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**Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications –
Part 5-21: Application layer service definition – Type 21 elements**

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Scope.....	8
1.1 Overview	8
1.2 Specifications	9
1.3 Conformance	9
2 Normative references	9
3 Terms, definitions, symbols, abbreviations, and conventions	10
3.1 Terms and definitions from other ISO/IEC standards.....	10
3.1.1 ISO/IEC 7498-1 terms.....	10
3.1.2 ISO/IEC 8822 terms.....	10
3.1.3 ISO/IEC 8824-1 terms.....	10
3.1.4 ISO/IEC 9545 terms.....	11
3.2 Fieldbus data link layer terms	11
3.3 Fieldbus application layer specific definitions.....	11
3.4 Abbreviations and symbols	17
3.5 Conventions.....	17
3.5.1 Overview	17
3.5.2 General conventions.....	18
3.5.3 Conventions for class definitions	18
3.5.4 Conventions for service definitions	19
4 Concepts	20
4.1 Common concepts	20
4.1.1 Overview	20
4.1.2 Architectural relationships	21
4.1.3 Fieldbus application layer structure	23
4.1.4 Fieldbus application layer naming and addressing	34
4.1.5 Architecture summary.....	35
4.1.6 FAL service procedures	36
4.1.7 Common FAL attributes	37
4.1.8 Common FAL service parameters	37
4.1.9 APDU size	38
4.2 Type specific concepts.....	38
4.2.1 Node, AP, and object dictionary.....	40
4.2.2 APO ASEs	41
5 Data type ASE	41
5.1 General.....	41
5.1.1 Overview	41
5.1.2 Basic type overview.....	42
5.1.3 Fixed-length type overview	42
5.1.4 Constructed type overview.....	43
5.1.5 Specification of user-defined data types	43
5.1.6 Transfer of user data	43
5.2 Formal definition of data type objects.....	44
5.2.1 Data type class	44
5.3 FAL defined data types	45

5.3.1	Fixed-length types	45
5.3.2	String types	48
5.4	Data type ASE service specification	49
6	Communication model specification	49
6.1	ASEs	49
6.1.1	Application process ASE	49
6.1.2	Service data object ASE	55
6.1.3	Process data object ASE	65
6.1.4	Application relationship ASE	68
6.2	ARs	75
6.2.1	Point-to-point user-triggered confirmed client/server AREP (PTC-AR)	75
6.2.2	Multipoint network-scheduled unconfirmed publisher-subscriber AREP (MSU-AR)	76
6.2.3	Multipoint user-triggered unconfirmed publisher-subscriber AREP (MTU-AR)	78
6.3	Summary of FAL classes	79
6.4	Permitted FAL services by AREP role	79
	Bibliography	80
	Figure 1 – Relationship to the OSI Basic Reference Model	21
	Figure 2 – Architectural positioning of the fieldbus application layer	22
	Figure 3 – Client/server interactions	24
	Figure 4 – Pull model interactions	25
	Figure 5 – Push model interactions	26
	Figure 6 – APOs services conveyed by the FAL	28
	Figure 7 – Application entity structure	30
	Figure 8 – FAL management of objects	31
	Figure 9 – ASE service conveyance	32
	Figure 10 – Defined and established AREPs	34
	Figure 11 – FAL architectural components	36
	Figure 12 – Interaction between FAL and DLL	39
	Figure 13 – Publisher-subscriber communication model	39
	Figure 14 – Client-server communication model	40
	Figure 15 – Object model	40
	Figure 16 – ASEs of a Type 21 application	41
	Figure 17 – Data type class hierarchy example	42
	Figure 18 – The AR ASE conveys APDUs between APs	68
	Table 1 – Types of timeliness	27
	Table 2 – Overall structure of the OD	40
	Table 3 – Identify service	52
	Table 4 – Status service	54
	Table 5 – Access rights for object	56
	Table 6 – Read service	57
	Table 7 – Write service	59

Table 8 – Write and Read service	61
Table 9 – Write and Read Multiple service	63
Table 10 – TB-transfer	67
Table 11 – COS-transfer	67
Table 12 – Conveyance of service primitives by AREP role	69
Table 13 – Valid combinations of AREP roles involved in an AR	69
Table 14 – AR-unconfirmed send	73
Table 15 – AR-confirmed send	74
Table 16 – FAL class summary	79
Table 17 – Services by AREP role	79

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS –
FIELDBUS SPECIFICATIONS –****Part 5-21: Application layer service definition –
Type 21 elements****FOREWORD**

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Attention is drawn to the fact that the use of the associated protocol type is restricted by its intellectual-property-right holders. In all cases, the commitment to limited release of intellectual-property-rights made by the holders of those rights permits a layer protocol type to be used with other layer protocols of the same type, or in other type combinations explicitly authorized by its intellectual-property-right holders.

NOTE Combinations of protocol types are specified in IEC 61784-1 and IEC 61784-2.

