

Data Exchange Standard – Standard Alberta Township System Legal Land Description

Office of the Corporate Chief Information Officer, Strategy and Governance Branch

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Standard Statement

Data exchange standards are required to ensure the clarity and the accuracy of data exchanged between Government of Alberta (GoA) applications.

The standard below describes the GoA data standard for a Standard Alberta Township System Legal Land Description shared between GoA applications. The Standard Alberta Township System Legal Land Description became effective in 1870 when the Dominion government defined the Township system.

This standard defines the required components of a Standard Alberta Township System Legal Land Description and applies to the exchange of the Standard Alberta Township System information.

A separate standard has been defined for a Non-Standard Standard Alberta Township System Legal Land Description which is used when the Legal Land Description was defined prior to the Township system.

The different Legal Land Description components between a Standard and Non-Standard Alberta Township System Legal Land Descriptions are as follows;

Standard Alberta Township System	Non-Standard Alberta Township System
Meridian	Meridian
Range	Range
Township	Township
Section	Survey Lot Number
Quarter Section	Survey Type
Legal Subdivision	

Authority

Internal use only.

Scope

This standard applies to all Ministries within the GoA.

Standard Specification

The Alberta Township System land description standard follows the Data Exchange Standard – Character Set (UTF-8).

Standard Alberta Township System Legal Land Description

Description	Legal Land Description used for land which has not been subdivided in a city, town, village, or acreage subdivision.		
Format	<p>Meridian;Range;Township;Section;QuarterSection;LegalSubdivision</p> <p>The Alberta Township System Legal Land Description is exchanged as one string.</p> <p>Each string must contain at a minimum the mandatory (bolded) fields identified for a Alberta Township System Legal Land Description.</p>		
	Meridian	N1	<p>Mandatory.</p> <p>One of three north/south lines used for longitudinal orientation. West of the 4th, 5th, or 6th.</p> <p>A single digit, e.g “4”, “5”, or “6”.</p>
	Range	N2	<p>Mandatory.</p> <p>A vertical column which falls between identified meridians.</p> <p>Up to two digit number range between 1 to 30.</p>
	Township	N3	<p>Mandatory.</p> <p>A horizontal row which crosses both meridians and ranges.</p> <p>Up to three digit number range between 1 to 126.</p>
	Section	N2	<p>Mandatory.</p> <p>One thirty-sixth of a township.</p> <p>Up to two digit number range between 1 to 36.</p>
	QuarterSection	C2	<p>Optional</p> <p>One quarter of a section. Identifies the direction of the quarter section, e.g. “N”, “S”, “E”, “W”, “NE”, “NW”, “SE”, “and SW”.</p> <p>Up to two character value using capital letters A to Z.</p>

	LegalSubdivision	N2	Optional One sixteenth of a section. Up to two digit number range between 1 to 16.
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References and Supporting Resources

- An Introduction to Alberta Land Titles.
http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/pdf/lt/Land_Titles_Introduction.pdf
- Data Exchange Standard – Character Set (UTF-8).
<https://imtpolicy.sp.alberta.ca/standards/Pages/Data-Exchange-Standard-Character-Set.aspx>
- Data Exchange Standard – Non-Standard Alberta Township System Legal Land Description.
<https://imtpolicy.sp.alberta.ca/standards/Pages/Data-Exchange-Standard-Non-Standard-Alberta-Township-System-Legal-Land-Description.aspx>

Appendix A

Types of Standards	Description
Technical Standard	These are detailed, unique standards that have developed in response to government IMT policies. Technical standards are intended to be replicable, transferable, and adaptable across ministries and other government agencies. Examples of these could include address data standards or specifications for a single identifier for transacting with government electronically.
Product Standard	An IMT product or specific technology oriented standard that facilitates the task of planning for enhancements and acquisitions within the government's broad information systems environment. As a definitive list of the numerous technologies either employed or under evaluation by Workplace Technology Services, product standards are critical in establishing conformity, interoperability and interchange-ability. Examples of these could include a government-wide standard for document, record management and database, and the list of core products for government workstations.
Process Standard	An established, mandatory business practice that supports IMT projects and existing systems to improve the outcome, diminish risks, and increase reliability. Examples could include business continuity planning processes, threat risk assessment processes, etc.
Reference Standard	An IMT industry standard (either a national or international formal or de facto standard) that has been adopted for use by the Province of Alberta. A Reference Standard may be adopted either as stand-alone or as a precursor to a customized standard or policy document. Examples could include the 1024 bit RSA standard for public key encryption.