



X12 Implementation Guides and Industry Names

Every X12 data element is assigned a name. Some of these X12 names are very general and some are more specific. X12 data elements that are used across industries or for various purposes within an industry are often assigned a broad name to facilitate the diverse needs of different industries. For example, NM103 (data element 1035) has an X12 name of “Name Last or Organization Name”. Other X12 data elements have more consistent usage and so are assigned more specific names. For example, CR104 (data element 1317) has an X12 name of “Ambulance Transport Reason Code”. When a generally named data element is included in an X12 TR3 (implementation guide), it is often assigned an industry-specific name that provides clarity about the specific use of the data element. For example, a specific instance of NM103 in an X12 implementation guide might be assigned an industry name of “Purchaser’s Last Name”.

Some broadly named data elements, such as NM103, will usually or always need to have an explicitly assigned industry name. Sometimes this industry name is based on the code selected in NM101. The more specifically named X12 data elements may never need an explicitly assigned industry name. For example, CR104’s intended use is very clear based on the X12 name and may never need an explicitly assigned industry name.

To help implementers understand the data element names included in a specific implementation guide, each implementation guide includes an Appendix E which contains an entry for every simple data element used in the body of the book. Entries in Appendix E that reflect an X12 data element name are not italicized, entries that reflect an industry-specific name are listed in italic font.

For example, the first entry in Appendix E for 008020X342 is *Accident Date*. The italic font indicates this is an industry-specific term. The second entry in the appendix is Action Code. It is not italicized which indicates this is the X12 name.

In the body of the book, when an explicit industry name is assigned, it is labeled as an industry name.

As you can see, X12 names and industry names have an important role as they provide clarity related to the purpose and intended use of a data element. Industry names are also important related to X12’s XML schemas as industry names are used as the basis for XML element names. See, <https://constructing-xsd.x12.org/> for more information about how X12 metadata is used to construct XML schemas.