



National Spatial Data Infrastructure

SDTS CADD Profile - Public Review Draft

FGDC Facilities Working Group

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Federal Geographic Data Committee

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1 **1. Introduction**

2 An SDTS profile is defined as a limited subset of the Spatial Data Transfer Standard, designed for use
3 with a specific type of data. Specific choices are made for encoding possibilities not addressed, left
4 optional, or left with numerous choices within the SDTS Standard.

5

6 **1.1 Objective**

7 Computer Aided Design and Drafting software poses a special challenge to the current profiles of the
8 SDTS standard. These programs allow for several types of elements that are not considered “normal” for
9 Geographic Information Systems. But CADD software makes up a large portion of the GIS marketplace.
10 In particular, the use of 3 dimensional elements and complex curves are fairly common to CADD
11 software, but not to the rest of the GIS market.

12

13 **1.1.1 Data Supported**

14 The data supported by this profile is 2 Dimensional vector data, or 3 dimensional vector data where the 3rd
15 dimension is the “height” of the object. This data may or may not have topology. Excluded are raster
16 data, and 2 dimensional transfers already represented by another profile.

17

18 **1.2 Scope and Definition**

19 The Computer Aided Design and Drafting Profile (CADD) contains specifications for an SDTS profile for
20 use with vector-based geographic data as represented in CADD software. The purpose of this profile is to

21 facilitate the translation of this data between CADD packages without loss of data, and support the
22 translation of this data between CADD and mainstream GIS packages.

23

24 **1.3 Conformance**

25 **1.3.1 Transfer Conformance**

26 In order to conform to this CADD Profile, an SDTS transfer shall:

27 (a) contain all mandatory spatial objects, modules, fields, and subfields as specified in this
28 profile.

29 (b) conform to all requirements of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of SDTS unless they conflict with this
30 profile.

31 (c) conform to all restrictions of SDTS Parts 1, 2, and 3, as specified in this profile.

32 (d) be formatted in compliance with ANSI/ISO 8211.

33 (e) follow all module and file naming conventions of this profile.

34 (f) adhere to all other requirements of this profile.

35

36 **1.3.2 Encoder Conformance**

37 In order to conform to this CADD Profile, an SDTS encoder shall:

38 (a) be able to be directed to generate only SDTS CADD transfers which conform to this
39 specification.

40 (b) convert spatial objects in the input system (both CADD and GIS) to appropriate SDTS
41 spatial objects.

- 42 (c) convert attribute data stored in the input system (such as in a data base) to SDTS Attribute
43 Primary and Attribute Secondary modules (or provide a reasonable alternative for retrieving
44 these values).
- 45 (d) correctly maintain linkages between spatial objects and attributes.

46

47 **1.3.3 Decoder Conformance**

- 48 (a) be able to interpret CADD Profile transfers which conform to section 1.2.1.
- 49 (b) be able to decode any module required or permitted by this profile.
- 50 (c) be able to decode any spatial object permitted by this transfer.
- 51 (d) be able to convert any Attribute Primary or Attribute Secondary module and convert it to a
52 format usable by the output system.
- 53 (e) correctly maintain linkages between spatial objects and Attribute Primary records.
- 54 (f) be able to ignore modules, fields, and subfields that are optional, or not currently defined.
- 55 (g) be able to recover if an error is encountered in a particular record, field, or subfield in the
56 SDTS transfer.
- 57 (h) report to a file or device all errors encountered during a transfer, along with severity.

58

59 **1.4 Changes to SDTS Standard Requirements**

60 In cases where this profile conflicts with any portion of the SDTS Standard, the requirements of this
61 profile shall be met.

62 **1.5 Applicability**

63 Software developers should use this standard to develop encoders and decoders for CADD data transfers.

64 Data providers should use this standard to create and verify valid SDTS CADD data sets.

65

66 **1.6 Related Standards**

67 The SDTS Topological Vector Profile was used as a starting point for this profile, and both are based

68 upon Parts 1-3 of the SDTS standard.

69

70 **1.7 Standards development procedures**

71 This standard was developed as a modification of the SDTS Topological Vector Profile in order to support

72 CADD data. CADD developers and software vendors participated in a study to determine the scope of the

73 standard and then integrated into this profile.

74

75 **1.8 Maintenance authority**

76 The Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains the SDTS CADD Profile
77 for the Federal Geographic Data Committee with support from the Tri-Service CADD/GIS
78 Technology Center. All general questions and comments concerning this standard should be
79 addressed to:

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87

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89

**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
General Engineering Branch
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000**

90 All technical question and comments pertaining to this standard should be directed to:

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93

Tri-Service CADD/GIS Technology Center

94

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97

98 **2.0 Spatial Data Concepts**

99 **2.1 Spatial Objects**

100
 101
 102

The following table indicates which spatial objects are required, optional, or not permitted for this profile.

