

10.0 Exchange Interactions Business Processes

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10.1 Introduction and Scope of Effort

The Exchange Interactions messages define the data exchange interfaces necessary to support an Exchange, a specific type of Marketplace that aggregates and intermediates supply and demand on behalf of Buyers and Sellers. Within the context of Exchanges, multiple Exchanges (or Marketplaces) may interact and interoperate. The terms “Exchange” and “Marketplace” are used interchangeably throughout this chapter.

To fully understand the context for the messages in this section the reader should consult the following additional sections in this publication: Section 1 - Introduction, Section 2 - Design Guidelines, Section 3 - Common Data Elements, and the Data Dictionary, Version 3.0.

10.1.1 Exchange Interactions Messages

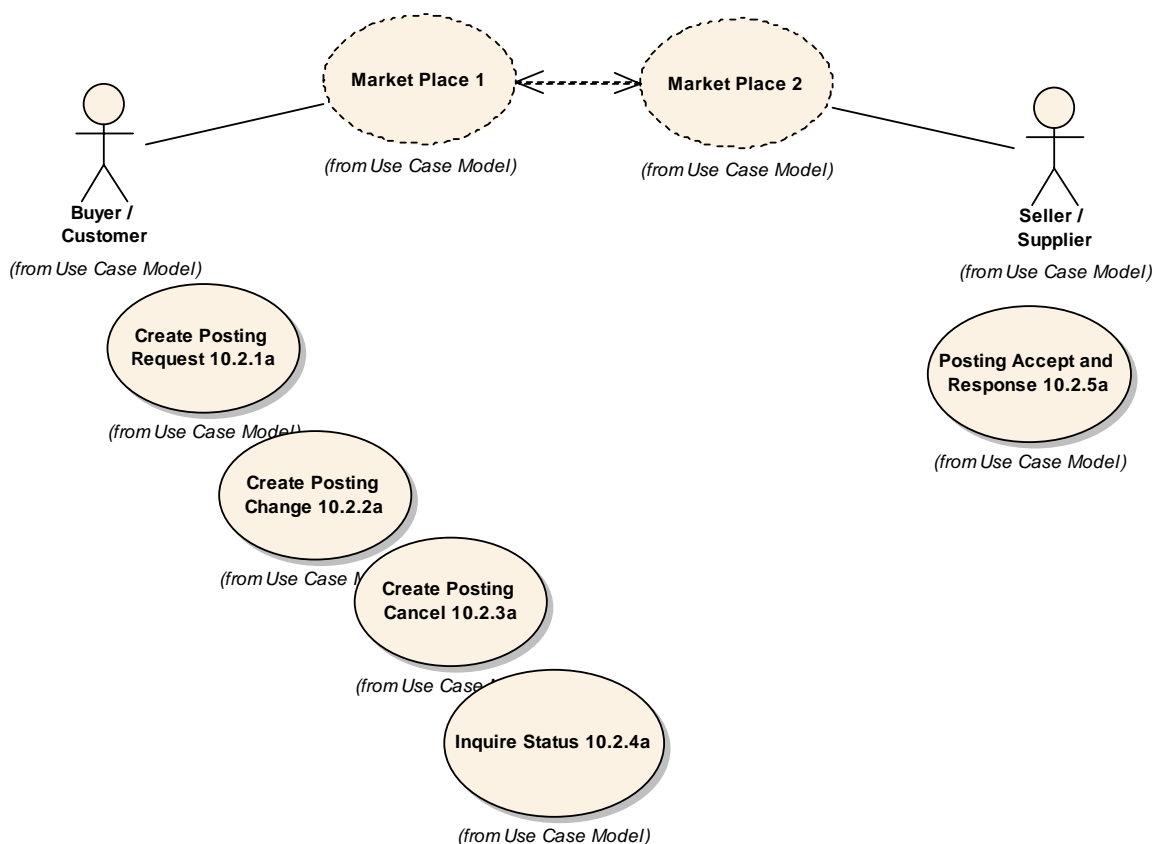
The following business transactions are discussed in this section:

