

INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

ISO/IEC  
15475-1

First edition  
2002-11-01

---

---

**Information technology — CDIF transfer  
format —**

**Part 1:  
General rules for syntaxes and encodings**

*Technologies de l'information — Format de transfert CDIF —  
Partie 1: Règles générales pour les syntaxes et les codages*

---

---

---

Reference number  
ISO/IEC 15475-1:2002(E)



© ISO/IEC 2002

**PDF disclaimer**

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. The ISO Central Secretariat accepts no liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the Central Secretariat at the address given below.

© ISO/IEC 2002

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Web [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

## Contents

1	Scope .....	1
2	Conformance .....	2
3	Normative references .....	2
4	Terms and definitions .....	3
4.1	From other standards .....	3
4.1.1	ISO/IEC 15474-1 .....	3
4.1.2	ISO/IEC 13238-1 .....	4
4.2	For this standard .....	4
5	Symbols (and abbreviated terms) .....	4
5.1	Naming and diagramming notations .....	4
5.2	BNF conventions .....	4
5.3	Abbreviations .....	5
6	CDIF transfer concepts and facilities .....	5
6.1	Separation of syntax and encoding .....	5
6.2	Independence of architecture components .....	5
6.3	Data types .....	5
6.4	Character sets .....	5
7	General structure of a CDIF transfer .....	6
7.1	Introduction .....	6
7.2	Transfer header .....	6
7.2.1	Introduction .....	6
7.2.2	CDIF signature .....	7
7.2.3	Syntax identifier .....	7
7.2.4	Encoding identifier .....	8
7.2.5	Character set identifier .....	8
7.2.6	Transfer header example .....	8
7.3	Transfer contents .....	9
7.3.1	Introduction .....	9
7.3.2	Header section .....	9
7.3.3	Metamodel section .....	10
7.3.4	Model section .....	11
	Annex A (normative) Transfer header formal grammar .....	12
	Annex B (informative) SQL BNF conventions .....	14

**Table of Illustrations**

Figure 1 – Position in the CDIF family of standards .....	1
Figure 2 – The general structure of a CDIF transfer.....	6
Figure 3 – The transfer header.....	7
Figure 4 – The transfer contents.....	9
Figure 5 – The transfer contents header section.....	9
Figure 6 – The transfer contents metamodel section .....	10
Figure 7 – The transfer contents model section .....	11

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO/IEC 15475 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 15475-1 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Software and system engineering*.

ISO/IEC 15475 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — CDIF transfer format*:

- *Part 1: General rules for syntaxes and encodings*
- *Part 2: Syntax SYNTAX.1*
- *Part 3: Encoding ENCODING.1*

Annex A forms a normative part of this part of ISO/IEC 15475. Annex B is for information only.

## Introduction

This standard will assist the vendors and users of modelling tools and metadata repositories in developing mechanisms for interchanging information. This standard specifies an element of a family of related standards. When used together, these standards specify a mechanism for transferring information between tools.

ISO/IEC 15474-1:2002, *Information technology — CDIF framework — Part 1: Overview* and ISO/IEC 15474-2:2002, *Information technology — CDIF framework — Part 2: Modelling and extensibility* should be read first when initially exploring CDIF. The first explains the overall CDIF Architecture and how the family of standards fits together. The second explains the scope, and modelling approach in CDIF. The CDIF Meta-metamodel and extensibility mechanisms are also defined in that document.

This document, ISO/IEC 15475-1:2002, *Information technology — CDIF transfer format — Part 1: General rules for syntaxes and encodings*, defines how CDIF supports multiple exchange syntaxes and encodings, and describes how CDIF metamodels are concretely represented during a transfer. ISO/IEC 15475-2:2002, *Information technology — CDIF transfer format — Part 2: Syntax SYNTAX.1* and ISO/IEC 15475-3:2002, *Information technology — CDIF transfer format — Part 3: Encoding ENCODING.1* define one specific CDIF syntax and one specific CDIF encoding.

This standard has been developed with the wide support and participation of vendors, users, academia and government involved in or familiar with the CASE industry, its products and the general requirements associated with interchanging information between these products.

This document is organized into the following Clauses:

- Clauses 1 to 5 are prescribed ISO/IEC Clauses
- Clause 6: Concepts and facilities

This describes the concepts of separation of syntax and encoding and independence of architecture components, and defines the general rules for data types and character sets in a transfer.

- Clause 7: General structure of the CDIF transfer

This describes the purpose of a CDIF transfer, the syntax of the transfer header and the general syntax of a CDIF transfer.

- Annex A: Transfer header formal grammar

This defines the precise format of the transfer header.

- Annex B: SQL BNF conventions

These conventions are included for ease of reference.

