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Part 4: Transitional migration features

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Contents

Foreword ..... **vi**

Introduction ..... **viii**

1. Scope **1**

2. Normative references **1**

3. Terms and definitions **1**

4. Notational conventions **1**

5. Organizational conventions **2**

6. External data files **2**

7. Conformance **2**

7.1 Document conformance 2

7.2 Application conformance 3

8. Additional shared parts **3**

8.1 General 3

8.2 VML Drawing part 4

9. WordprocessingML **5**

9.1 General 5

9.2 Parts 5

9.3 Document template (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 11.4) 6

9.4 Framesets (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 11.5) 7

9.5 Master documents and subdocuments (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 11.6) 7

9.6 Mail merge data source (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 11.7) 7

9.7 Mail merger header data source (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 11.8) 7

9.8 XSL transformation (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 11.9) 7

10. SpreadsheetML **7**

10.1 General 7

10.2 Parts 7

10.3 External workbooks (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 12.4) 10

11. PresentationML **10**

11.1 General 10

11.2 Parts 11

11.3 HTML publish location (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 13.4) 12

11.4 Slide synchronization server location (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 13.5) 12

12. DrawingML **12**

12.1 General 12

12.2 Parts 13

13. Shared MLs **14**

13.1 General 14

13.2 Parts 14

13.3 Hyperlinks part (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 15.3) 15

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14. WordprocessingML reference material 16
14.1 Table of contents and introduction 16
14.2 Paragraphs and rich formatting 20
14.3 Tables 24
14.4 Fonts 30
14.5 Numbering 31
14.6 Annotations 33
14.7 Settings 41
14.8 Miscellaneous topics 129
14.9 Fields and hyperlinks 130
14.10 Simple types 146
14.11 Changed attributes 151
14.12 `background` (document background) 167

15. SpreadsheetML reference material 167
15.1 Table of contents and introduction 167
15.2 Workbook 169
15.3 Worksheets 176
15.4 Styles 179
15.5 Pivot tables 180
15.6 External data connections 180
15.7 Simple types 181
15.8 Formulas 181
15.9 Changed attributes 181

16. PresentationML reference material 187
16.1 Table of contents and introduction 187
16.2 Presentation 188
16.3 Slides 195
16.4 Simple types 196
16.5 Changed attributes 197

17. DrawingML - Framework reference material 202
17.1 Table of contents and introduction 202
17.2 DrawingML - Main 204
17.3 DrawingML - Legacy Compatibility 206
17.4 Changed attributes 207

18. DrawingML - Components reference material 210
18.1 Table of contents and introduction 210
18.2 DrawingML - Charts 212
18.3 Changed attributes 215

19. VML reference material 218
19.1 Table of contents 218
19.2 VML 223
19.3 VML - Office Drawing 315
19.4 VML - WordprocessingML Drawing 414
19.5 VML - SpreadsheetML Drawing 426
19.6 VML - PresentationML Drawing 447

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20. Shared MLs reference material 449
20.1 Table of contents 449
20.2 Shared simple types 449
20.3 Extended properties (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 22.2) 453
20.4 Custom properties (ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, 22.3) 453
20.5 Changed attributes 453
Annex A. (normative) Schemas – W3C XML schema 454
Annex B. (informative) Schemas – RELAX NG 456
Annex C. (informative) Accessibility best practices 458
C.1 General 458
C.2 Best practices for customers of Office Open XML implementations 458
Bibliography 459

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 34, *Document description and processing languages*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO/IEC 29500-4:2016), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- Corrections and clarifications have been made throughout the text, but no new functionality has been added.
- Hanging paragraphs have been moved to new introductory subclauses at the top of the major collecting clause or subclause, which caused renumbering of some subclauses.
- Where appropriate, normative and bibliographical references have been added, removed, or updated to use undated or more recent versions.
- Uses of BNF or EBNF have been changed to ABNF.
- Clarifications and corrections have been made to separations between Strict and Transitional and some content has been moved from ISO/IEC 29500-1 to this document.
- Clause 2 (Normative References) and the Bibliography no longer include references listed in ISO/IEC 29500-1, which is itself a normative reference.
- The printed schemas in Annexes A and B have been removed; schemas exist in digital form only.
- The following annex has been removed:
    - Namespace Prefix Mapping in Examples

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- The following annex has been added:
    - Accessibility best practices

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 29500 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Introduction

The ISO/IEC 29500 series specifies a family of XML schemas, collectively called Office Open XML, which define the XML vocabularies for word-processing, spreadsheet, and presentation documents, as well as the packaging of documents that conform to these schemas.

The goal is to enable the implementation of the Office Open XML formats by the widest set of tools and platforms, fostering interoperability across office productivity applications and line-of-business systems, as well as to support and strengthen document archival and preservation, all in a way that is fully compatible with the existing corpus of Microsoft® Office[1] documents.

The intent of this document is to enable a transitional period during which existing binary documents being migrated to ISO/IEC 29500 can make use of legacy features to preserve their fidelity, while noting that new documents should not use them.

This document is normative but is not guaranteed to be included in future revisions of the ISO/IEC 29500 series.

In general, this document augments ISO/IEC 29500-1 and inherits the provisions of that document. Exceptions to this are indicated explicitly.

[1] Microsoft Office is the trademark of a product supplied by Microsoft Corporation. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO or IEC of the product named. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

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Document description and processing languages — Office Open XML File Formats —

Part 4:
Transitional migration features

1. Scope

The goals of ISO/IEC 29500 are to represent faithfully the existing corpus of word-processing documents, spreadsheets and presentations that have been produced by Microsoft Office applications, from Microsoft Office 97 to Microsoft Office 2008, inclusive, and to facilitate extensibility and interoperability by enabling implementations by multiple vendors and on multiple platforms.

This document specifies additions to and modifications to ISO/IEC 29500-1 for Office Open XML documents that, in their semantics, syntax, and packaging, satisfy the requirements of conformance class Office Open XML Transitional, as specified in Clause 7. This document also specifies requirements for Office Open XML consumers and producers.

2. Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 29500-1:2026, *Document description and processing languages — Office Open XML File Formats, Part 1: Fundamentals and Markup Language Reference*

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE. *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual*. Online. Available from: http://pe.usps.com/cpim/ftp/manuals/dmm300/Full/MailingStandards.pdf.

3. Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp
- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org

3.1
DOS file path
identifier for the name and possibly location of a file in a legacy file system

4. Notational conventions

The following typographical conventions are used in this document:

- The first occurrence of a new term is written in italics. For example: "The text in this document is divided into normative and informative categories."

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