

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

## NORME INTERNATIONALE

**Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications –  
Part 3-21: Data-link layer service definition – Type 21 elements**

**Réseaux de communication industriels – Spécifications des bus de terrain –  
Partie 3-21: Définition des services de couche liaison de données – Éléments  
de type 21**



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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS –  
FIELDBUS SPECIFICATIONS –****Part 3-21: Data-link layer service definition –  
Type 21 elements**

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NOTE Combinations of protocol types are specified in IEC 61784-1 and IEC 61784-2.

International Standard IEC 61158-3-21 has been prepared by subcommittee 65C: Industrial networks, of IEC technical committee 65: Industrial-process measurement, control and automation.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2010. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- added Network Control Message Type;
- miscellaneous editorial corrections.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
65C/945/FDIS	65C/954/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts of the IEC 61158 series, published under the general title *Industrial communication networks – Fieldbus specifications*, can be found on the IEC web site.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

## INTRODUCTION

This document is one of a series produced to facilitate the interconnection of automation system components. It is related to other standards in the set as defined by the “three-layer” fieldbus reference model described in IEC 61158-1.

Throughout the set of fieldbus standards, the term “service” refers to the abstract capability provided by one layer of the OSI Basic Reference Model to the layer immediately above. Thus, the data-link layer service defined in this document is a conceptual architectural service, independent of administrative and implementation divisions.

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## INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS – FIELDBUS SPECIFICATIONS –

### Part 3-21: Data-link layer service definition – Type 21 elements

#### 1 Scope

##### 1.1 Overview

This part of IEC 61158 provides the common elements for basic time-critical messaging communications between devices in an automation environment. The term “time-critical” in this context means the prioritized full-duplex collision-free time-deterministic communication, of which one or more specified actions are required to be completed with some defined level of certainty. Failure to complete specified actions within the required time risks the failure of the applications requesting the actions, with attendant risk to equipment, plant, and possibly human life.

This International Standard defines in an abstract way the externally visible service provided by the Type 21 data-link layer in terms of:

- a) the primitive actions and events of the service;
- b) the parameters associated with each primitive action and event, and the form that they take; and
- c) the interrelationships between these actions and events, and their valid sequences.

The purpose of this document is to define the services provided to:

- The Type 21 application layer at the boundary between the application and DLLs of the fieldbus reference model;
- Systems management at the boundary between the DLL and the systems management of the fieldbus reference model.

##### 1.2 Specifications

The principal objective of this document is to specify the characteristics of conceptual DLL services suitable for time-critical communications, and to supplement the OSI Basic Reference Model in guiding the development of data link protocols for time-critical communications. A secondary objective is to provide migration paths from previously existing industrial communications protocols.

This document may be used as the basis for formal data link programming interfaces. Nevertheless, it is not a formal programming interface, and any such interface will need to address implementation issues not covered by this document, including:

- a) The sizes and octet ordering of various multi-octet service parameters;
- b) The correlation of paired primitives for request and confirm, or indication and response.

##### 1.3 Conformance

This document does not specify individual implementations or products, nor do they constrain the implementations of data-link entities within industrial automation systems.