

Data Standards Body

Technical Working Group

Noting Paper – CDS Conventions

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Context

In 2020 the Data Standards Body published [Noting Paper 143 – CDR Conventions](#). NP143 proposed to introduce Conventions, which documented broadly accepted interpretations of the Consumer Data Standards, but did not impose compliance obligations. Conventions were intended to improve data quality by mutual agreement on appropriate interpretations of the standards. Conventions were proposed as part of the response to issues identified in [Noting Paper 142 – CDR data quality issues summary](#).

This Noting Paper acknowledges that several forms of guidance, published by the Data Standards Body, have assumed the role intended for conventions.

Introduction

The Data Standards Body provides several forms of guidance. These include:

- The CDR Support Portal, in particular the [CDS Guide](#)
- The [DSB Video Channel](#)
- The [Consumer Experience Guidelines](#)

This guidance documentation offers participants a conventional interpretation of the Consumer Data Standards. Guidance is frequently provided by Subject Matter Experts in response to participant questions. Where participants find the standards ambiguous or unclear, guidance clarifies the intention of the standards, and provides a specific interpretation. Participants have come to adopt the conventional interpretations offered in guidance.

Phasing out Existing Conventions

As guidance has assumed the role intended for the Conventions proposed in NP143, the DSB proposes to phase out Conventions.

Where appropriate, the DSB will incorporate the content from existing conventions into the CDS Guide. The Convention Documentation described in NP143 will be archived, with archived Conventions providing links to corresponding content in the CDS Guide.

The DSB will replace the Conventions Lifecycle proposed in NP143 with a more informal lifecycle, in line with the documentation lifecycle in all guidance. Where appropriate, some

material provided initially as guidance may become part of the standards. Other material may be archived as it is replaced by more current material.

The various guidance published by the DSB takes the place of the Conventions described in NP143. Participants are referred to these publications for conventional interpretations of the Consumer Data Standards.

As with all aspects of the Consumer Data Standards, guidance is published and maintained openly and in consultation with participants. Participants are encouraged to question and contribute to guidance by commenting and raising issues.

Example of incorporating Conventions into the CDS Guide

The CDS Guide article [CDR User Identifier](#) incorporates several conventions. It provides links back to the original conventions, which will be archived but still available for viewing.