

4 Component Release Files Specification

This guide describes [SNOMED CT Release Format 2 \(RF2\)](#), to be used for official production releases of [SNOMED CT](#). This format is not mandated for internal terminology development usage or as an interchange mechanism between terminology development systems. [RF2](#) provides a format that is flexible, unambiguous and useful. It was designed to strengthen [SNOMED CT](#) by providing a simple and stable format that enables innovation through adaptations to cater for changing requirements¹.

The component release files are defined in the following sections:

- [4.1 Associations Between Release Files](#)
- [4.2 File Format Specifications](#)
- [4.3 Metadata Hierarchy](#)

Footnotes

RefNotes

¹ This specification was developed by harmonizing proposals reviewed by IHTSDO Enhanced Release Format Project Group, including:

- Enhanced Release Format Specification (SNOMED International Proposed Specification , 21 June 2007);
- Reference Set Specification (SNOMED International Proposed Specification , 31 July 2007);
- Alternate Release Format (proposed by NEHTA and their Australian Affiliates).