



X12 Industry Names in Implementation Guides

Every X12 segment and data element defined in the EDI Standard is assigned a name. Some of these names are general and some are more specific. Segments and data elements that are used for one specific purpose are usually assigned a specific name. For example, data element CR104's name in the EDI Standard is specific, "Ambulance Transport Reason Code". Other segments and data elements are used for various purposes across industries or within an industry and are often assigned a broad, or general, name to facilitate the diverse uses. For example, the NM103 data element's name in the EDI Standard is very general, "Name Last or Organization Name". When a generally named segment or data element is included in an X12 implementation guide (TR3) 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 segments and data elements, such as NM103, will usually or always need to have an explicitly assigned industry name in an X12 implementation guide. In the case of the NM103, the industry name is often based on the code selected in NM101. The specifically named segments and data elements may never need an explicitly assigned industry name. For example, CR104's intended use is clear based on the name assigned in the EDI Standard so this data element 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 which contains an entry for every simple data element used in the body of the book. Entries in the appendix that reflect the data element name in the EDI Standard are not italicized, entries that reflect an industry-specific name are listed in italic font. For example, the first entry in the appendix 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, indicating this is the name from the EDI Standard.

When an industry name is assigned to a segment that appears in section 2 of the implementation guide, the name from the EDI Standard is shown immediately after the industry name, labeled as "X12 Name:". When an industry name is assigned to a data element that appears in section 2 of an implementation guide, it is labeled as an industry name and the name from the EDI Standard is listed at the beginning of the details for that data element.

As you can see, both the EDI Standard names and the industry names have an important role, providing clarity related to the purpose and intended use of a segment or data element. Industry names are also important related to X12's XML schemas as the 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.