

INTERPRETATION OF USE OF FRACTIONAL VALUES IN R DATA TYPE

ISSUES

Use of fractional values in R data type may be in violation of X12.6 Application Control Structure, and may cause a proliferation of methods of representing fractional values by users of the standards.

INTERPRETATION

The R data element type represents a discrete value for representing integers and decimal fractions only. Representation of a composite number such as "1-13/64" will require a different technique. The representation of a composite number will be handled through a separate data maintenance request which will address the business requirements for forms of this type of data and representation of precision of the data.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO CLARIFY THE STANDARD

This interpretation does not make specific recommendations for changes to the standards to accommodate representation of fractions. However, a number of work requests have been received by X12J, Technical Assessment, related to this issue, and were referred to subcommittees for action.