

IDEALLIANCE ADDRESS DATA INTERCHANGE SPECIFICATION (ADIS)

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is ADIS?

The **IDEAlliance ADIS working group** aims to define a uniform specification for the domestic and international interchange of address data. It is based on storing the parts of an address, or **address elements**, and then combining them together using **standardized templates** to create output formats, or **renditions**, for particular mailpieces. It includes data about the addresses, such as whether they are complete or current. ADIS also includes **mailing production variables** that may be carried on a mailpiece, such as container numbers, package types, and ink jet messages.

2) What are the benefits of ADIS?

For **mailers**, the benefits include improved address quality, better mail delivery, and the ability to manage international files with a single format. **Postal services** will benefit by the ability to manage rendition quality, by reduced mail handling, and reduced mail forwarding. **Service bureaus** will be able to simplify processes such as adding missing address elements, de-duplication, and output media creation. **Printers and letter shops** can combine ADIS with IDEAlliance's Mail.dat file specification to improve containerization and to support predictive co-palletization and co-mailing. This allows **mailers** to reduce cycle times for incorporating address changes and late additions into mailing files.

3) What technologies does ADIS use?

ADIS has been specified in two forms: a **database format** and **XML**. There are **XML W3C schemas** for addresses, message data and address templates. The address template format used by ADIS, the **Postal Address Template Description Language (PATDL)**, is part of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** international address standard, "**International Postal Address Components and Templates**" (**S42**). XML includes **Unicode**, and can represent all the alphabets of the world.

4) How is ADIS related to other efforts?

The **USPS®** has an EDI format for addresses, used mainly by large institutions, to support domestic addresses. The **OASIS xNAL** standard is widely referenced within e-commerce efforts such as **ebXML**. Internationally, the **UPU S42 standard** includes an element list, address templates and rendition instructions. **ADIS can use UPU S42 elements, templates, and rendition instructions**, and supports mail production, address management, **USPS® Seamless Acceptance** and **USPS® Intelligent Mail™**.

5) What is the current status of ADIS?

IDEAlliance **ADIS version 08-1** will be available early in 2008, replacing the earlier 2007 version (available at www.idealliance.org). The committee includes major printers, postal software suppliers, and direct marketing service bureaus, along with the **USPS®**. The ADIS committee became an IDEAlliance working group in September 2002, following IP rules assuring that ADIS will remain **royalty-free**.