ACORD is a non-profit membership standards development organization (SDO) which develops and maintains forms and data standards and provides professional and technical support to the global insurance industry.

This Program Activity Report is published quarterly to provide non-technical descriptions of ACORD’s standards development efforts to ACORD members and other interested parties. Annually, the first quarter report introduces the year’s priorities, mid-year reports provide statuses, and the year-end report summarizes accomplishments.

Any and all comments and questions are appreciated. Please contact Alan Stitzer at astitzer@acord.org
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Introduction

Purpose of this Guide
This guide provides regular quarterly updates to all standards participants and interested parties regarding the current activities, issues and accomplishments in the ACORD Australia General insurance Program Standards Program.

The ACORD Workers’ Compensation Reporting (WCR) Program
The ACORD WCR Program was established in 2011.

ACORD has been engaged by the Workers’ Compensation Insurance Organizations (WCIO) and International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) at their request to help them and other interested parties to expand upon and modernize their current limited fixed length, flat file format data standards. Given that insurers, ratemaking and statistical organizations are transacting more and more business over the internet and rewriting and developing new systems using newer technology, it makes good business sense to transact data via more robustly defined and architectured XML business messages.

These organizations and other members have recognized that the use of the ACORD XML standards will achieve the business requirements they’ve set for themselves and realize significant benefits including cost savings, ease of doing business, and greater flexibility in the industry.
The ACORD, WCIO, and IAIABC XML relationship has been in place since 2004. During this period of time, our organizations and stakeholders have worked diligently to develop an XML data reporting standard for workers’ compensation. The ACORD WCR XML US Workers Compensation Reporting standard development began as PCS XML V2 and has evolved into the ACORD XML For Workers Compensation.

The normal working relationship between the three organizations is different than other working relationships. ACORD, in this case, is providing an XML alternative to the EDI messages managed by both IAIABC and WCIO. Both of those organizations have committees that manage changes to those standards based on their member input.

ACORD has agreed that because the XML standard is an alternative to the widely implemented EDI standards of both organizations that the XML standard will not contain anything that the EDI standards do not.

Once changes are approved by the IAIABC or WCIO committees, those changes will be applied to the ACORD XML standard. While it may well be the case that the XML changes are applied sooner than the EDI standard, the two versions will have the same functionality.

Both ACORD and the WCIO together with the IAIABC expressed a desire to work jointly on the current ACORD XML for Workers Compensation standards and the newer ACORD AML standard, and to ensure, where appropriate, that the two versions stay in sync with pertinent information.

ACORD will continue to provide for the WCIO and IAIABC ACORD XML For Workers Compensation standards project in the following ways:

1. **Voting Community and MR Procedure**
   ACORD WCR XML US Workers Compensation Reporting will be released as an official ACORD standard, thus falling under the Standard Operating Procedures for ACORD and providing all the IP, copyright and anti-trust protection that all ACORD standards provide.

2. **WCIO and IAIABC ACORD XML For Workers Compensation Support**
   ACORD will provide the same support for the ACORD WCR XML US Workers Compensation Reporting standards as it does for all other ACORD supported standards. ACORD will support the entire set of Workers’ Compensation messages. The ACORD XML for Workers Compensation standards will be posted on the Team’s site for the working group, and changes will be handled by the working group.

3. **Help File Support**
   ACORD will continue to maintain the Help Files for WCIO/IAIABC as part of the normal release procedures as defined in the Standard Operating Procedures.

4. **Schema Slicer Support**
ACORD will continue to support the Schema Slicer tool for ACORD WCR XML US Workers Compensation Reporting standards as part of its support of the Workers’ Compensation community.

5. **Access to the Standard**
   Access to the standard will be handled in the following ways:

   - The draft version of the ACORD WCR XML US Workers Compensation Reporting standard will be maintained in the “Teams Collaboration” folders as is the case with all ACORD supported products.
   - Once a vote is taken on specific message(s), the message(s) will be posted to the ACORD website, as all other standards are. There will be a member and non member version of the standard. The member version will include the help file and documented schemas, the non member version of the standard will NOT contain those additional files.

6. **Synchronicity Between ACORD XML For Workers Compensation standards and ACORD AML**
   Once the Workers Compensation Community would like to move from this standard to AML, work will begin by the working group to make the transition.