International Standard IEC 61158-5-21 has been prepared by subcommittee 65C: Industrial networks, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial process measurement, control and automation.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2010. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- added Write and Read service;
- miscellaneous editorial corrections.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
65C/947/FDIS	65C/950/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61158 series, published under the general title *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications*, can be found on the IEC web site.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be:

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

INTRODUCTION

This document is one of a series produced to facilitate the interconnection of automation system components. It is related to other standards in the set as defined by the “three-layer” fieldbus reference model described in IEC 61158-1.

The application service is provided by the application protocol making use of the services available from the data-link or other immediately lower layer. This document defines the application service characteristics that fieldbus applications and/or system management may exploit.

Throughout the set of fieldbus standards, the term “service” refers to the abstract capability provided by one layer of the OSI Basic Reference Model to the layer immediately above. Thus, the application layer service defined in this document is a conceptual architectural service, independent of administrative and implementation divisions.

INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS – FIELDBUS SPECIFICATIONS –

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1 Scope

1.1 Overview

The Fieldbus Application Layer (FAL) provides user programs with a means to access the fieldbus communication environment. In this respect, the FAL can be considered a window between corresponding application programs.

This part of IEC 61158 provides the common elements for basic time-critical and non-time-critical messaging communications between application programs in an automation environment as well as material specific to the Type 21 protocol. The term “time-critical” is used to represent the presence of a time-window within which one or more specified actions are required to be completed with some defined level of certainty. Failure to complete specified actions within the time window risks failure of the applications requesting the actions, with attendant risk to equipment, plant, and possibly human life.

This International Standard defines, in an abstract way, the externally visible service provided by the FAL in terms of:

- a) an abstract model for defining application resources (objects) capable of being manipulated by users *via* the FAL service;
- b) the primitive actions and events of the service;
- c) the parameters associated with each primitive action and event, and the form that they take;
- d) the interrelationship between these actions and events, and their valid sequences.

The purpose of this document is to define the services provided to:

- a) the FAL-user at the boundary between the user and the application layer of the fieldbus Reference Model;
- b) systems management at the boundary between the application layer and systems management of the fieldbus Reference Model.

This document describes the structure and services of the IEC FAL, in conformance with the OSI Basic Reference Model (ISO/IEC 7498) and the OSI Application layer Structure (ISO/IEC 9545).

FAL services and protocols are provided by FAL application entities (AEs) contained in the application processes. The FAL AE is composed of a set of object-oriented Application Service Elements (ASEs) and a Layer Management Entity (LME) that manages the AE. The ASEs provide communication services that operate on a set of related application process object (APO) classes. One of the FAL ASEs is a management ASE that provides a common set of services for management of the instances of FAL classes.

Although these services specify how requests and responses are issued and delivered from the perspective of applications, they do not include a specification of what the requesting and responding applications are to do with them. That is, these services only define what requests and responses applications can send or receive, not the functions of the applications

themselves. This permits greater flexibility to the FAL-users in standardizing such object behavior. In addition to these services, some supporting services are also defined in this document to provide access to the FAL to control certain aspects of its operation.

1.2 Specifications

The principal objective of this document is to specify the characteristics of conceptual application layer services suitable for time-critical communications, and thus supplement the OSI Basic Reference Model in guiding the development of application layer protocols for time-critical communications.

A secondary objective is to provide migration paths from previously existing industrial communications protocols. This latter objective gives rise to the diversity of services standardized as the various types of IEC 61158, and the corresponding protocols standardized in subparts of IEC 61158-6.

This document may be used as the basis for formal application programming interfaces. Nevertheless, it is not a formal programming interface, and any such interface must address implementation issues not covered by this document, including:

- a) sizes and octet ordering of various multi-octet service parameters;
- b) correlation of paired primitives for request and confirmation, or indication and response.

1.3 Conformance

This document does not specify individual implementations or products, nor does it constrain the implementations of application layer entities in industrial automation systems.

There is no conformance of equipment to this application layer service definition standard. Instead, conformance is achieved through the implementation of conforming application layer protocols that fulfill any given type of application layer services as defined in this document.

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.

NOTE All parts of the IEC 61158 series, as well as IEC 61784 1 and IEC 61784 2 are maintained simultaneously. Cross-references to these documents within the text therefore refer to the editions as dated in this list of normative references.

ISO/IEC/IEEE 60559:2011, *Information technology – Microprocessor Systems – Floating-Point arithmetic*

IEC 61158-3-21:2019, *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications – Part 3-21: Data-link layer service definition – Type 21 elements*

IEC 61158-4-21:2019, *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications – Part 4-21: Data-link layer protocol specification – Type 21 elements*

IEC 61158-6-21:2019, *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications – Part 6-21: Application layer protocol specification – Type 21 elements*

ISO/IEC 7498-1, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model: The Basic Model*

ISO/IEC 7498-3, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model: Naming and addressing*

ISO/IEC 8822, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Presentation service definition*

ISO/IEC 8824 (all parts), *Information Technology – Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN-1)*

ISO/IEC 9545, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Application layer structure*

ISO/IEC 10731, *Information technology – Open Systems Interconnection – Basic Reference Model – Conventions for the definition of OSI services*