Process Descriptions Document (PDD)

*Template*

<Project Name> (<Project Acronym>)

**Version <x.x> <DRAFT | FINAL>**

**Prepared by <author>**

**<Month> <Day>, <Year>**

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Revision History

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Version** | **Author** | **Revision Description** |
| <mm/dd/yyyy> | <x.x> | <Authoring Organization’s Name> | <Summary of the revision; the initial version should say 'Initial Release"> |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

<The version number of the first version should be "0.n" until the final draft is ready to be delivered to IQ CM; it should be version "1.0" when it is provided to IQ CM. The version number is incremented for subsequent releases: the project team can decide if it is a new major release (i.e., "X+1.0") or a new minor release (i.e., "X.n+1").

The document should be labeled "DRAFT" while it is under development and "FINAL when it is provided to IQ CM.

Please refer to the title page of this template, which displays both the version number and the document status.>

# Introduction

<Wherever there are angle brackets, please replace them with content or delete them. For example, “<Year>” would be replaced by “2017”. Also, remove the “Template” watermark using MS Word's *Ribbon > Design tab > Watermark drop down list > Remove Watermark action*.>

This section introduces the Process Descriptions for <Project Name> (<Project Acronym>). It discusses the purpose and content of the document.

<This document reflects the techniques and methodology typically utilized by the Requirements Management Division (IR); however, using this methodology is not mandatory and a project may use a different one if there is a reason for doing so. When a different methodology is used, this document may need to be modified and / or reformatted appropriately to reflect the methodology used.>

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to present business process descriptions related to the <Organization name>’s <System Name> (<System Acronym>).

<Include additional information summarizing “purpose”.>

## Scope

This document describes the <Organization Name>'s business processes as they relate to <System Acronym>.

<Summarize the business functions that are in the scope of this analysis.>

<Indicate whether the process flow diagrams herein cover the current (”as is”) processes and / or the future (“to-be”) processes.>

### Assumptions

The following assumptions pertain to the contents of this document in general and to the business process descriptions specifically:

* <Assumption1>
* <Assumption2>
* <Assumption3>

## References

This section lists the documents that were utilized during the development of the business process descriptions.

<A "document" may be a website or web page.>

### Documents

1. *<Document Title>* <Version x.x>; <Authoring Agency or Company Name>; <Date Published>;<[hyperlink to document if available](https://www.nara-at-work.gov/)> <(accessed on <Date Accessed>)>.

### Forms

1. *<Form Title> <Form Revision Date or Version Number>; <Agency Name>*; <Form Number>; <[hyperlink to form if available](https://www.nara-at-work.gov/)> <(accessed on <Date Accessed>)>.

# Business Abstract

This section introduces the <Project Name> project and describes its business context.

## Business Purpose

<Describe at the organization level the reason and background for which the organization is pursuing new business or changing the current business in order to fit a new management environment. In this context, it should describe how the proposed system would contribute to meeting business objectives. Note: Information for this section may possibly be copied from a Business Needs Analysis document, Business Case, or Concept of Operations.>

## Business Scope

<Provide a short description of the relevant business area including name, objectives and goals. Explain how the business area's processes will be modified to satisfy the business need.>

## Stakeholders

<List the groups or classes of stakeholders and describe how they will influence the organization and business, or will be related to the development and operation of the system.>

<If a Stakeholder Analysis (SA) exists for the project, this section could be just a reference to the SA. Table 2-1 is REQUIRED when a SA does not exist. This table may also be modified as appropriate.>

<The "Symbol" column of Table 2-1 is for the organization symbol when a NARA organization or the abbreviation / acronym for an external organization.>

**Table 2-1: Stakeholders – Organizations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Symbol** | **Organization** | **POC Title** | **Type** | **Main Interests** | **Impact of Project** |
| <This column is for the organization symbol when a NARA organization or the abbreviation / acronym for an external organization.> | <The organization's full name.> | <The title of the individual who is the primary POC for the organization as regards the project.> | <primary | secondary> | <The main interests of the organization as regards the project.> | <The impact of the outcome of the project on the organization.> |

## User Roles and Characteristics

<This section should *not* be used when a System Abstract is used.>

<Identify each type of user, operator, or maintainer of the system by function, and the nature of their use of the system.>

The <Project Abbreviation> business roles that are relevant to the business area are specified in Table 2-2.

