

26 IDENTIFYING DATA ELEMENT TYPES

In this example, two situations are presented indicating which data element types are identified.

26.1 Identifying process data

Problem description

An external output shows the sales price (including VAT) and the VAT amount on a product screen. The data file ARTICLE contains, per item, the sales price excluding VAT and the VAT code. The current VAT amount is determined by the VAT code, VAT entry date, VAT rate.

Which of these data count(s) for the determination of the complexity of the external output?

Discussion

In fact the question is: should the data elements underlying the calculated value and / or the calculated value itself (i.e.: VAT code, VAT entry date, VAT rate and / or VAT amount) be counted as DET?

The calculation of the DETs (VAT code, VAT entry date, VAT rate) should not be counted as DET of the transaction. Only data that cross the boundary of the application i.e. sales price and VAT amount are counted as DET of the transaction.

Solution

Just count the DETs that cross the boundary of the information system. In other words: sales price, VAT amount and initiation trigger.

References to the standard

4.23, 8.3.d and 8.3.e.

26.2 Data element types within a data file

Problem description

Given a data file containing, among other things, the DETs Initials, Prefixes and Last Name. How should a field on a screen be displayed for a user transaction, showing <Surname> + ', ' + <initials> + ' ' + <prefixes> (e.g., 'Graaf, R. de')

Which DETs should be counted in the user transaction?

Discussion

The question is: should the entire field be counted as 1 DET, or should the three fields (3 DETs) be counted from the data file?

Solution

If for the users of the application only the full name has a meaning, then it should be counted as one DET. This also applies if the fields "initials", "prefix" and "last name" were technically stored as three fields.

Reference to the standard

4.23