PostingCreate	<p>The Posting Create message is used to create a buy or sell posting on a Marketplace. It contains both line-item detail for one or more line items and general instructions that apply to all of the line items.</p> <p>Posting Create requests are sent to Marketplaces only and may be sent by Buyers, Sellers, or other Marketplaces. This message is part of a request/response pair and anticipates a Posting Response message in reply.</p>
PostingChange	<p>The Posting Change message is used to request changes to an existing posting. Change requests may be against specific line items or they may relate to the global, posting-level parameters that impact all of the posting’s line items. Line item change requests include operations to Add, Modify, and Delete line items.</p> <p>Posting Change requests are sent to Marketplaces only and may be sent by Buyers, Sellers, or other Marketplaces. This message is part of a request/response pair and anticipates a Posting Response message in reply.</p>
PostingResponse	<p>The Posting Response message is used to communicate the acceptance or rejection of Posting Create and Posting Change requests. Posting Response messages are only sent by Marketplaces and are sent to the Buyers, Sellers, or other Marketplaces who initiated the Posting Create or Posting Change requests.</p>
PostingCancel	<p>The Posting Cancel message is used to request that a posting and all of its line items be removed and rendered inactive. The request has no impact on individual line items that have already been deleted by a previous Posting Change request or accepted by a previous Posting Accept request.</p>

	<p>Posting Cancel requests are sent to Marketplaces only and may be sent by Buyers, Sellers, or other Marketplaces. This message is part of a request/response pair and anticipates a Posting Cancel Response message in reply.</p>
PostingCancelResponse	<p>The Posting Cancel Response message is used to communicate the success or failure of a Posting Cancel request. Posting Cancel Response messages are only sent by Marketplaces and are sent to Buyers, Sellers, or other Marketplaces who initiated the Posting Cancel request.</p>
PostingStatusRequest	<p>The Posting Status Request message is a request used to inquire about the status of a specific posting, including the status of its individual line items.</p> <p>Posting Status Request requests are sent to Marketplaces only and may be sent by Buyers, Seller, or other Marketplaces. This message is part of a request/response pair and anticipates a Posting Status Response message in reply.</p>
PostingStatusResponse	<p>The Posting Status Response message is used to communicate the status of a posting and its individual line items. Although the status of a posting and its line items may be particular to each Marketplace, in general a posting may be active or inactive. If a posting is active, its line items may generally be active, deleted, or accepted.</p> <p>The Posting Status Response message is only sent by the Marketplace. They may be sent to the Buyers, Sellers, or other Marketplaces who initiated Posting Status Request requests, or they may also be “pushed” to Buyers, Sellers, and other Marketplaces without having received a prior Posting Status Request message.</p>
PostingAccept	<p>The Posting Accept message is a request used to indicate that a buyer or seller wishes to accept one or more line items associated with a posting. The line items are not considered accepted, however, until a confirmation is received in a subsequent Posting Accept Response message.</p> <p>Posting Accept requests are sent to Marketplaces only and may be sent by Buyers, Sellers, or other Marketplaces. This message is part of a request/response pair and anticipates a Posting Accept Response message in reply.</p>
PostingAcceptResponse	<p>The Posting Accept Response message is used to communicate the acceptance or rejection of the Posting Accept Request.</p> <p>Posting Accept Response messages are only sent by Marketplaces and are sent to Buyers, Sellers, or other Marketplaces who initiate the Posting Accept requests.</p>

10.1.2 Key Scope Assumptions

- Postings only exist in the context of an Exchange or Marketplace. Buyers and Sellers do not exchange Posting Changes between themselves directly.
- Exchanges and Marketplaces that originate, host, and manage postings may or may not be homogeneous.
- Posting attributes and behaviors may be extended or over-ridden by each Exchange and Marketplace subject to prior agreements with the Buyers and Sellers who create the postings
- Marketplaces and Exchanges only interoperate under mutual agreement.
- The business rules governing how postings are processed, displayed, routed, and accepted are particular to each Exchange and Marketplace, and are out of scope.



