

## **Singapore Judgments Data Standard**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1 The Singapore Judgments Data Standard seeks to provide a common representation format and terminology for judgment data in Singapore. The standard describes the elements of Singapore judgments, to facilitate the understanding and adoption of judgments data in the legal technology industry.

2 The standard is designed to support developers in creating products and services that include Singapore judgment data, or that integrate with LawNet Legal Research APIs. It does not propose an implementation design, and does not specify how judgments should be stored or transmitted in a computer system.

3 The data standard originates from SAL, the legal owner and publisher of the Singapore Law Reports, and the distributor for unreported Singapore judgments. SAL uses this standard on LawNet to publish decisions from Singapore tribunals, such as the Competition Commission and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

## **II. GUIDELINES FOR USE**

4 The data standard is meant to be read together with the judgments data available through LawNet Legal Research APIs (<https://github.com/legaltechsal/LawNet-APIs>) and the SAL R&D Environment (<https://github.com/legaltechsal/LawNetRD>). These links provide guidelines for how the data can be used.

### III. DATA DEFINITIONS

#### A. Notation Explanations

**Column 1 (Index Number)** indicates the index number used to identify the data elements in this standard.

**Column 2 (Level)** indicates the level of XML tag within the judgment data.

**Column 3 (Tag Name)** provides the XML tag of the judgment data element used in this standard.

**Column 4 (Description)** provides the description of what the judgment data element is.

**Column 5 (Mandatory)** indicates the mandatory or optional status of the judgment data element – when the value is ‘1’, the element is mandatory, when the value is ‘0’, the element is optional.

**Column 6 (Repetitions Allowed)** indicates the number of repetitions allowed, where ‘n’ is used to indicate no specific limit.

**Column 7 (Data Type)** provides the format of the data found within the XML tag of the judgment data element used in this standard.

**Column 8 (Remarks)** provides information on how data with a particular tag name may appear.

## B. Element Definitions

**Table 1: Judgment Element Definitions**

Index Number	Level	Tag Name	Description	Mandatory	Repetitions Allowed	Data Type	Remarks
001	0	<CaseReport>	Describes the type of structured content	1	1	-	
002	1	<CaseDetails>	Metadata about the case	1	1	-	
003	2	<CaseName>	The name by which the case is referred, which may include the parties involved in the action	1	1	-	
004	3	<Plaintiff>	The party who initiates the action in the case, usually the first person named in the initiation of the action (if there is more than one)	0	n	String	
005	3	<Defendant>	The party who is responding to the action in the case, usually the first person named in response to the action (if there is more than one)	0	n	String	
006	3	<CaseTitle>	Where the Case Name is not in the form <Plaintiff> v <Defendant>, this describes how the case is referred to.	0	n	String	
007	2	<NeutralCitation>	Unique reference number for users to identify a case which is issued by the courts, which is not or not yet reported in a law report	1	1	-	
008	3	<Year>	Year of the Neutral Citation, contained in square brackets	1	1	4 digit string, within square brackets	
009	3	<Court>	Abbreviation representing the Singapore Court/Tribunal in which the case was heard	1	1	String, all caps	Examples of abbreviations used: SGCT

Index Number	Level	Tag Name	Description	Mandatory	Repetitions Allowed	Data Type	Remarks
							SGCA SGCA(I) SGHC SGDC SGFC
010	3	<No>	Index number for the case issued from the Court/Tribunal	1	1	String	
011	2	<Court>	Singapore Court or Tribunal which heard the case	1	1	String	
012	2	<SuitNo>	Reference for the case when it was filed to be heard	0	n	String	
013	2	<Coram>	Judicial officers hearing the case	1	1	-	
014	3	<Judge>	Name of the judicial officer hearing the case	1	n	String	
015	2	<HearingDate>	Date(s) on which the case was heard	1	1	String	Dates are in freetext format: May be expressed in following: 1-4, 8-11, 15-18 March; 2, 29 November 2016; 29 November 2017
016	2	<AdditionalCaseDetails>	Additional details relating to the case	1	1	-	
017	3	<Parties>	Parties in the case	0	1	-	
018	4	<Party>	Name of the party in the case	0	n	String	
019	3	<ReferenceMaterials>	Secondary legal materials referenced in the case (e.g. journals, articles, newspaper reports etc)	0	1	-	
020	4	<RefMaterial>	Secondary legal material referenced in the case	1	n	String	
021	5	<RefAuthor>	Author of the secondary legal material referenced in the case	0	n	String	

