



# IPTC XML Schema Style Book

Document history					[Document URN: urn:iptc:workdoc:sta:0503:4 ]
Revision	Issue Date	Pages	Author (revised by)	Remark	
1	2004-11-12	3	Michael Steidl	Initial work document, based on postings to the Yahoo group.	
2	2004-12-10	3	Michael Steidl	Update reflecting the discussion - changes to: 1.1, 3.3 - added: 3.5, 5.2	
3	2005-02-01	3	Michael Steidl	Dokument ID changed sta:0408:2 → sta:0503:3 Wrap up of group discussion for submission to the IPTC Spring Meeting 2005	
4	2005-03-30	2	Michael Steidl	Tidied up to reflect the approval by the STA meeting, March 2005	

The “XML Schema Style” Task Force of the Standards Committee aimed to define a common style for the development and maintenance of IPTC governed W3C XML Schemas. The work comprised style regarding documentation, versioning and the notation, further guidelines for IPTC specific XML element types and about building specifications from modules.

## References:

[XMLSchemaStructures] ... XML Schema Part 1, Structures Second Edition (

<http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-xmlschema-1-20041028/> )

[XMLSchemaDataTypes] ... XML Schema Part 2, Datatypes Second Edition

(<http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-xmlschema-2-20041028/> )

## 1 Documentation in the specification file

### 1.1 Documentation notation

Documentation will be added by using `xs:annotation` and `xs:documentation` elements of the XML Schema specification.

External programs will be employed to collate a standalone reference document and to create a browseable linked (web) documents. These programs have to be able to process these standard annotation elements for XML Schemas. Requirements to add special mark up for these programs will be considered later.

Annotation/documentation should be added:

to the XML Schema as a whole, see also section 3

to each specified data type or group

to each specified element

to each specified attribute

to all “modules” or “sections”

to all “import” or “include” statements

## 2 Notation style of XML elements and attributes

“To CamelBack or not to camelback.” (This time not Shakespeare)

### 2.1 XML namespace prefixes

Style rule 1: should be short, not exceeding 12 characters

Style rule 2: all lowercase, no camel back.

Examples, `nsml`, `iptc4xmpcore`



## 2.2 XML element names

Style rule 1: may be built from concatenated words/terms

Style rule 2: lower camel case, uppercase for the first characters of words inside a string.

Examples: status, myElement, firstCreatedDateTime

## 2.3 XML attribute names and attribute groups

Style rule 1: may be built from concatenated words/terms

Style rule 2: all lower case

Examples: myattribute, formalname

## 2.4 Common styles

Subsections of names:

No punctuation characters like “-“ or “.”

The only helper for improving readability of element names is using lower camel case, as described in 2.2

## 2.5 Namespace prefixes for XML Schema elements

IPTC adopts the use of namespace prefixes for XML Schema elements

IPTC uses the “xs” namespace prefix for XML Schema elements

## 3 IPTC XML Schema file

Beyond the declarations required to produce valid XML Schema notation these comments (see 1.1 for details) have to be included:

- copyright notice for the IPTC: “© {YEAR} IPTC, all rights reserved”
- current contact information for the IPTC
- name and version of the standard, or module
- a document URN for this XML Schema file
- license notice
- trademark notice, depending on standard
- a notice regarding the requirement implementers of this standard have to comply with this specification

## 4 Specific XML element types

This section provides guidelines for adopting certain element types for IPTC XML Schemas.

### 4.1 Dates and Times

The standard approach of the IPTC is to use the standard XML Schema types provided for that purpose: dateTime, date, time and duration.

Don't expect validation of values at the XML Schema level for W3 XML Schema version 1.0, but expect validation conforming to “Value spaces” in XML Schema 1.1.

All date and time value elements which should not conform to the standard XML Schema type for a certain reason have to be defined as a “Common Component” or “Special Component” by the IPTC standardisation track. This addresses issues with the format of dates and times chosen for NewsML 1.

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