Object Representation Code	Required	Optional	Not Permitted
NP - Node		x	
NL - Label Node		x	
NE - Entity Node	x		
NA - Area Node		x	
NO - Planar Node		x	
NN - Network Node		x	
LQ - Link		x	
LS - String		x	
LE - Complete Chain	x		
LL - Area Chain		x	
LW, LY- Network Chain		x	
AC - Circular Arc		x	
AE - Elliptical Arc		x	
AU - Uniform B-Spline		x	
AB - Piecewise Bezier		x	
RM - Ring with Mixed Composition		x	
RS - Ring composed of Line Strings		x	
RU - Ring composed of Chains		x	
RA - Ring composed of Arcs		x	
PG - G-polygon		x	
PC - GT-polygon		x	
PR - GT-Polygon		x	
PU - Universe Polygon		x	
PW - Universe Polygon	x		
PV - Void Polygon		x	
PX - Void Polygon		x	
GI, GJ, GK, GM - Raster Objects			x
FF - Composite		x	

103
 104

The minimal transfer that conforms to this profile will consist of one universe polygon.

105 **2.1.1 New Entities**

106

107 This profile requires a minimum of two new entities to express infinite lines. They are described below as an extension to the Line Module definition:

108 **Unbound Line (LU) /Line Directed (LD)**

FIELD NAME	SUBFIELD NAME	FIELD/SUB FIELD DESCRIPTION	TYPE	DOMAIN	DOMAIN DESCRIPTION	SDTS MNEMONIC
Line (P)						LINE
	Module Name	A unique identifier for the module.	A	Alphanum	Name shall begin with an alphabetic character other than SPACE.	MODN
	Record ID	Line object record identifier.	I	Integer	Unsigned integer. With Module Name shall form unique ID within the file set.	RCID
	Object Representation	Representation code for the object.	A	LU LD	Line, Unbound Line, Directed	OBRP
Attribute ID		Foreign identifier for Attribute Primary module record.				ATID

Spatial Address		Spatial address of line point. The order of the instances of this field indicates the construction of the line in terms of vertices. The last point is the direction that goes to infinity for type LD.				SADR
Composite ID		Foreign identifier of Composite module record which includes this line				CPID

109 **2.2 Layers and (or) Partitions**

110 Data are represented as all of the elements necessary to transfer one or more 2 or 3 dimensional manifold.

111 More than one layer may be included in a single transfer.

112 **3 General Specification (The Transfer Model)**

113 **3.1 Standard Module Names**

114 SDTS Computer Aided Design and Drafting Profile module names (the unique module name of each
115 individual module) shall be standardized, and consist of four characters. For modules carrying spatial
116 objects, the module name shall begin with the same two characters as the object representation code for
117 the objects (use "PC" for modules with "PC", "PX", and "PW" objects and use "FF" for composite objects
118 (including block/cell modules). The other valid two character Object Representation codes are defined in
119 Section 2.1, Spatial Data Concepts, Spatial Objects. The last two characters of the module name are free
120 to distinguish different modules/files. Attribute Primary and Secondary modules shall be named "Axxx"
121 and "Bxxx" respectively (where x is any number 0-9 or any upper case letter A-Z).

122

123 Non-object modules shall be named the same as the primary module field mnemonic (ISO 8211 Tag):

124

125	IDEN	Identification
126	CATD	Catalog/Directory
127	CATX	Catalog/Cross Reference
128	CATS	Catalog/Spatial Domain
129	SCUR	Security
130	IREF	Internal Spatial Reference
131	XREF	External Spatial Reference
132	SPDM	Spatial Domain
133	DDDF	Data Dictionary/Definition
134	DDOM	Data Dictionary/Domain
135	DDSH	Data Dictionary/Schema
136	STAT	Statistics

137	DQHL	Data Quality/Lineage
138	DQPA	Data Quality/Positional Accuracy
139	DQAA	Data Quality/Attribute Accuracy
140	DQLC	Data Quality/Logical Consistency
141	DQCG	Data Quality/Completeness

142

143 More than one module of the following types may exist:

144	SCUR	Security
145	IREF	Internal Spatial Reference
146	SPDM	Spatial Domain
147	DDDF	Data Dictionary/Definition
148	DDOM	Data Dictionary/Domain
149	DDSH	Data Dictionary/Schema
150	DQHL	Data Quality/Lineage
151	DQPA	Data Quality/Positional Accuracy
152	DQAA	Data Quality/Attribute Accuracy
153	DQLC	Data Quality/Logical Consistency
154	DQCG	Data Quality/Completeness

155 If more than one of any of these modules exists in a transfer, the last letter shall be changed to a digit to
156 differentiate the file names.