10.1.3 Key Business Model Assumptions

Pre-Conditions that exist prior to generating a Posting transaction:

- The rules that govern the conditions under which a posting may be exported, and to whom, are primarily established under prior agreements between the Exchanges or Marketplaces and the originators of the postings.
- Buyer-specific and Seller-specific trading preferences are established by prior agreement with each individual Marketplace and may not be consistent across multiple marketplaces.
- Buyers and Sellers may be simultaneously registered and active across multiple Marketplaces

Business assumptions that govern the exchange of messages:

- Exchanges or Marketplaces are capable of hiding or withholding the identities of the Buyers and Sellers they represent.
- Postings may be shared across two or more Exchanges or Marketplaces simultaneously.
- For postings with restrictions that limit viewing or acceptance, these restrictions are capable of being communicated and enforced across multiple Exchanges or Marketplaces if these postings are exported.
- The Originating Marketplace, i.e., the first Exchange or Marketplace that registers the posting, maintains control of the posting throughout the posting's life cycle. In particular, a posting cannot be accepted without confirmation of the acceptance from the Originating Marketplace.
- The individual line items of postings with multiple line items can be canceled, deleted, changed, or accepted independently of one another.

Transaction assumptions that govern the exchange of messages:

- Messages relating to an instance of a posting that was created through a series of Marketplaces must traverse that same series of Marketplaces, even if the identity of the Originating Marketplace is known.
- Marketplaces and Exchanges that interoperate take appropriate measures to ensure that postings do not get replicated between them in a circular fashion.

10.2 Business Process Descriptions and Diagrams

A **posting** is a business object that represents an intention to either buy or sell a specific product under certain terms and conditions. Postings may therefore be either buy-side or sell-side postings.

Postings exist and are hosted exclusively on Exchanges or Marketplaces that aggregate and intermediate supply and demand on behalf of Buyers and Sellers. The technique used to intermediate supply and demand may vary from one Exchange or Marketplace and another. Examples of intermediation techniques include simple bulletin boards, auctions, and real-time bid-ask trading platforms.

A Buyer or Seller who initially requests the creation of a posting is known as the **posting originator**, or simply as the **originator**.

An Exchange or Marketplace that accepts a posting directly from a Buyer or Seller is known as the **Originating Marketplace** to distinguish it from other Exchanges or Marketplaces that may subsequently host exported instances of the original posting.

In addition to any instructions that may be contained in a posting itself, the general way that an Exchange or Marketplace handles postings is subject to both the Exchange's own business rules and those that are established between itself and its community of Buyers and Sellers under prior agreement. Examples include the types of posting attributes and behaviors that are available, the anonymity of the originator, special filtering criteria that restricts who may see and/or accept a posting, and rules governing what information and to which other Exchanges or Marketplaces a posting may be exported.

Postings are exported from one Marketplace to another when an Exchange or Marketplace wishes to extend the reach or exposure of a posting originated or hosted by that Marketplace in order to increase the likelihood of matching Buyers and Sellers. This is most likely to occur as Exchanges and Marketplaces develop different advantages or areas of expertise based on products, regions, or customers.

Examples:

- A chemical Buyer at an automotive company accesses the market through an Automotive Exchange. The Automotive Exchange may pass-through, aggregate, or disaggregate chemical postings and then export these postings to one or more Chemical Exchanges.
- A Seller accesses the market through a Chemical Exchange or Marketplace. The Seller wants to specifically target the pulp and paper market in North America for its surplus production. The Seller originates a sell-side posting on the Chemical Exchange, which then exports the posting to a North American Pulp and Paper Exchange.
- Two Chemical Exchanges share similar markets. One Exchange has a surplus demand and the other has a surplus supply for a particular product. By sharing postings, both Exchanges increase the chances of matching their Buyers and Sellers.
- A general purpose Chemical Exchange receives a posting for a product that is handled by a Chemical Exchange that serves a particular niche. The general purpose Exchange may export the posting to the niche Exchange.

