO 8000-116 is the international standard for formatting a local ALEI as a globally unique international business registration number (IBRN) by adding a prefix that identifies the issuing authoritative government register. ISO 8000-116 describes how to create a prefix for a register in an internationally recognized jurisdiction. The ISO 25500-3 (this document) international business identifier (IBID) combines the three essential data elements for definitive identity verification – the IBRN, legal name, and date of origin as eight numeric characters (YYYYMMDD) – into a simple verifiable string of characters with a pipe character (U+0007C) as a separator between each data element; the IBID is presented as an ISO 8000-115 quality identifier that has ISO.IBID as the prefix, followed by a colon, followed by the string of characters. This document provides methods to verify trading entity identity data from the authoritative source, specifically the format of and automated request types (verify, resolve, and search) and replies.

It is recommended to use the industrial internet (see ISO 25500-1 and ISO 25500-100) to implement this document; the industrial internet is an efficient and trusted environment for data sharing to occur that uses callback security where the legal identity of the party requesting data verification and the legal identity of the party replying to the request are verified. This is achieved by using registered ISO 8000-115 compliant prefixes for both parties and routing the requests and the replies through a prefix name server (PNS). The prefix records in the PNS make publicly visible only the verified IBID of the prefix owner; this enables both

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