157

158 **3.2 Order of Records, Fields, and Subfields within Modules**

159 (a) Records within modules shall be ordered in ascending order, by Record ID. The actual
160 Record ID values need not start at "1", and may arbitrarily skip integers.

161 (b) The subfields within fields and fields within records shall be ordered as in the SDTS module
162 specification layout tables in Part 1, Section 5.

163

164 **3.3 Spatial Address (Coordinate) Format**

165 **3.3.1 Internal Representation of Spatial Addresses**

166 The internal representation of X, Y, and Z coordinates shall be as 32-bit signed implicit fixed point binary
167 numbers (“BI32” SDTS type). Signed integers are to be represented in “two’s complement” big-endian
168 format. Note that use of the FIPS 123 library (public domain) will allow the reading and writing of these
169 numbers in the correct format on a variety of platforms.

170

171 **3.3.2 Restrictions on X, Y, and Z Subfields**

172 The X subfield of spatial addresses shall only be used to transfer longitude and easting values. The Y
173 subfield shall only be used to transfer latitude or northing values. The Z subfield of spatial addresses shall
174 only be used to transfer altitude information, in inches above sea level.

175

176 **3.4 Null, Unused, and Unknown Values**

177 When a transfer has fixed length subfields (e.g. to carry attribute data linked to the various objects), then
178 special consideration must be given to handling Null values. The SDTS default option for implementing
179 nulls is not feasible in this case. When appropriate, the following text shall be encoded in the comment
180 subfield of a Logical Consistency module record, and implemented:

181

182 When a subfield, either user-defined in Attribute Primary and Attribute Secondary module
183 records, or in other SDTS module records, is implemented as fixed-length, the following null
184 scheme is used: (a) when information to be encoded in the subfield is known to be undefined,
185 then the subfield is valued by the string “Undefined”; (b) when the information is known in the
186 source data set, but not used in the translation to SDTS, then the subfield is valued by the phrase
187 “Not Applied”; (c) when the information to be encoded is relevant, but unknown or missing
188 from the source data, the subfield is valued by the string “Unknown”.

189

190 The Logical Consistency module with the above text shall be associated to applicable modules through the
191 Catalog/Cross Reference module.

192

193 **3.5 Attribute Usage**

194 All agencies shall use established FIPS codes where applicable, such as FIPS PUB 6-4 (31 August 1990)
195 Counties and Equivalent Entities Codes or FIPS PUB 10-3 (9 February 1984) Countries, Dependencies,
196 Areas of Special Sovereignty and their Principal Administrative Division.

197

198 **3.6 Minimum Transfer**

199 (a) For objects particular to one “Layer”, there shall be:
200 exactly one Polygon module for simple object types PC, PW, and PX
201 exactly one Chain module for simple object type LE
202 exactly one Point-Node module for simple object type NE
203 zero or one of all other allowed modules.

204 **4 Transfer Module Specification**

205 This section addresses the module level restrictions as they apply to a transfer. Certain requirements of
 206 Part 1 are repeated here for clarity. Following the module level restrictions/requirements, any restrictions
 207 on field/subfield values are noted for each module. The order of coverage follows that of Part 1, Section 5.

208
 209 The following table contains the inclusion/exclusion, and cardinality rules for each module. The
 210 standardized modules names are included, along with the minimum number of occurrences of the module
 211 type. A lowercase “n” indicates that the upper limit is user defined. Any lowercase letters or dots in the
 212 module name has the meaning explained in Section 4, Standard Module Names.

213

Module Type	Name	Min. No.	Max. No.
<i>Global Information</i>	<i>Modules (see also Part1</i>	<i>Section 5.2, Global</i>	<i>Information Modules.</i>
Identification	IDEN	1	1
Catalog/Directory	CATD	1	1
Catalog/Cross-Reference	CATX	1	1
Catalog/Spatial Domain	CATS	0	0
Security	SCUr	0	n
Internal Spatial Reference	IREf	1	n
External Spatial Reference	XREF	1	1
Registration	..	0	0
Spatial Domain	SPDm	0	n
Data Dictionary/Domain	DDOm	1	n
12			
Data Dictionary/Definition	DDDf	0	n
Data Dictionary/Definition	DDDf	0	n
Data Dictionary/Schema	DDSh	1	n