**Table 2-2: User Roles and Characteristics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Characteristics** |
| <Role1 Name> | Responsibilities: <TBD>System Usage: <TBD> |
| <Role2 Name> | Responsibilities: <TBD>System Usage: <TBD> |
| <Role3 Name> | Responsibilities: <TBD>System Usage: <TBD> |

# System Abstract

<This section should *not* be used when the goal of the document is to describe the business processes that are associated with a business area, independent of a specific system that is to be developed.>

This section describes the system context for the <Project Acronym> project.

## System Purpose

<Define the reason(s) for which the system is being developed or modified.>

## System Scope

<Define the scope of the system under consideration by

a) Identifying the system to be produced by name.

b) Referring to and stating the results of the earlier finalized needs analysis, in the form of a brief but clear expression of the user's problem(s). It explains what the system will and will not do to satisfy those needs.

c) Describing the application of the system being specified. As a portion of this, it should describe all relevant top level benefits, objectives, and goals as precisely as possible.>

## System Overview

### System Context

<Describe at a general level the major elements of the system, to include human elements and how they interact. The system overview includes appropriate diagrams and narrative to provide the context of the system, defining all significant interfaces crossing the system's boundaries.>

### System Functions

<Provide a summary of the major functions (i.e., fundamental actions and system capabilities) that the system will perform. The summary should show the different functions and their relationships and should be organized in a way that makes the list of functions understandable to the stakeholders. This summary typically consists of a simple hierarchical decomposition of the functions, but is dependent upon the specific system.

The functions are typically identified via the requirements elicitation activity. Although functional analysis and decomposition is typically a system engineering activity that is associated with system architecture and design, some of the techniques involved may be useful to the BA; there are many information resources available via the Internet.

When a Concept Of Operations (ConOps) exists, it may include a Functional Decomposition that can be used as a basis for this summary; if the Functional Decomposition is very detailed, you may want to reduce the amount of detail for inclusion in this document.>

### User Roles and Characteristics

<Identify each type of user, operator, or maintainer of the system (by function, location, type of device), the number in each group, and the nature of their use of the system.>

The <Project Name> business roles that are relevant to the <System Name> process descriptions are specified in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1: User Roles and Characteristics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Characteristics** |
| <Role1 Name> | Responsibilities:<TBD>Work Location: <TBD>Equipment Utilized: <TBD> |
| <Role2 Name> | Responsibilities:<TBD>Work Location: <TBD>Equipment Utilized: <TBD> |
| <Role3 Name> | Responsibilities:<TBD>Work Location: <TBD>Equipment Utilized: <TBD> |

# Introduction to Process Descriptions

This section describes how the <Project Acronym> process descriptions are organized and provides information regarding the format and layout of the process flow diagrams.

## Scenarios

This section describes the scenarios that describe the <Project Acronym> in the <Business Area Name>'s business processes. Scenarios can be used to partition complex process flow diagrams to make them easier to understand.

<Define scenarios in the following table. There may be only a single scenario. Letters are typically used for the IDs, e.g. "Scenario A".>

**Table 4-1: <Project Name> Scenarios**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Id** | **Name** | **Description** |
| <ID1> | <Scenario Name> | <Scenario Description> |
| <ID2> | <Scenario Name> | <Scenario Description> |

## Overview of Process Descriptions

This section presents an overview of the process descriptions for the scenarios defined in Section 4.1. It describes the formats and layouts used for the components of each process description.

For each scenario, a set of process descriptions are defined. Each set of process descriptions forms a hierarchy or "tree", with a single, highest-level process description (node) as the root. Each subsequent process description (node; branch) of the tree represents a decomposition of the preceding (parent) process description into an additional level of detail. This decomposition continues until the appropriate level of detail is reached as identified for the project.

Figure 4-1 presents a conceptual process description hierarchy for a fictional scenario assigned identifier *Z*.[[1]](#footnote-0)

**Figure 4-1: Conceptual Process Description Hierarchy for Scenario Z**



An individual *process description* (i.e., node in the hierarchy) consists of three parts: (1) A process flow diagram, (2) A textual description of the diagram's participants (actors) and (3) A textual description of the diagram's steps (i.e., the activities or tasks).

