Data Exchange Standard – Sex

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

Version: 1.0

Approved by:	Owner:
Corporate Chief Information Officer	IMT Policy Program
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Alberta

Contents

Standard Statement

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

The standard below outlines the GoA data standard for a person's sex shared among GoA applications. This standard applies to exchange of sex information. It is also recommended for storage of the sex information.

Authority

Internal use only.

Scope

This standard applies to all Ministries within the GoA.

Standard Specification

The GoA sex data exchange standard aligns with the information collected under the *Vital Statistics Act,* which allows the government to provide for the legal registration of all Alberta births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages, adoptions and changes of name.. Sex is collected as per the *Vital Statistics Act,* producing legal registration documents that are used for purposes including verification of physical identity, and confirmation of eligibility for government programs and services.

This standard also follows the Data Exchange Standard – Character Set (UTF-8).

Sex	
Description	Sex refers to the biological and is associated with physical and physiological characteristics that define men, women, and intersex persons. A person's sex is most often designated by a medical assessment at the moment of birth. This is also referred to as birth-assigned sex.
Format	C1 **Sex Values** | Value	Display	Description
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F	Female	A person with female reproductive/ sexual anatomy. Other features to describe female distinctions may include chromosomes, gene expression, hormone levels and function.	

	M	Male	A person with male reproductive/ sexual anatomy. Other features to describe male distinctions may include chromosomes, gene expression, hormone levels and function.
	U	Unknown	Used when an individual was not asked or did not provide their sex.
	O	Other	Used when an individual may be intersex (formerly known as hermaphrodite). This is a person born with a combination of male and female biological characteristics, such as chromosomes or genitals, that can make it difficult for doctors to assign their sex as distinctly male or female at birth.
	I	Indeterminate	Used only in the event of a stillbirth where the sex cannot be differentiated.
Sex		**C1**	One character value.

References and Supporting Resources

- Vital Statistics and Life Events Modernization Act
  http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/3188.cfm

- Vital Statistics Act
  http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=V04P1.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779761999

- Data Exchange Standard – Character Set (UTF-8)
  https://imtpolicy.sp.alberta.ca/standards/Pages/Data-Exchange-Standard-Character-Set.aspx

- 5. Government of Canada, Status of Women - Gender diversity from Status of Women Gender Based Analysis
  http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/gba-acs/index-en.html

- Statistics Canada – Sex of Person
  http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&Id=24101

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.