Index Number	Level	Tag Name	Description	Mandator y	Repetitions Allowed	Data Type	Remarks
022	5	<RefTitle>	Title of the secondary legal material referenced in the case	1	1	String	
023	5	<RefCitation>	Citation of the secondary legal material referenced in the case	0	1	String	
024	1	<HeadNotes>	Contains a summary of the case, usually editorially created	0	1	-	
025	2	<Catchwords>	A collection of short phrases describing the case, containing the legal subject area and sub-areas covered by the case, and may also include key facts and legal issues dealt with by the case. One collection may be made up of different sets of catchwords, each set stemming from a first-order catchword representing a broad area of law.	0	n	-	Each set of catchwords is arranged alphabetically by the first order catchwords.
026	3	<Catchword>	A short phrase describing the case, which may be a legal subject area, sub-area, a key fact or legal issue dealt with by the case	1	n	String	Each catchword also has a value (1-n) to indicate what order it is
027	2	<Facts>	A summary of the main facts of the case	1	1	Paragraphs	
028	2	<Held>	A summary of the key decisions made by the judge(s) on the various legal issues raised in the case	0	1	-	
029	3	<HeldList>	Each key decision made by the judge(s) on a legal issue	0	n	Paragraphs	The first HeldList in a series is usually a header, indicating the overall outcome of the case. The series is usually presented in the form of numbered paragraphs.
030	2	<Observation>	Observations or remarks made by the judges on a legal issue which is not a key principle in the case	0	1	Paragraphs	This is usually presented in the form of numbered

Index Number	Level	Tag Name	Description	Mandator y	Repetitions Allowed	Data Type	Remarks
							paragraphs, if there is more than one observation.
031	2	<CasesReferred>	The list of cases referred to in the judgment	0	1	-	The list is usually presented in alphabetical order by <CName>
032	3	<CaseRef>	An individual case referred to in the judgment	0	n	-	
033	4	<CName>	The name of the case referred to in the judgment	0	n	String	
034	4	<Citation>	The main citation of the case referred to in the judgment	0	1	String	
035	4	<ParallelCitation>	An alternative citation for the case referred to in the judgment	0	n	String	
036	4	<Court>	The court which decided the case referred to in the judgment	0	1	String	This is in the form of an abbreviation for the court. Examples include: PC (for Privy Council) CA (for Court of Appeal) HC (for High Court) DC (for District Court)
037	4	<Annotation>	Indications of how the case referred to was treated by the judgment	1	1	String	Usually indicated within round brackets. Details in Appendix A
038	2	<LegisReferred>	The list of legislation referred to in the judgment	0	1	-	
039	3	<LegisRef>	An individual piece of legislation referred to in the judgment	0	n	-	
040	4	<LegisTitle>	The title of the legislation referred to in the judgment	1	1	String	
041	5	<Bill>	The Bill number of a statute that has not yet been passed in Parliament	0	1	String, consisting of	Example: Bill 2

Index Number	Level	Tag Name	Description	Mandatory	Repetitions Allowed	Data Type	Remarks
						"Bill" and an integer	
042	5	<Act>	The Act number of a statute	0	1	String, consisting of "Act" and an integer	Example: Act 2
043	5	<Cap>	The Chapter number of a statute	0	1	String, consisting of "Cap" and an integer	Example: Cap 50
044	5	<R>	The Rule number of a subsidiary legislation	0	1	String, consisting of "R" and an integer	Example: R 1
045	5	<Rg>	The Regulation number of a subsidiary legislation	0	1	String, consisting of "Rg" and an integer	Example: Rg 9
046	5	<O>	The Order number of a subsidiary legislation	0	1	String, consisting of "O" and an integer	Example: O 14
047	5	<N>	The Notification number of a subsidiary legislation	0	1	String, consisting of "N" and an integer	Example: N 20
048	5	<SNo>	The Gazette Notification serial number of a subsidiary legislation	0	1	String, consisting of "GN No S" and an integer	Example: GN No S 8