### Process Flow Diagram

A process flow diagram is laid out as a stacked set of horizontal *swimlanes*, where a *swimlane* is a container for the steps performed by a single actor in the process.

The swimlanes are notionally ordered[[2]](#footnote-1) from top-to-bottom based upon when in the process its actor participates: the swimlane for the first participant is at the top of the diagram and the swimlane for the last participant is at the bottom.[[3]](#footnote-2) When an actor participates in a process many separate times, only one swimlane is used in the diagram for that actor, and all of the actor's tasks are contained in that swimlane.

**Figure 4-2: Conceptual Process Flow Diagram**



Table 4-2 describes objects that appear in a process flow diagram and how they are used.

**Table 4-2: Process Flow Diagram Legend**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Object** | **Description** |
| diagram titleCreate Case  | USAGEA textual box at the very top of the diagram that is used to identify the diagram.The diagram title itself (i.e., the text in the box) consists of the diagram's identifier (e.g., "A2") followed by the diagram's name (e.g., "Create Case").TYPEThere is only a single type of diagram title box.COLORNot applicable – the colors used are standard and unchanging. |
| swimlaneUsage Diagram | USAGEA container for the tasks of a single actor. An actor may be an organization, group, class, role, position, system, system process or system module / component, as appropriate for the context or level of detail of the diagram.[[4]](#footnote-3)TYPEThere is only a single type of swimlane (horizontal).COLORThe colors for a swimlane are standard and unchanging, although the colors of the objects within a swimlane may vary. |
| process step / activity / taskCreate Case Bundle Mail | USAGEA process step. The label of the process step box defines the activity or task to be performed at that point in the process; process steps are connected to form the process flow.Each process step is identified by a number in a small circle at the upper right of the process step box. Numbers are unique within the diagram and the sequence nominally follows the process flow.When a process step is decomposed, the new (child) diagram is assigned an identifier formed from the parent diagram identifier and the parent process step identifier. For example, if process step "3" of diagram "A2" is decomposed, the identifier assigned to the new diagram is "A2.3" (and the name of the new diagram is the label of the process step "3" box). The child diagram identifier is provided *outside the parent process step box* at the lower right when a process step is decomposed.Process steps are laid out following the process flow as much as possible, starting at the upper left of the diagram, progressing downward and from left to right. The diagram should be read in this manner. Any process step box lacking an incoming connector [i.e., solid-colored arrow] is effectively a starting point for the diagram.TYPERectangle with rounded corners Indicates a process step that involves <Project Acronym>.Rectangle with angular corners Indicates a process step that does not involve <Project Acronym>.COLORColor Dark Blue indicates a process step that involves <Project Acronym>.Color Gray indicates a process step that does not involve <Project Acronym>. |
| junctionAsynchronousAmpersand (&) Asynchronous (O) Asynchrynous (X)SynchronousSynchronous Ampersand (&) Synchronous (O) | USAGEA junction is a point where a flow branches into multiple paths ("fan out") or multiple flows merge into one ("fan in").Each junction of a diagram is uniquely labeled for easy reference. The label format is "Jn", where "n" is a positive integer beginning with "1". As for process step boxes, an attempt is made to label junctions sequentially following the process flow.TYPE**&** AND – All tasks connecting to or from the junction must be performed.**O** OR – At least one task connecting to or from the junction must be performed.**X** XOR – One and only one task connecting to or from the junction must be performed.SYNCHRONICITYAsynchronous The flows connecting to the junction need not occur at the same time. Indicated by a vertical line to the left of the label.Synchronous The flows connecting to the junction must occur at the same time. Indicated by two vertical lines on either side of the label. Not appropriate with XOR junctions.COLORNot applicable – the colors used are standard and unchanging. |
| connector / flow | USAGEA connector indicates a transition (flow; link) from one process step to the next.TYPEArrow Connector A solid arrow indicates a transition. The arrowhead indicates the direction of flow.Connector A dashed line indicates an association or relationship.COLORConnector Dark Blue indicates a flow or association that involves <Project Acronym>.Connector Gray indicates a flow or association that does not involve <Project Acronym>. |

### Actors Table

A conceptual view of the table that describes the actors (swimlanes) that participate in the associated process flow diagram is provided in Table 4-3.

