

The CAX – IF discussion on modular extension schemas is summarised as follows.

In the opinion of the CAX-IF the Part 21 proposal that includes a definition for multiple data sections does not satisfactorily cover the requirements for modular extension schemas. It seems to be aimed at the need to support multiple AP schemas where there is an overlap in scope and a need to segregate the data because the applicable rules for the overlapping entities may conflict. The multiple sections permits a context to be defined for the entities in each section and thus the applicable rules. This is not a requirement for the CAX-IF operation with extension schemas where each extension module builds on other modules or schemas. There is no overlap and therefore no conflict. The decision was taken not to adopt a multiple data section approach at this point in time.

Instead, the conclusion of the CAX-IF was that they could continue to use a single data section with a single conglomerate schema. That requirement is already satisfied with AP214 and the majority of the current round of extension modules are being included with AP203 edition 2. As new extension modules arise it will be assumed that they will at some point be included in a total AP schema (e.g. AP214 edition 2 or 3 etc). The need for extensions to the current schemas will therefore be supported in this way.

This approach is justified on the basis that the CAX-IF are always operating ahead of the ISO state. That is the role of the forum in helping to develop and test new modules. As the modules become acceptable and are adopted by the ISO process, the CAX-IF schemas will evolve into the IS schemas.

This is displayed diagrammatically below.

