

OVERVIEW

Criterion Standards support the operation of e-business integration between more than 200 different organisations across the UK financial services industry.

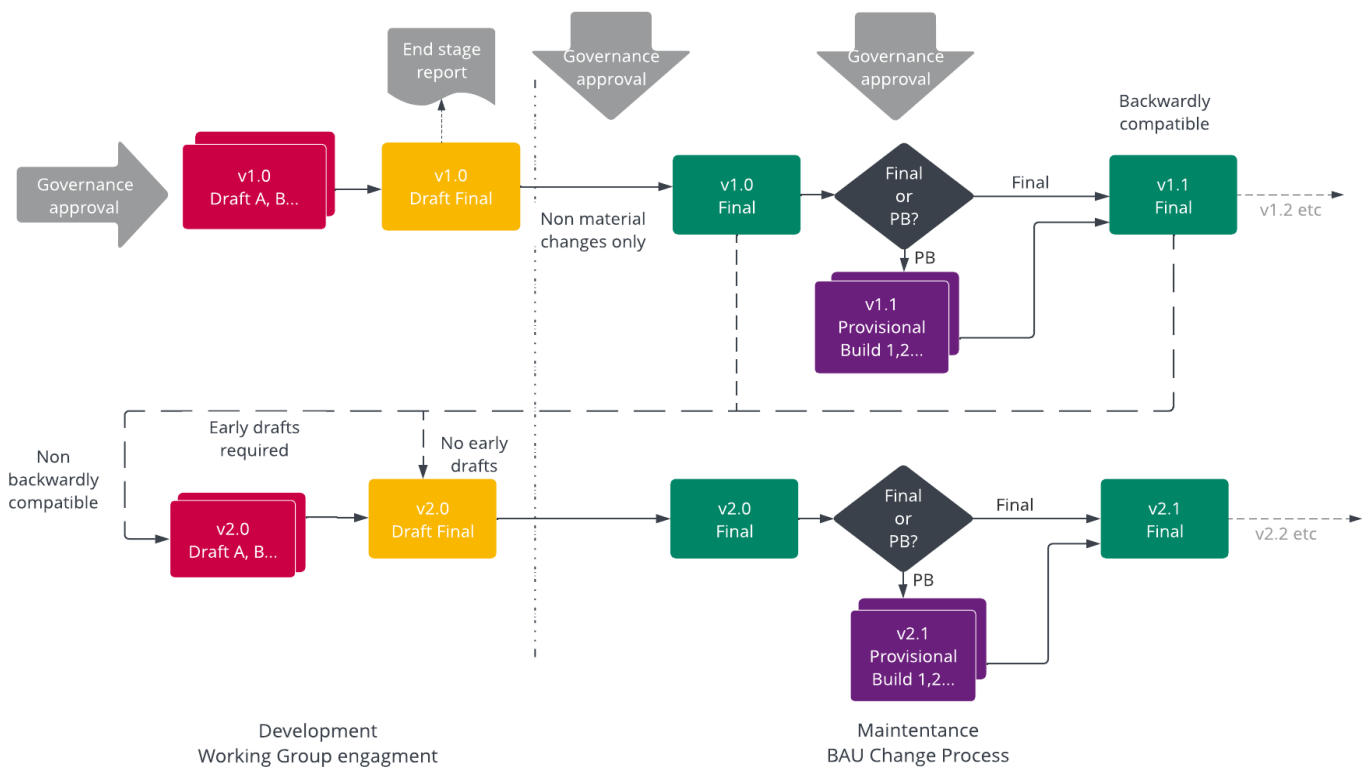
The majority of these Standards are data integration specifications which change over time to reflect emerging market requirements and conform to a robust version and change control policy. Standards Governance groups are in place to oversee the evolution of Criterion Standards.

Standards Version numbers comprise of both 'major' and 'minor' versions, for example **v2.1** is major version 2 and minor version 1. Incremental minor versions are backwardly compatible with previous minor versions, major versions are not. On very rare occasions (due to legislative requirements), a minor point version may be created, for example **v3.1.2** which is not backwardly compatible with the preceding version.

On occasion, Provisional Builds (e.g. **v2.3 PB1**, PB2 etc) are published which allow early adoption of the Standard before the version moves to Final. Each subsequent PB is a 'running total' of all changes applied.

Standards development - representatives from different types of industry organisations sit on Criterion working groups to help develop Standards and during development, Standards versions are published as Draft A, Draft B etc up to Draft Final and then Final. Up until Draft Final, draft versions are not considered to be implementable, only non-material changes will be made between Draft Final and Final.

The following diagram summarises the version policy described above:





Change Requests (CRs) may be raised by industry organisations against a Standard at any time. On receipt of a new CR, Criterion will review the CR for completeness and determine if the CR is 'Simple' or 'Complex'.

Simple CRs are those which:

- are straightforward to understand;
- are unlikely to be controversial within the Standards Community;
- are backwardly compatible; and,
- will require 10 days effort or less to be implemented in provisional Standards Artefacts.

Complex CRs are all CRs which are not simple.

For Simple changes, an assessment is made as to whether the CR should be:

- Published in a new Final version of the Standard; or,
- Published as a Provisional Build of a Standard.

The assessment carried out by Criterion takes into account a number of factors including:

- Nature of change (complexity, contentiousness, regulatory, timing constraints);
- Nature of Standard (established/settled, number of adopters, number and timing of previous versions);
- Volume and nature of other CRs against Standard;
- Business/product area.

If the outcome of the assessment is that the CR will be incorporated in a Final version, the proposed solution is documented and made available for industry review on the Criterion website for a period of time before it is incorporated into the new Final Standard.

Change Request Management is the responsibility of Criterion governance groups and is carried out on a quarterly basis. Each quarter, Criterion inform the governance group of

- New CRs raised in the period and whether the assessment for each resulted in a recommendation for Final or Provisional Build version of the impacted Standard;
- CRs completed during the period;
- Outstanding CRs and to which Standard they relate.

The governance group considers which new Standards versions should be progressed, taking into account all CRs and impacted Standards. This includes assessment of the stability of Provisional versions of Standards and whether they are sufficiently stable to be crystallised into a Final version.

Criterion periodically review CRs raised over 5 years ago and where appropriate these CRs will be expired, and therefore not implemented.

A fuller description of Criterion's **Publication and Change Policy** can be found on our website [here](#).