Transfer Statistics	STAT	1	1
Composite Module	FF..	0	n
<i>Attribute Modules (see also Part I, Section 5.4, Attribute Modules)</i>			
Attribute Primary	A...	0	n
Attribute Secondary	B...	0	n
<i>Vector Modules (see also Part I, Section 5.6, Vector Modules)</i>			
Point-Node	NE..	1	n
	NO.., NA..,NL..,NP..,		
	NN..	0	n
Line	LE..	1	n
	LQ..,LS..,LW..,LY..LD..,		
	LU..	0	n
Arc	AC..,AE..	0	n
Ring	RM..,RS..,RU..,RA..	0	n
Polygon	PW..	1	n
	PG..,PR..,PU.., PC..	0	n
<i>Raster Modules</i>	..	0	0
<i>Graphic Representation Modules</i>			
Text Representation	TEXT	0	n
Color	COLX	0	n
Font	FONT	0	n
Area Fill	AFIL	0	n
Symbol Representation	SYMB	0	n
		13	
Line Representation	LNRP	0	n

214 **4.1 Global Information Modules**

215 (a) For each SDTS transfer data set that does not reference an external SDTS data dictionary,
216 there must be at least one and it is recommended that there be only one of each of the
217 following global modules:

218

219 Data Dictionary/Domain (DDOM)

220 Data Dictionary/Schema (DDSH)

221

222 For each SDTS transfer data set that does not reference an external SDTS data dictionary and
223 that does not have level 1 feature conformance with Part 2, there must be at least one and it is
224 recommended that there be only one of the following global module:

225

226 Data Dictionary/Definition (DDDF)

227

228 (b) A common set of Data Dictionary/Definition and Data Dictionary/Domain modules may be
229 used for an entire series of files to be distributed. This Data Dictionary may be made
230 available separately; and it need not be duplicated within each SDTS transfer. If the SDTS
231 data dictionary is separate from the individual SDTS transfer data set, then it shall be
232 uniquely identified and referenced by the individual SDTS transfer data set.

233

234 **4.2 Attribute Modules**

235 (see also Part 1, Section 4.5, Attribute Modules)

236 (a) There is no restriction on the relationships between objects and Attribute Primary module
237 records: the relationship may be one-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-one or many-to-many. If
238 the relationship is not one-to-one or one-to-many, the encoder is required to alert decoders to

239 this fact in the Catalog/Cross Reference module record the modules involved. This shall be
240 done by placing the characters “JJ” into the first two characters of the comment subfield.

241

242 **4.3 Composite Module**

243 (see also Part 1, Section 5.5, Composite Module)

- 244 (a) Composite objects may optionally not have a list of component objects.
- 245 (b) Chains comprising a continuous linear composite object may be ordered. Each Chain ID in
246 the list of components may have an “F” (for forward) or “B” (for backward) in the Foreign
247 ID Usage Modifier subfield (see Part I, Section 5.1.2, Foreign Identifiers). The list of chain
248 Foreign Ids may be ordered such that: the first point (start node of “F” chains and end node
249 of “B” chains) of each chain following the first in the list, shall be equivalent to the last point
250 (end node of “F” chains and start node of “B” chains) of the previous chain in the list).
251 The ordering and forward/backward chain usage modifiers are included to allow the transfer
252 of directional information for composite objects representing such things as one-way roads
253 and drains.

254

255 **4.4 Vector Modules**

256 (see also Part 1, Section 5.6, Vector Modules)

257

258 **4.4.1 Universe Polygon**

259 (see Part 1 definition 2.3.3.3.1)

260 A universe polygon (object representation code “PW”) is mandatory. Its Record ID subfield shall be
261 encoded with “1”. Attributes of the universe polygon, if any, shall have null values (see below for
262 specifications for implementing null values.) The Ring ID field is not permitted for universe polygons
263 with an object representation code of “PW”.

264

265 **4.4.2 Void Polygons**

266 (see Part 1 definition 2.3.3.3.2)

267 Other GT-Polygons may be included with attribution similar to the universe polygon: these void polygons
268 shall be coded with a “PX” object representation. The Ring ID field is not permitted for void polygons
269 with an object representation code of “PX”.

270

271 **4.4.3 Attribute Primary Reference**

272 Object records may reference zero, one or more attribute primary records except for area points (“NA”
273 object representation code) which shall always reference zero attribute primary records. Attribute primary
274 references for area points should instead be contained in the surrounding GT-polygon spatial object
275 record.

276

277 **4.4.4 Number of Object Types Within a Single Module**

278 A single module shall contain only records of a single object type (indicated by appropriate object
279 representation code), with the technical exception that modules carrying “PC” (GT-polygon) records may
280 also contain a “PW” (universe polygon) and “PX” (void polygon) records.