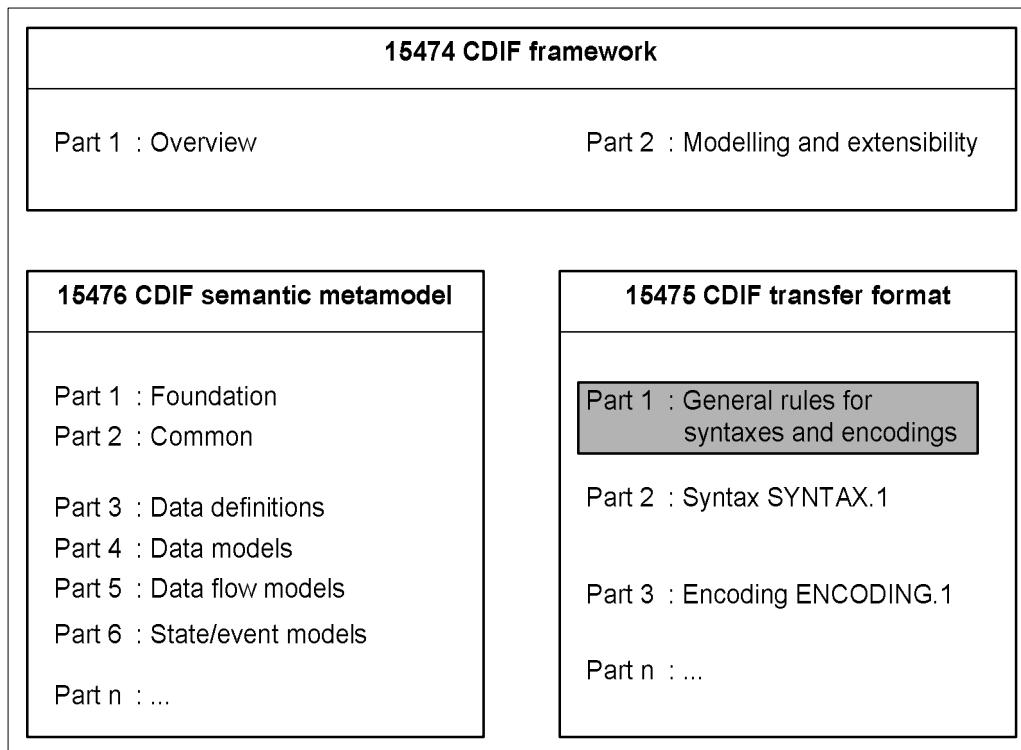
# Information technology — CDIF transfer format —

## Part 1: General rules for syntaxes and encodings

### 1 Scope

The CDIF family of standards is primarily designed to be used as a description of a mechanism for transferring information between modelling tools. It facilitates a successful transfer when the authors of the importing and exporting tools have nothing in common except an agreement to conform to CDIF. The language that is defined for the Transfer Format also has applicability as a general language for Import/Export from repositories. The CDIF Semantic Metamodel defined for modelling tools also has applicability as the basis of standard definitions for use in repositories.

The standards, which form the complete family of CDIF Standards, are documented in ISO/IEC 15474-1:2002, *Information technology — CDIF framework — Part 1: Overview*. These standards cover the overall framework, the transfer format and the CDIF Semantic Metamodel.



**Figure 1 – Position in the CDIF family of standards**

The diagram in Figure 1 depicts the various standards that comprise the CDIF family of standard. The shaded box depicts this Standard and its position in the CDIF family of standard.

This document describes the way that CDIF metamodels are concretely represented during a transfer and the way that CDIF supports multiple exchange syntaxes and encodings. No specific exchange syntaxes or encodings are described in this document. ISO/IEC 15475-2:2002, *Information technology — CDIF transfer format — Part 2: Syntax SYNTAX.1* and ISO/IEC 15475-3:2002, *Information technology — CDIF transfer format — Part 3: Encoding ENCODING.1*, define one specific CDIF syntax and one specific CDIF encoding.

This document is intended to be used by anyone wishing to understand and/or use CDIF. This document provides an introduction to the entire CDIF family of standard. It is suitable for:

- Those evaluating CDIF,
- Those who wish to understand the principles and concepts of a CDIF transfer, and
- Those developing importers and exporters.

The documents ISO/IEC 15474-1:2002, *Information technology — CDIF framework — Part 1: Overview* and ISO/IEC 15474-2:2002, *Information technology — CDIF framework — Part 2: Modelling and extensibility* should be read first when initially exploring CDIF and before attempting to read other documents in the CDIF family of standard.

While there are no specific prerequisites for reading this document, it will be helpful for the reader to have familiarity with the following:

- Entity-Relationship-Attribute modelling;
- Modelling (CASE) tools;
- Information repositories;
- Data dictionaries;
- Multiple meta-layer modelling;
- Formal grammars;
- Transfer formats.

## 2 Conformance

A product is standards conformant this standard if and only if the product obeys all definitions and rules in Annex A of this standard, and is also CDIF architecture conformant, as defined in Clause 2 of ISO/IEC 15474-1:2002, *Information technology — CDIF framework — Part 1: Overview*. A product can be either transfer format standards conformant or non-conformant. Partial standards conformance to a standard defining a part of the CDIF transfer format is not defined.

A product is standards conformant to a CDIF encoding standard only if it is standards conformant to Annex A of ISO/IEC 15475-3:2002, *Information technology — CDIF transfer format — Part 3: Encoding ENCODING.1* and also conformant to Annex A of ISO/IEC 15475-2:2002, *Information technology — CDIF transfer format — Part 2: Syntax SYNTAX.1*. A product is standard conformant to a CDIF syntax standard only if it is standards conformant to Annex A of ISO/IEC 15475-2:2002, *Information technology — CDIF transfer format — Part 2: Syntax SYNTAX.1*.

## 3 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO/IEC 15475. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of ISO/IEC 15475 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For

undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO/IEC 9075:1992, *Information technology — Database languages — SQL*

ISO/IEC 10646-1:1993, *Information technology — Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) — Part 1: Architecture and Basic Multilingual Plane*

ISO/IEC 10646-1:1993/Amd.2:1996, *Information technology — Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) — Part 1: Architecture and Basic Multilingual Plane. Amendment 2: UCS Transformation Format 8 (UTF-8)*

ISO/IEC 13238-1:<sup>1)</sup>, *Information technology — Data management export/import — Part 1: Standardization framework*

ISO/IEC 15474-1:2002, *Information technology — CDIF framework — Part 1: Overview*

ISO/IEC 15474-2:2002, *Information technology — CDIF framework — Part 2: Modelling and extensibility*

---

1) To be published.