**Table 4-3: Conceptual Actors Table**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actor (Swimlane)** | **Description** |
| <Actor 1 name > | <Actor Description> |
| <Actor 2 name> | <Actor Description> |
|  |  |

The columns in the actors table are defined as follows:

Actor: The label of the swimlane.

Description: A description of who or what the actor is, within the scope of the diagram.

### Process Steps Table

A conceptual view of the table that provides a textual description for each step in the associated process flow diagram is provided in Table 4-4.

**Table 4-4: Conceptual Process Steps Table**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Description** | **Business Rules** |
| ① | <Perform Function ATBD> | → <TBD> |
| ② | <Perform Function BTBD> | → <TBD> |
| ③ | <Perform Function CTBD> | → <TBD> |

The columns in the process steps table are defined as follows:

#: The number of the step (block) in the associated process flow diagram that is described, i.e., the number in the small circle at the upper right of the block in the associated process flow diagram.

Description: A textual description of the work performed for the block.

 This text will be consistent with the level of the process flow diagram, e.g., the description of a block in a high-level diagram will be at an appropriately high level.

Business Rules: A list of the business rules that are associated with the block.

 This list will be consistent with the level of the process flow diagram, e.g., the business rules specified for a block in a high-level diagram will be at an appropriately high level.

# Process Descriptions

This section presents the process descriptions for <Project Acronym>. It is organized by scenario as defined in Table 4-1.

<The following document sections essentially comprise an outline, where each outline level represents a level in the process flow diagram hierarchy (i.e., decomposition). The sections provided in this template consist of a single section at each level; however, as many or as few sections as are needed may be utilized at each level in a project's document. This template includes five levels (because this number is typically sufficient) but more levels may be used if necessary.

Note that, while the \*sections\* must be sequential, the diagram IDs may not be. This is because some steps in a process may not need to be expanded.>

## Scenario <ID1>: <Scenario Name>

This section provides the process descriptions associated with Scenario <ID1>, *<Scenario Name>*.

### Overview

<Insert an overview of Scenario ID1 here.>

### Process Flow Diagram Hierarchy

Figure 5-1 presents a process flow diagram hierarchy for Scenario <ID1>.

**Figure 5-1: Scenario <ID1> Process Flow Diagram Hierarchy**

<Insert hierarchy diagram here>

### <ID1>0 – <Diagram Title>

This section describes the highest level (i.e., most conceptual and representational) process flow diagram for Scenario <ID1>.

**Figure 5-2: <ID1>0 Process Flow Diagram**

<Insert process flow diagram here>

**Table 5-1: <ID1>0 Actors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actor (Swimlane)** | **Description** |
| <Topmost Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |
| <Next Lower Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |

**Table 5-2: <ID1>0 Process Steps**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Description** | **Business Rules** |
| ① | <Diagram Block#1 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |
| ② | <Diagram Block#2 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |

### <ID1><Z> – <Diagram Title>

<This section represents the decomposition (i.e., a lower-level of detail) of a block on diagram "<ID1>0". "<Z>" is the number of the associated block of diagram "<ID1>0". For example, "A2" means that this diagram is a decomposition of block #2 on diagram A0 (i.e., ID1="A" and Z=2).

"Z" does not need to start with 1 and it need not be sequential, i.e., every block on a diagram does not need to be decomposed.>

**Figure 5-3: <ID1><Z> Process Flow Diagram**

<Insert process flow diagram here>

**Table 5-3: <ID1><Z> Actors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actor (Swimlane)** | **Description** |
| <Topmost Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |
| <Next Lower Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |

**Table 5-4: <ID1><Z> Process Steps**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Description** | **Business Rules** |
| ① | <Diagram Block#1 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |
| ② | <Diagram Block#2 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |

#### <ID1><Z>.<Y> – <Diagram Title>

<This section represents the decomposition (i.e., a lower-level of detail) of a block on diagram "<ID1><Z>". "<Y>" is the number of the associated block of diagram "<ID1><Z>". For example, "A1.3" means that this diagram is a decomposition of block #3 on diagram A1 (i.e., ID1="A", Z=1 and Y=3).

