Smooth interaction between trading partners is the basis for realising Ruschlikon’s benefits. To take advantage of these benefits, we encourage implementers of ACORD standards and Ruschlikon Best Practices to keep up with the latest ACORD message version.

With this 2016-10 version, there are a number of enhancements to the standard:

- **Reduced ambiguity** through clearer descriptions and definitions in the implementation guides. We now provide rules on when to use zero amounts, tax-specific fields and have removed redundant fields.
- **Reduced number of optional fields.** These fields are now recommended or mandatory, ensuring partners profit from richer and more structured standardised data.
- **Greater efficiency gains** and improved ability for automation by more granular referencing and additional transaction types e.g. reserves updating.
- **Alignment** with the London TOM and CSRP modernisation programs will ensure consistency of messaging wherever possible and transparent management of any variations.

Members have agreed to a migration date of **April 2018**.

**Version 2016-10 – what’s new**

Of over 60 approved changes, some key aspects included in the 2016-10 standard are:

- **Two-way query messaging** - This allows partners to manage queries as structured message workflows, eradicating the need for off-line intervention, ensuring full auditability, responsibility and enabling monitoring and shortening of cycle times. A useful guide and workflow diagram has been included in the [EBOT](#) and [ECOT](#) guides.
- **Section level referencing** - A mandatory field for brokers to include contract section level reference for TA and CM messages, so both parties share the perspective on contract layers. A [referencing overview paper](#) is available on the ACORD website, providing a full explanation of usage.
- **Mandatory use of status flags** (e.g. to indicate where a claim movement includes a reserve change), **validation enforcement changes** (e.g. to check if party reference data was provided), and **additional clarification for reporting of claim amounts** (e.g. where an annual aggregate deductible or salvage/subrogation is involved).

For additional information see the [2016-10 issues-list](#), write to us or visit the Ruschlikon website [here](#).

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