General

Tagged PDF's standard structure types characterize the role of a content element within the document and, in conjunction with the standard structure attributes, how that content is laid out on the page. The structure type of a logical structure element shall be specified by the **S** entry in its structure element dictionary. To be considered a standard structure type, this value shall be either:

- One of the standard structure types grouping elements.
- An arbitrary name that shall be mapped to one of the standard names by the document's role map, possibly through multiple levels of mapping.

NOTE 1 Beginning with PDF 1.5, an element name is always mapped to its corresponding name in the role map, if there is one, even if the original name is one of the standard types. This is done to allow the element, for example, to represent a tag with the same name as a standard role, even though its use differs from the standard role.

Ordinarily, structure elements having standard structure types shall be processed the same way whether the type is expressed directly or is determined indirectly from the role map. However, some conforming readersmay ascribe additional semantics to nonstandard structure types, even though the role map associates them with standard ones.

NOTE 2 For instance, the actual values of the S entries may be used when exporting to a tagged representation such as XML, and the corresponding role-mapped values shall be used when converting to presentation formats such as HTML or RTF, or for purposes such as reflow or accessibility to users with disabilities.

NOTE 3 Most of the standard element types are designed primarily for laying out text; the terminology reflects this usage. However, a layout may in fact include any type of content, such as path or image objects. The content items associated with a structure element shall be laid out on the page as if they were blocks of text (for a BLSE) or characters within a line of text (for an ILSE).