fairsfair Initial Body of Work

Reference Taxonomy

Edition v1.0 · Frozen

Series	Reference
Source	fairsfair Reference Taxonomy
Licence	FF-L02 — fairsfair Licence Agreement
Owner	FRCB B.V.
Custodian	fairsfair foundation

Copyright © 2026 FRCB B.V.

Maintained under the custodianship of fairsfair foundation

fairsfair.org · info@fairsfair.org

1. Introduction

The Reference Taxonomy names the parts used to build fairsfair and shows how they relate. It covers the roles, Transactions, activities, processes, information and records that every implementation must recognise. A domain may add its own terms and detail, but it must preserve these common meanings and relationships.

2. How the parts fit together

An Agreement establishes the real-life context, rights, obligations and agency from which a Transaction arises. The Agreement remains outside fairsfair. Transaction Initiation brings its operational representation into execution as a Transaction under the Transaction ID.

The Transaction Process arranges the Transaction Activities in the proposed order. The four Transaction Activities are Delivery Identification, Delivery Fulfilment, Payment Identification and Payment Fulfilment. Identification precedes fulfilment within the same delivery or payment interaction. The activities may otherwise be arranged as prepaid, pay-as-you-go, postpaid or another proposed sequence.

Each Transaction Activity is performed through Actions transforming authorised Input into Output. The participant performing an Action must possess the required Constitutional Capability and be expressly authorised to perform it in that Transaction.

The Authorisation Register reflects the supplied rights, obligations and agency by relating Constitutional Roles, Data Roles and authorised Actions to the Transaction Activities. The Data Roles distinguish the Actions that may be performed with Input and Output.

During Payment Identification, debit may require a reservation or preauthorisation, while credit may require authorisation against the available credit line.

Together, the Actions constituted during execution form the Audit Trail.

3. Agreement

An Agreement establishes the rights, obligations and agency from which a Transaction may arise. Where the Transaction originates from an identifiable Agreement, Transaction Initiation includes its Source ID. The Agreement remains outside the Transaction and is not executed through the API.

4. Transaction Initiation

Transaction Initiation brings the operational representation of an Agreement into execution as a Transaction under its Transaction ID. The Agreement remains outside the Transaction. Transaction Initiation is not a Transaction Activity.

It organises the Transaction Activities in the proposed order. The Authorisation Register reflects the supplied rights, obligations and agency by relating the applicable Constitutional Roles, Data Roles and authorised Actions to those Transaction Activities.

Participation is represented only as operationally required. A legal entity is represented by its Entity ID. A natural person's participation remains related under the Transaction ID without requiring a persistent fairsfair identifier.

Where the Transaction originates from an identifiable Agreement, Transaction Initiation includes its Source ID.

Transaction Initiation makes the first Transaction Activity the state of play.

5. Transaction

A Transaction is the whole brought into execution by Transaction Initiation. It comprises the Transaction Activities arranged by the applicable Transaction Process and is linked across participating systems by its Transaction ID.

6. Transaction ID

The Transaction ID is the linking pin for the Transaction. It is unique across all participating systems and keeps their records of the same Transaction aligned. Within the fairsfair metadata model, the Transaction ID identifies the Transaction, the Transaction Activity identifies the relevant stage, and the Source Location identifies exactly where the associated Input or Output can be retrieved.

7. Transaction Process

The Transaction Process is the supplied proposed sequence of Transaction Activities. It arranges the identification and fulfilment of Delivery and Payment. Identification must always precede fulfilment within the same delivery or payment interaction. The activities may otherwise follow a prepaid, pay-as-you-go, postpaid or another agreed sequence.

Unless the applicable Agreement states otherwise, the Transaction Process has a time scope of 24 hours from TransactionInitiation. Its Formal Expressions remain available for a further 48 hours. Where one or more Transaction Activities are planned outside that default time scope, the proposed Transaction Process shall state the applicable period for each such Activity and the corresponding availability period for its relevant Formal Expressions.

8. Transaction Activity

A Transaction Activity is a coherent sequence of Actions transforming Input into Output in the context of the Agreement.

The Transaction Process comprises four Transaction Activities: Delivery Identification, Delivery Fulfilment, Payment Identification and Payment Fulfilment. Each occupies a defined place in the agreed sequence.



Completing a Transaction Activity changes the state of play. Its Output establishes what the Transaction Activity achieved and, where another Transaction Activity follows, allows the Transaction to continue from that result.

When the fourth and final Transaction Activity is completed, no Transaction Activity remains the state of play.

9. Constitutional Capability

A Constitutional Capability is the competence required to perform an Action within the context of a Transaction Activity.

The participant must also be expressly authorised to perform that Action in the particular Transaction. Authorisation follows from the Agreement or another recognised source of authority.

10. Delivery Identification

Delivery Identification establishes the Party entitled to receive the agreed Delivery. Its Output provides the authorised basis for fulfilling the Delivery Obligation.

11. Delivery Fulfilment

Delivery Fulfilment performs the agreed Delivery for the Party identified as entitled to receive it. Its Output establishes that the Delivery Obligation has been fulfilled.

12. Payment Identification

Payment Identification establishes the Party obliged to Pay. For debit, it may also reserve or preauthorise the required amount. For credit, it may authorise payment against the available credit line. Its Output provides the authorised basis for fulfilling the Payment Obligation.

13. Payment Fulfilment

Payment Fulfilment performs the agreed Payment for the Party identified as obliged to Pay. Its Output establishes that the Payment Obligation has been fulfilled.

14. Input

Input is the information minimally required to perform the Actions of a Transaction Activity. Where no information is minimally required, Input is empty.