The purpose of this Program is to help this community define its shared objectives, develop priorities and work plans towards achieving those objectives and developing & managing standards delivering the capabilities desired.

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**Achievements**

ACORD WCR XML US Workers Compensation Reporting is mostly complete. There are pilot tests being done now for Notice of Assignment by the State of North Carolina. The State of Wisconsin is working on a pilot test for another WCIO transaction named WCPOLS. More states are expected to follow.
What’s New in WCR

Work has continued on FROI/SROI. The flat file has been mapped and the ACORD XML updated to include new fields.

Objectives 2012

Have an implementation of FROI/SROI
Testing for WCCRIT
Testing for WCRATING
Clean up and finalize mappings for Proof of Coverage.

Program Key Activities & Work Streams

The Workers’ Compensation Reporting Programs activities fall into two major categories; Program Initiatives and Working Groups. Work in each of these areas is described below.

June, 2012 - A note from your Program Chair, Ellen Sonkin

The Workers' Compensation Steering Committee is working with the IAIABC on Claims Release 3 and POC Release 3.0 to determine what changes are needed in the XML Schema for Proof of Coverage reporting and Notice of First Reports on a claim. We recently added 2 new members to the committee from the Agency side of the business.

Program Initiatives

The WCR Program Steering Committee has set up several major initiatives independent of day-to-day standards maintenance responsibilities and the working groups activities (details following).
These include:

- **Publication of First Public WCR Standard** – the efforts of the past several years of initial development work has been fruitful with a final draft specification diligently being reviewed and tested. Expectation is we will publish the first open public version of the standards developed thus far this summer, and then continue maintaining and improving them going forward.

- **Implementation Services Support** – ACORD is increasing efforts to develop a wide range of innovative and effective tools, services and activities to encourage and support implementation of standards. The WCR Program, in the course of its responsibilities to manage the standards development process, wants to insure we do everything in our power to support this effort. This focused effort has begun with the recently launched ACORD 2020 Advisory Council.

- **Communication** – With so much going on at ACORD both within programs and globally across programs this effort will continue to improve the content as well as delivery of standards development information.

**Working Groups**

The driving force of standards maintenance is our working groups made up of industry volunteers who spend valuable time understanding gaps & issues and developing the optimum solutions for each within the standards.

Get involved...it's easy. Contact the facilitator for more information or simply join in any one of the recurring conversations to add your voice!

**Working Group Status Indicator Definitions:**

- ▲ Good – Group is meeting regularly, with representative attendance, has defined objectives it is achieving on schedule.
- ► Warning – Group is correcting its issues and expected to be Good next report.
- ▼ Critical – Group is lacking in attendance, defined objectives or progress
- ◄ On Hold – Future direction is being determined

The current groups are listed below in alphabetic order.

**▲ WCR Program WG**

**Co-Chairs:** Randy Molnar, CSC  
Contact chairs: jbaml-pcs-wc-chair@teams.acord.org

**Facilitator:** Alan Stitzer astitzer@acord.org  
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This is the primary working group for the program. All day-to-day maintenance requests and standard development work is done by this group. All participants in the WCR Program are encouraged to participate. It meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.

The current focus of the group is WCCRIT, Claims Release 3 and Proof Of Coverage

Benefits of Participation
Participation in this working group gets you a voice and a vote in the data required for a standard way to do both policy placement, but also claims business transactions one way.

Schedule & Milestones

During 1Q and 2Q 2012, the group shall:

- Review and update WCCRIT mappings based on testing feedback
- Review and update WCRATING mappings based on testing feedback
- Review and update FROI/SROI mappings based on testing feedback
Deliverables:
• Transaction Specification documentation

**Program History & Achievements**

**2012**
WCRATING mapping updated
FROI/SROI mapping updated
WCCRIT mapping updated

**2011**
Testing Continues in North Carolina.
Massachusetts announces the move to NOA XML, and pilot testing has begun.
Workers’ Comp Notice Of Assignment ACORD XML was voted on and approved as an official standard.
WCCRIT changes mapped to ACORD XML, and released for testing.

**2010**
Completed initial draft of the XML and pilot testing was begun my North Carolina on Notice of Assignment (NOA)