



## ***Core Informational Documents***

### **CICA Executive Summary:**

This document provides a high-level overview of the Context Inspired Component Architecture (CICA) and the value proposition for implementers. This syntax-neutral architecture developed by X12 members will facilitate the creation of XML business messages, enhance the reusability and interoperability of message structures and, importantly, make it possible to use the same architecture as future markup languages are developed.

### **X12 Reference Model: Context Inspired Component Architecture (CICA):**

This X12 technical report, X12 Reference Model: Context Inspired Component Architecture (CICA), published in October 2002 was motivated by the action item that X12's Communications and Controls Subcommittee (X12C) took at the August 2001 XML Summit to develop "draft design rules for ASC X12 XML Business Document development." Acting on that action item, X12C's EDI Architecture Task Group (X12C/TG3) determined that XML design rules could not be developed without a basis for determining which XML features to use and how to use them. Thus the group also set about developing a philosophical foundation and putting forth some general design principles. This Reference Model covers those topics in addition to a preliminary set of design rules.

The approach discussed in this document was forwarded as a work in progress and has, in fact, been used as the foundation for X12's current and future CICA message development. It has provided the basis for drafting the CICA equivalents to the X12 syntax based X12.6 and X12.59, and CICA Design Rules. This approach remains consistent with the decisions of X12's Steering Committee to develop its XML work within the ebXML framework.

### **X12.7 - CICA Technical Specification and XML Syntax Representation:**

The Context Inspired Component Architecture (CICA) offers a method for building electronic business messages using XML. This document provides the guidelines for representing the CICA in (XSD) XML Schema as defined by the W3C XML Schema 1.0.

This document uses as its basis the philosophical foundation and general design principles forwarded in the published technical report, ASC X12 Reference Model: Context Inspired Component Architecture (CICA).

### **X12.71 - CICA Design Rules:**

This document has been developed to assist in establishing uniformity in X12 CICA business document development and maintenance efforts. The design rules are to be used as stated. There shall be no deviation from them, with all new development and maintenance expected to utilize them.

These design rules use as its basis the philosophical foundation and general design principles forwarded in the published technical report, ASC X12 Reference Model: Context Inspired Component Architecture (CICA) - Technical Specification and XML Syntax Representation.

This document is intended to be flexible as new situations arise that require new rules or guidelines, or modifications to existing ones. Therefore, individuals involved with CICA business document development and maintenance are urged to keep the latest edition of the Design Rules document handy for reference.