"Y" does not need to start with 1 and it need not be sequential, i.e., every block on a diagram does not need to be decomposed.>

**Figure 5-4: <ID1><Z>.<Y> Process Flow Diagram**

<Insert process flow diagram here>

**Table 5-5: <ID1><Z>.<Y> Actors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actor (Swimlane)** | **Description** |
| <Topmost Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |
| <Next Lower Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |

**Table 5-6: <ID1><Z>.<Y> Process Steps**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Description** | **Business Rules** |
| ① | <Diagram Block#1 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |
| ② | <Diagram Block#2 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |

##### <ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X> – <Diagram Title>

<This section represents the decomposition (i.e., a lower-level of detail) of a block on diagram "<ID1><Z>.<Y>". "<X>" is the number of the associated block of diagram "<ID1><Z>.<Y>". For example, "A1.3.7" means that this diagram is a decomposition of block #3 on diagram A1.3 (i.e., ID1="A", Z=1, Y=3 and X=7).

"X" does not need to start with 1 and it need not be sequential, i.e., every block on a diagram does not need to be decomposed.>

**Figure 5-5: <ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X> Process Flow Diagram**

<Insert process flow diagram here>

**Table 5-7: <ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X> Actors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actor (Swimlane)** | **Description** |
| <Topmost Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |
| <Next Lower Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |

**Table 5-8: <ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X> Process Steps**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Description** | **Business Rules** |
| ① | <Diagram Block#1 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |
| ② | <Diagram Block#2 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |

###### <ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X>.<W> – <Diagram Title>

<This section represents the decomposition (i.e., a lower-level of detail) of a block on diagram "<ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X>". "<W>" is the number of the associated block of diagram "<ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X>". For example, "A1.3.7.2" means that this diagram is a decomposition of block #3 on diagram A1.3.7 (i.e., ID1="A", Z=1, Y=3, X=7 and W=2).

"W" does not need to start with 1 and it need not be sequential, i.e., every block on a diagram does not need to be decomposed.>

**Figure 5-6: <ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X>.<W> Process Flow Diagram**

<Insert process flow diagram here>

**Table 5-9: <ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X>.<W> Actors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actor (Swimlane)** | **Description** |
| <Topmost Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |
| <Next Lower Swimlane Label> | <Description of Swimlane Actor> |

**Table 5-10: <ID1><Z>.<Y>.<X>.<W> Process Steps**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Description** | **Business Rules** |
| ① | <Diagram Block#1 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |
| ② | <Diagram Block#2 Label><Description of process step, i.e., ><The <Swimlane Actor> performs an <Action>.> | → <Business rule, if any> |

# Appendix A – Glossary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Abbreviation** | **Description** |
| ConOps | Concept of Operations |
| IR | [NARA Organization] Requirements Management Division, Information Services |
| NARA | National Archives and Records Administration |
| PDD | Process Descriptions Document |
| SA | Stakeholder Analysis |
| TBD | To Be Determined |
| <Acronym> | <Description of Acronym> |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Description** |
| <Term1> | <Description of Term1> |
| <Term2> | <Description of Term2> |

<Delete the word *Template* from the title page and the footer. Do not forget to remove the watermark! To remove the watermark in the entire document using Microsoft® Word®, select the entire document (Ctrl-A) then do Ribbon > Design > Page Background > Watermark from Page Background group > *Remove Watermark*.>

1. Note that a process step is decomposed to provide more detail only when necessary, so a separate process description/diagram may not exist for every process step; thus, Z2.4.2 appears to be missing in Figure 4-1 but it just means that process step 2 of Z2.4 does not require decomposition into its own description/diagram. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. The notional ordering of the swimlanes is sometimes altered when it results in a clearer or easier to understand process flow diagram. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. This ordering of the process flow diagram's swimlanes is in support of the way that the diagram is intended to be traversed, i.e., from top to bottom and left to right. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Higher-level diagrams typically use organizations, groups or classes as actors; lower-level diagrams typically use roles, positions, systems, system processes or system modules / components as actors. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)