10.2.1 PostingCreate / Posting Response

The general business process model for the Posting Create / Posting Response transactions are depicted in the following diagram. Solid thick lines illustrate the transactions from one Marketplace to another Marketplace. Solid thin lines illustrate the unsupported transactions (i.e. communications via phone, fax, e-mail, etc) that are not included in these Chem eStandards.

SECTION 10- EXCHANGE INTERACTIONS

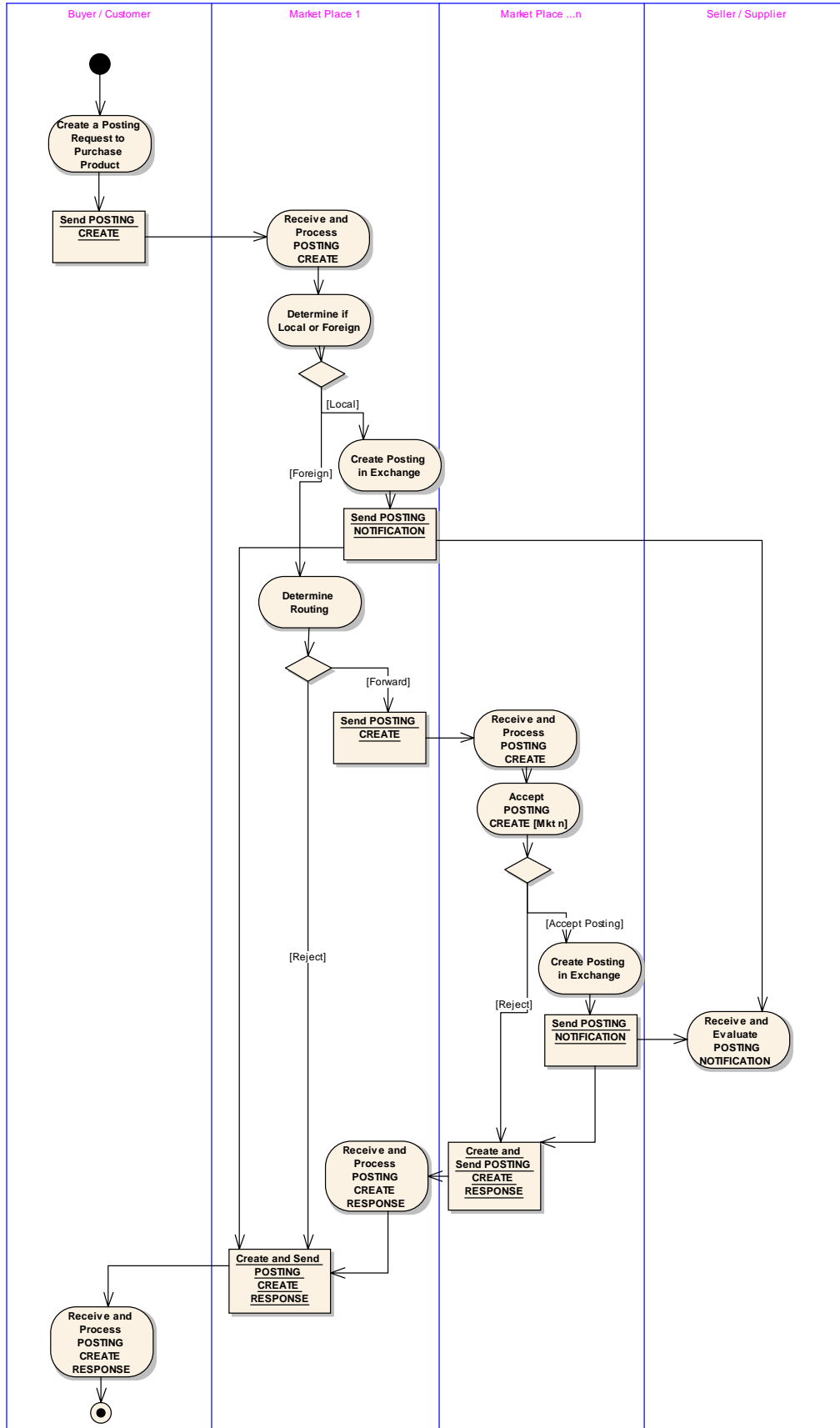


Figure 10.2.1.a: PostingCreate / PostingResponse transactions

This diagram illustrates the process and transaction model by which a Buyer-initiated posting is created and managed across multiple Marketplaces. A similar diagram could be constructed for Seller-initiated postings and would be opposite, but symmetrical, to the diagram shown above.

Business Scenarios for PostingCreate / PostingResponse

Specific scenarios that initiate a PostingCreate transaction and its corresponding Posting Response message are presented below

- **Business Scenario 1**

A Buyer with a specific demand places a request with a Marketplace (M_1) to create a posting on behalf of the Buyer.

The Marketplace may accept or reject the new posting

If the posting is accepted, the Marketplace may choose to alert the community of Sellers about the Posting.

- **Business Scenario 2**

The Marketplace (M_1) may export the posting to another Marketplace (M_2) using the Posting Create message defined in this standard.

The other Marketplace may accept or reject the new posting

M_2 's decision to accept or reject the posting is communicated to M_1 using the Posting Response message defined in this standard.

The Posting Create process begins with a Buyer that has a specific demand who places a request with Marketplace M_1 to create a posting on its behalf.

As indicated by the solid, thin line in the swim diagram, the method by which the Posting Create request is communicated to the Marketplace can be communicated by any one of several means, including telephone, fax, e-mail, etc.

The posting request includes, either explicitly or by reference, the following information:

- the identity of the Buyer.
- the effective dates of the posting.
- supplemental or over-riding preferences or instructions relating to anonymity and whether or not the posting may be exported to other Marketplaces (optional and depending on business rules and prior agreements established between the Buyer and the Marketplace).