281 **4.4.5 Label Points**

282 The Attribute Primary Foreign ID (PAID) field is mandatory for the “NL” object representation code.
283 This field references the record and the label of the attribute to be annotated. This field shall reference an
284 attribute record in either an Attribute Primary module or an Attribute Secondary module.

285

286 **4.5 Graphic Representation Modules**

287 These modules may be optionally included in a transfer. Encoders and decoders are required to support
288 these module types to be conforming to this profile.

289

290 **4. 6 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Identification Module**

291 (see also Part 1, Section 5.2.1, Table 10 Identification)

292

293 **4.6.1 Profile Identification**

294 Each transfer encoded per these specifications shall have:

295 “SDTS COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN AND DRAFTING PROFILE”

296 as the value of the Profile Identification subfield of the Identification module primary field.

297 Each transfer shall have:

298 “VERSION 1 AUGUST 4, 1997”

299 as the value of the Profile Version subfield of the Identification module primary field.

300 Each transfer shall have:

301 “SDTS CADD Profile”

302 as the value of the Profile Document Reference subfield of the Identification module primary field.

303

304 ***4.7 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Internal Spatial Reference***

305 The X subfield of spatial addresses shall be used only for longitude and easting values. The Y subfield
306 shall be used only for latitude and northing. The Z subfield shall be used only for altitude measured in
307 inches above sea level. Therefore, the spatial address X component label subfield is restricted to
308 “LONGITUDE” when the spatial reference system is geographic or “EASTING” when the external spatial
309 reference system is UTM/UPS or SPCS, or “OTHER” when the external spatial reference system is not
310 geographically based.

311

312 ***4.8 Module Restrictions/Requirements: External Spatial Reference***

313 The Reference System Name subfield in the External Spatial Reference Module primary field shall have
314 the value “GEO”, “SPCS”, “UTM”, “UPS”, or “OTHER”, depending upon the external spatial reference
315 system being used.

316

317 ***4.9 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Catalog/Directory***

318 So that the contents of a transfer are independent of the transfer media, the following restrictions are
319 placed on the primary field of the Catalog/Directory module:

320 (a) the Volume subfield shall only be used to describe a Uniform Resource Locator (URL)
321 address.

322 (b) The File subfield shall not include a directory path, only a file name meeting the
323 requirements of Section 6.5.

324 **4.10 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Data Dictionary/Schema**

325 The Entity Authority and Attribute Authority subfields shall contain “SDTS-USA” when Part 2 of FIPS
326 173 is the authority for the definition. When a standard register of entities and attributes of a country other
327 than the United States is the authority, these subfields shall contain “SDTS-“ followed by the three-
328 character ISO 3166 country code. Entity Authority and Attribute Authority may have a maximum length
329 of 8 graphic characters.

330

331 **4.11 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Data Dictionary/Domain**

332 The Attribute Authority subfield may have a maximum length of 8 graphic characters

333

334 **4.12 Module Restrictions/Requirements: Data Dictionary/Definition**

335 The Attribute Authority subfield may have a maximum length of 8 graphic characters

Appendix A Sample Mappings.

Attached is a summary of SDTS data type translations for two sample systems:

<i>SDTS Type</i>	<i>AutoCAD Type</i>	<i>Intergraph Type</i>
FF (Composite Objects)	Block, Multi-Line, and Multiline Text	Cell, Shared Cell, Text Node, Complex Shape
LS (Line String)	Line, Open Polyline w/o Bulge	Line, Complex Chain
*LD (Line Directed)	Ray	Line with H-bit set in header
*LU (Line Unbound)	Xline	Line with H-bit set in header
PG (G-Polygon)	Closed Polyline	Shape
AC (Arc Circular)	Circle, Polylines w/Bulge, Arc	Ellipse, Arc (both where Major axis == Minor axis)
AE (Arc, Elliptical)	Ellipse	Ellipse
AU, AB	Pline with non-zero curve type Spline	B-Spline elements (Pole, Weight, etc.)
NP (Point Node)	Points	Point String, Points
NE (Entity Node)	Insert	Shared Cell <i>Instance</i>
NL (Label Node)	Attrib, Text	Text
RS (Surface)	3Dface, 3Dsolid	3D Surface
Line Representation	Line Style	All (Line Style Element of Record Header)
Text Representation	Text, M-Text	Text, Text Node
Color Representation	Color Table	Color Table
Font Representation	Text, M-Text	Text, Text Node

Notes:

1. Line Directed (LD) is a proposed new SDTS line type with a start-point and a direction.
2. Line Unbound (LU) is a proposed new SDTS line type with two points indicating an unbound line.