

DICOM Correction Item

Correction Number	CP 707
Log Summary: Retire group lengths	
Type of Modification	Name of Standard
Retirement	PS 3.5 2007
Rationale for Correction	
Group lengths have always been optional except in the command message and meta-information header, serve no purpose and one cannot rely on their presence during parsing, hence they should be retired, except in the command message and meta-information header.	
Sections of documents affected	
PS 3.5 7.3	
Correction Wording:	

7.2 GROUP LENGTH

Group Length (gggg,0000) Standard Data Elements have been retired. See PS 3.5 2007.

The Group Length (gggg,0000) Standard Data Element shall be implicitly defined for all Data Element groups with a Value Representation of UL and a Value Multiplicity of 1. It shall be an optional (Type 3 Data Element Type) Data Element in DICOM V3.0 (see Section 7.4 for a description of Data Element Types). It provides an optional optimization scheme in partial parsing of Data Sets by allowing the skipping of entire groups of Data Elements. Implementations may or may not choose to encode explicit Group Length in a Data Set. All implementations shall be able to accept or ignore parse such Group Length elements, and may discard and not insert or re-insert them; if present they shall be consistent with the encoding of the dataset even if the transfer syntax is changed resulting in a change in the actual length of a group of elements. No implementation shall require the presence of Group Length elements.

- Notes:
1. Elements in groups 0, 2, 4 and 6 are not Standard Data Elements. Mandatory requirements for Group Length for groups 0 and 2 are specified elsewhere in the standard.
 2. **It is recommended that Group Length elements be removed during storage or transfer in order to avoid the risk of inconsistencies arising during coercion of data element values and changes in transfer syntax.**