- supplemental or over-riding preferences or instructions relating to the intended audience for the posting, i.e., those who may view and/or accept the posting (optional and depending on business rules and prior agreements established between the Buyer and the Marketplace).
- one or more line items corresponding to the Buyer's demand with line-item detail identifying the product needed, the quantities needed, packaging requirements, requested shipment or delivery dates, and so on.

M_1 may or may not accept the posting request. M_1 's acceptance or rejection may be a local decision, independent of the acceptance or rejection of any other Marketplace, or it may depend on the responses of other Marketplaces.

M_1 communicates its response to the Buyer, as indicated by the thin, solid line in the swim diagram. M_1 may respond to the Buyer by any one of several means, including the use of these Chem eStandards. If the posting is accepted, M_1 may publish the posting locally and notify or alert its community of Sellers. Note, however, that the Sellers who are permitted to view or accept the posting may be restricted per explicit instructions communicated in the posting request, or subject to prior agreement between M_1 and the Buyer.

As indicated by the thin, solid lines in the swim diagram, the notice/alert messages to Sellers are outside the scope of this standard. Notices and alerts may be communicated by any one of several means, including telephone, fax, e-mail, etc. There are no current Chem eStandards messages for communicating these notices or alerts.

M_1 may choose to export the posting (or selected line items) in addition to, or instead of, publishing it locally. The export decision may be at M_1 's sole discretion, acting as an agent for the Buyer, or under specific instruction or as directed by prior agreement between M_1 and the Buyer.

The information that is communicated between M_1 and M_2 in the Posting Create message is similar to the information that was communicated in the original posting request submitted by the Buyer. As permitted in this standard, M_1 may conceal the identity of the Buyer when it exports the posting to M_2 . This may be at M_1 's discretion, under specific direction from the Buyer, or under prior agreement between M_1 and the Buyer.