Index Number	Level	Tag Name	Description	Mandator y	Repetitions Allowed	Data Type	Remarks
049	5	<Year>	The year the statute or subsidiary legislation was enacted	0	1	4 digit year YYYY	
050	5	<Edition>	Indication of the type of legislation edition	0	1	String	Example: Rev Ed
051	4	<Jurisdiction>	The jurisdiction in which the legislation was enacted	0	1	String	Usually indicated as an abbreviation in brackets Example: (UK)
052	4	<Prov>	Details of the legislative provision referred to	0	n	-	
053	5	<Ref1>	First level reference of the legislative provision	0	1	String	May take the form of an abbreviation for the type of provision (section, rule, paragraph, etc) followed by an integer Example: s 14
054	5	<Ref2>	Second level reference of the legislative provision	0	1	String	
055	5	<Ref3>	Third level reference of the legislative provision	0	1	String	
056	5	<Annotation>	Indication when a legislative provision was considered by the case in a substantive manner	0	1	String	Takes the form of “(consd)”, which is an indication that the provision was considered
057	2	<Counsels>	The list of lawyers representing all the parties in the case	0	1	-	
058	3	<Counsel>	The names of the lawyers representing a party in the case	0	n	String	Usually in the form “[name] ([name of law firm] for [party type])”
059	2	<EditorialNote>	Notes applied by the editor containing editorial information for the reader	0	n	String	This may appear within <Headnotes> or <Judgments>
060	2	<Inline Editorial Note>	Notes applied by the editor containing editorial information for the reader, appearing within the text of Judgment	0	n	String	This appears within <Judgments>

Index Number	Level	Tag Name	Description	Mandatory	Repetitions Allowed	Data Type	Remarks
061	3	<AssociatedDecision>	Citation of decisions associated with the judgment	0	n	String	
062	1	<Judgments>	The judgment for the case, containing the grounds of decision written by the judge(s)	1	1	-	
063	2	<JudgmentInfo>	Meta information about the judgment	1	1	-	
064	3	<JudgmentDate>	The date the Judgment was made	1	1	Date format: D Month YYYY	
065	3	<JudgmentReserved>	Indicates whether the grounds of decision were written at the same time as when the decision made and informed to parties	0	1	String	If present (indicated as text "Judgment Reserved"), the grounds of decision were written down on a date after the decision was made.
066	2	<Judgment>	The full text of the judgment, containing the grounds of decision written by the judge	1	n	Paragraphs	
067	2	<Reported By>	The name of the court reporter who drafted the headnotes	0	1	String	Usually in the form "Reported by <name of court reporter>"
068	2	<Copyright>	Contains the copyright statement	0	1	String	
069	2	<Annex>	Any Annex that is appended to the judgment	0	n	Paragraphs	
070	2	<Appendix>	Any Appendix that is appended to the judgment	0	n	Paragraphs	
071	2	<Image>	Any Image that is appended to the judgment	0	n	Image file	Formats: - jpeg - png

## APPENDIX A – CASE ANNOTATIONS

<b><i>Abbreviated Annotation</i></b>	<b><i>Annotation in Full</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
(folld)	followed	This indicates that the principle of law established in the referenced case (or the <i>dictum</i> referred to) has been followed in the instant case.
(not folld)	not followed	This indicates where the court has consciously refused to follow the referenced case although potentially relevant. It implies that the referenced case is wrong.
(distd)	distinguished	This indicates where the referenced case is not applied in the instant case due to some distinction in the facts or the law.
(overd)	overruled	This is used only where a higher court (in the instant case) has held the referenced case to be wrong. The case referenced must have been decided by a court in the same judicial system; <i>eg</i> , a Singapore court cannot overrule a Malaysian judgment.
(refd)	Referred	This indicates where the instant case has made a general reference to the referenced case