



FACT SHEET

Financial Data Transparency Act: Joint Data Standards

The Securities and Exchange Commission established joint data standards under the Financial Data Transparency Act of 2022 (FDTA). These establish technical standards for data submitted to certain financial regulatory agencies. The joint standards include:

- Seven common identifiers related to entities, geographic locations, dates, and certain products and currencies;
- A principles-based joint standard with respect to transmitting and structuring data; and
- A definition of “collections of information” in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Eight additional agencies have also established or are expected to act on establishing the joint standards: the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Background

The FDTA was signed into law on December 23, 2022, and directs certain federal agencies to promote the interoperability of financial regulatory data.

As a first rulemaking step, the FDTA directs the agencies to establish joint standards after notice and an opportunity for public comment. The SEC proposed the joint standards on August 2, 2024.

As a second step, the FDTA directs most of the agencies, including the SEC, to issue agency-specific rules that implement the final joint standards. The FDTA affords the agencies some flexibility in considering how best to do so.

Joint Data Standards

Common Identifiers

The agencies' joint standards include identifiers related to entities, geographic locations, dates, and certain products and currencies. The identifiers are non-proprietary, available under an open license, and free of charge to any user.

With regards to entities, the joint standards establish Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) as a common entity identifier. The LEI is a global identifier standard, developed by the

International Organization for Standardization (ISO), that uniquely and unambiguously identifies a legal entity.

The joint standards also establish the following common identifiers or classifications:

- ISO 4914 – Financial services – Unique product identifier (UPI);
- ISO 10962 – Securities and related financial instruments – Classification of financial instruments (CFI) code;
- ISO 8601 – Date and time — Representations for information interchange;
- U.S. Postal Service Abbreviations as published in Appendix B of Publication 28, Postal Addressing Standards;
- Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) standard (country codes); and
- ISO 4217 – Currency Codes.

The joint standards as established do not include the proposed Financial Instrument Global Identifier (FIGI) standard, nor do they specify the use of the Basic format option for ISO 8601.

Data Transmission and Schema and Taxonomy Format Standards

The joint standards establish a principles-based joint standard for data transmission, structuring, and formatting that:

- Render data fully searchable and machine-readable;
- Enable high-quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata, which clearly define the semantic meaning of the data;
- Ensure that data that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information requirement be consistently identified as such in machine-readable metadata; and
- Be nonproprietary or available under an open license.

Under this standard, any specific data transmission or schema or taxonomy format (e.g., eXtensible Markup Language) that meets the above criteria would be permitted. The agencies could adopt new open-source file formats as they are developed without needing to amend the joint standards to include new specific formats.

Definition of “Collections of Information”

The FDTA applies to certain collections of information reported to each agency; however, it currently does not specifically define the term “collections of information.”

The joint standards, as proposed, establish the definition used in the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as it is already widely recognized and utilized.

What’s Next

The effective date for the final joint rule is October 1, 2026, which is the first day of the next calendar quarter that begins at least 60 days after the final joint rule is published in the Federal Register.