

36 LISTS WITHIN LISTS

Problem description

A process exists that shows an overview of customer data for audit purposes. The overview has the following lay-out:

Company J. Paulson Mainstreet 18 12345 Village Netherlands		Tel.number: 046-1234567 E-mail: jpaulson@paulson.com		
Orders				
Order date:	01-05-2015			
1111054	Ballpens Basic	10	€ 10,79	€ 107,90
3125003	White copy paper 500 sheets	20	€ 19,49	€ 389,80
.....				
Order date:	06-05-2015			
3581487	Folder A4 4 rings 5p.	12	€ 17,99	€ 215,88
3142122	Window envelopes 500p.	15	€ 13,93	€ 208,95
Order date:	08-05-2015			
3563005	Dossier folders 10 p	50	€ 05,95	€ 297,50
3125003	Suspension files 20 p.	20	€ 19,49	€ 389,80
Outstanding invoices				
2015-1004	31-03-2015	€ 1020,56		
2015-1053	30-04-2015	€ 1533,50		
....				
Company J. Petersen		Tel.number: 057-7654321 E-mail: jpetersen@petersen.com		
{Etcetera. Identical lists per customer. For all customers.}				

How many external outputs should be counted?

Discussion

Rule 8.2.g states that an output product can comprise several external outputs. That is the case when:

- the output product contains different logical layouts and these logical layouts can be retrieved individually, or
- the output product contains different logical layouts that have been established by different logical ways of processing and are combined for ease-of-use.

The rule also states the following on individual logical processes: “when the different parts report about a different object or when they come about as a result of other logical files.” In this case there is no question of individual retrieval. So the first condition does not apply.

It may be different for the second condition. The part of the list about orders comes from a different logical file than the part of the list about invoices. This would lead to the counting of two external outputs, one report on orders and one on invoices.

In the decision to count one or two external outputs, one should consider that the second clause contains the condition: “and are combined for ease-of-use”. Rule 8.2.g is not a license to split up output products that are meant as one single product purely because the different parts of the output product are retrieved from different logical files. The second condition of rule 8.2.g concerns a situation in which output products that should be considered as elementary functions are presented onto one output product (paper or screen) for practical purposes.

In this example the overview is meant to get an overview of the (debt)position of a customer for audit purposes: this amount of orders, this amount of outstanding invoices. That is one unambiguous purpose. The point of view is the customer for all parts of the overview. The fact that multiple logical files or objects must be addressed to describe the customer position does not lead to the conclusion that there are multiple external outputs for that reason.

Solution

Count one external output.

Reference to the standard

8.2.g