Input may be made available from one or more independently governed Source Locations. Each source constitutes its own Formal Expression when its contribution is committed.

Input remains at its Source Location. Where authorised, it may be read directly or retrieved for processing. Authorisation to read, retrieve or process it continues only while it is minimally required for the Transaction Activity.

15. Output

Output is the information produced by the Actions of a Transaction Activity. It establishes what the Transaction Activity achieved and contributes to the state of play of the Transaction.

When Output becomes available, the Transaction Activity is complete. Output remains available at its Source Location for as long as required by the Agreement or an applicable obligation.

16. Formal Expression

A Formal Expression notifies that Input or Output has been committed, relates it to the Transaction Activity under the Transaction ID and, where a Material Expression exists, identifies its Source Location.

A Transaction Activity may have several Input Formal Expressions where Input is made available from independently governed Source Locations. Output has one Formal Expression establishing the coherent result of the Transaction Activity.

17. Material Expression

A Material Expression is the information available at the Source Location.

18. Source Location

A Source Location is the location at which the Material Expression remains available. It is identified by the Formal Expression and related to the relevant Transaction Activity under the Transaction ID.

Each Formal Expression identifies the Source Location of its Material Expression. Several Input Formal Expressions may identify independently governed Source Locations within the same Transaction Activity.`

Whether information at that Source Location may be read or retrieved is established separately through Authorisation.

19. Data Roles

Data Roles distinguish the Actions that may be performed with information required or produced within a Transaction Activity. The four Data Roles are Data Rights Holder, Data Holder, Data Consumer and Data Services Provider.

Data Roles do not predetermine who performs their Actions. One or more Data Roles may be involved within a Transaction Activity.

20. Data Rights Holder

The Data Rights Holder establishes or maintains the conditions under which information may be used.

21. Data Holder

The Data Holder holds information and organises it for use as Input.

22. Data Consumer

The Data Consumer reads authorised information directly from its Source Location for and during the Transaction Activity.

23. Data Services Provider

The Data Services Provider retrieves and processes authorised information.

24. Authorisation Register

The Authorisation Register records the supplied Authorisation for a Transaction. It relates the Transaction Activities and their authorised Actions to the applicable Constitutional Roles, Data Roles and any delegated authority.

A participating legal entity is represented by its Entity ID. A natural person's participation remains related under the Transaction ID. Where a Delegated Agent acts, the Authorisation Register records the specified Actions it is authorised to perform on behalf of the Principal.

The Authorisation Register governs participation and the performance of Actions throughout the Transaction Process.

25. Audit Trail

The Audit Trail is formed by the Actions constituted through the Reference API during execution of the Transaction. These Actions establish when Input and Output were committed, within which Transaction Activity, under which role and authority, by whom and when. Where a Delegated Agent acted, they also establish the agency under which the Action was performed.

The Audit Trail does not record or assess how a participant transforms Input into Output.

26. Retention and Disposal

The Transaction dossier is retained throughout the Transaction Process and for the Reference period after its completion. When that period ends, the coordinating implementation disposes of the dossier unless another retention arrangement applies outside the Reference API.

Disposal concerns the Transaction dossier held through fairsfair. It does not concern Material Expressions held at their Source Locations.

27. Action

An Action constituted through the Reference API records an accepted operation concerning the progression of a Transaction Activity.

Once constituted, the Action is immutable and forms part of the Audit Trail. It records the operation performed, the Transaction and Transaction Activity within which it occurred, the applicable role and authority, and when it was accepted.

Where a legal entity performs the Action, it is represented by its Entity ID. Where a natural person performs the Action, that participation remains related under the Transaction ID. Where a Delegated Agent acts, the Action also records the agency under which it acted.

28. Entity

An Entity is a legal entity represented within fairsfair by an Entity ID.

Within a Transaction, an Entity may participate as a Principal or perform authorised Actions as a Delegated Agent on behalf of a Principal. Its participation is recorded in the Authorisation Register.

29. Principal

A Principal is a party whose legal-economic position is constituted by the Agreement.

A Principal fulfils one or more Constitutional Roles within a Transaction. It may perform Actions directly or authorise a Delegated Agent to perform specified Actions on its behalf. Delegation does not transfer the Principal's Constitutional Role, rights, obligations or responsibility.

30. Delegated Agent

A Delegated Agent performs authorised Actions on behalf of a Principal.

Delegated authority remains limited to the Actions, purpose and duration for which it is established. The Delegated Agent must possess the Constitutional Capabilities required to perform those Actions.

31. Party Entitled to Delivery

Party Entitled to Delivery is the Constitutional Role expressing entitlement to the agreed product or service.

The Principal fulfilling this Constitutional Role may receive the delivery directly or authorise a Delegated Agent to perform specified Actions on its behalf.

32. Party Obligated to Deliver

Party Obligated to Deliver is the Constitutional Role expressing the obligation to deliver the agreed product or service.

The Principal fulfilling this Constitutional Role may perform the required Actions directly or authorise a Delegated Agent to perform specified Actions on its behalf.

33. Party Obligated to Pay

Party Obligated to Pay is the Constitutional Role expressing the obligation to provide the agreed payment.

The Principal fulfilling this Constitutional Role may perform the required Actions directly or authorise a Delegated Agent to perform specified Actions on its behalf.

34. Party Entitled to Payment

Party Entitled to Payment is the Constitutional Role expressing entitlement to the agreed payment.

The Principal fulfilling this Constitutional Role may receive the payment directly or authorise a Delegated Agent to perform specified Actions on its behalf.

35. Agency

Agency is the performance of authorised Actions by a Delegated Agent on behalf of a Principal.