

Australian Standard™

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**Interchange of client information**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee IT/27, Personal and Corporate Data—Representation and Management. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 16 April 1999 and published on 5 June 1999.

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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 98301.*

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Originated as AS 4212—1994.  
Revised and redesignated, in part, as AS 4590—1999.

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee IT/27, Personal and Corporate Data—Representation and Management, based on a document originally drafted by the inter-government Client Data Standards Working Group.

The Standard is a result of industry concern at the myriad of data storage formats used within the information technology industry. Its objective is to provide the industry with a common client data interchange Standard that will eliminate the need for creative variations.

This Standard supersedes, in part, AS 4212—1994, *Geographic information systems—Data dictionary for transfer of street addressing information*. Although AS 4212 covers a number of similar data elements, it was designed for a different purpose. It is intended that this Standard and a future revision of AS 4212 be aligned.

This Standard will improve identification practices within a party. For parties that match, validate and interchange client information the Standard will improve matching processes. Additionally, implementation of the Standard can have the following benefits:

- (a) Speeding up of the process of defining, developing and maintaining the interface between two organizations.
- (b) More effective client information gathering and usage through the reduction in the plethora of existing client information Standards. This will result in—
  - (i) reduced costs in maintaining client identification data;
  - (ii) reduced costs for identifying and validating clients since staff will have a higher degree of confidence in the data they are working with; and
  - (iii) other business benefits, e.g. reduced mailing costs if the amount of undelivered domestic mail is reduced, or access to bulk mail discounts is improved.
- (c) Potential for the removal of redundant data, resulting in parties not re-requesting public client information or corrupting accurate existing data. The integrity of source data will be maintained.
- (d) Reduced potential for inaccurate client information to be collected and maintained.
- (e) Reduced risk of clients being incorrectly identified through poorly matched data records.
- (f) Facilitation of more efficient processes for data matching, the benefits of which are—
  - (i) increased effectiveness of internal data matching activities; and
  - (ii) the useability of public data.
- (g) Reduced data duplication.
- (h) Increased consistency.
- (i) Better data management practices.
- (j) Provision of a basis for costing data interchange.
- (k) Potential for building and re-using generic client interchange software.

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