If the Buyer has indicated specific trading partner preferences regarding who may see and/or accept their posting, this information must also be communicated to M_2 when the posting is exported, or M_1 and M_2 must have a work-around to prevent M_2 from notifying, alerting, or allowing acceptances from its Sellers that do not meet the Buyer's criteria. The provision for communicating trading partner preferences is included in the Posting Create message, although not required.

M_2 's decision to accept the posting from M_1 is subject to prior agreement between M_1 and M_2 and may be influenced by other factors.

M_2 's decision to accept or reject the posting is communicated to M_1 using the Posting Response message defined in this standard. As illustrated in the swim diagram, M_1 may or may not rely on M_2 's response for formulating its own response to the Buyer.

Note that M_2 does not respond directly to the Buyer, even if M_1 has provided the identity of the Buyer to M_2 . This is based on a business model assumption that multiple communication paths relating to multiple instances of the same posting would lead to unacceptable complexity.

If M_2 accepts the posting, it notifies its community of Sellers in a like manner to M_1 . Again, as indicated by the solid, thin lines in the swim diagram, these communications are outside the scope of these Chem eStandards.

It is worth noting that the same Seller, as implied in the swim diagram, may have relationships with both M_1 and M_2 . In this case, the Seller may get two separate notices relating to the same posting, one corresponding to the original instance on M_1 and the other corresponding to the export instance on M_2 . The Seller may or may not be able to recognize that these correspond to

the same basic demand originated by the Buyer and the Seller may or may not be able to distinguish between the original instance and the export instance.

The identification codes that Marketplaces assign and use to identify and track postings are critically important in a multiple-Marketplace context. It is assumed that each Marketplace uses its own set of identification codes and that any two Marketplaces who share postings establish by prior agreement which code will be subsequently used to identify and track the postings that are exported between them.

As an example, consider a posting created on M_1 and identified by the code $M_1:P_i$. If M_1 exports the posting to M_2 , then it sends a Posting Create message using its posting identification code, $M_1:P_i$. Whether M_2 accepts or rejects the posting, it needs to reference M_1 's code, M_1P_i , in the Posting Response message.

If M_2 accepts the posting and assigns its own identification code, $M_2:P_j$, it may also communicate this code back to M_1 in the Posting Response message. It may do so as information only or as a confirmation number. But M_1 and M_2 may have also agreed that M_2 's code would become the primary code for any subsequent communications between them regarding the posting. Whatever the agreement, at least one of the two Marketplaces needs to keep a table that stores the mapping between the two identification codes.

With each Marketplace maintaining its own identification codes, an interesting - and potentially dangerous - situation can arise when there are three or more Marketplaces hosting instances of the same posting.

Consider M_1 who has a posting it identifies as $M_1:P_i$. It exports this posting to M_2 who identifies the posting as $M_2:P_j$. M_2 , in turn, exports the posting to M_3 who identifies the posting as $M_3:P_k$. So, there are now three instances of the same posting. Now M_3 exports $M_3:P_k$ to M_1 . The standard currently does not provide any mechanism for M_1 to identify that $M_3:P_k$ is the same posting as $M_1:P_i$. If M_1 accepts the posting and identifies it with a new code, $M_1:P_m$, the same posting is replicated on M_1 and could continue to resonate and replicate itself across the three Marketplaces without end.

This could clearly become a serious problem, especially in environments involving promiscuous groups of interoperable Marketplaces or where the Marketplaces involved are highly interactive.

Solving this problem is not addressed in the current version of this standard, and it is therefore a key assumption in the business model that any group of interoperable Marketplaces or Exchanges take appropriate measures to mitigate or prevent "circular replication" from occurring.

10.2.2 PostingChange / Posting Response

The general business process model for the Posting Change / Posting Response transactions are depicted in the following diagram. Solid thick lines illustrate the transactions from one Marketplace to another Marketplace, or between the Buyer or Seller and the Marketplace. Solid thin lines illustrate the unsupported transactions (i.e. communications via phone, fax, e-mail, etc.) that are not included in these Chem eStandards.

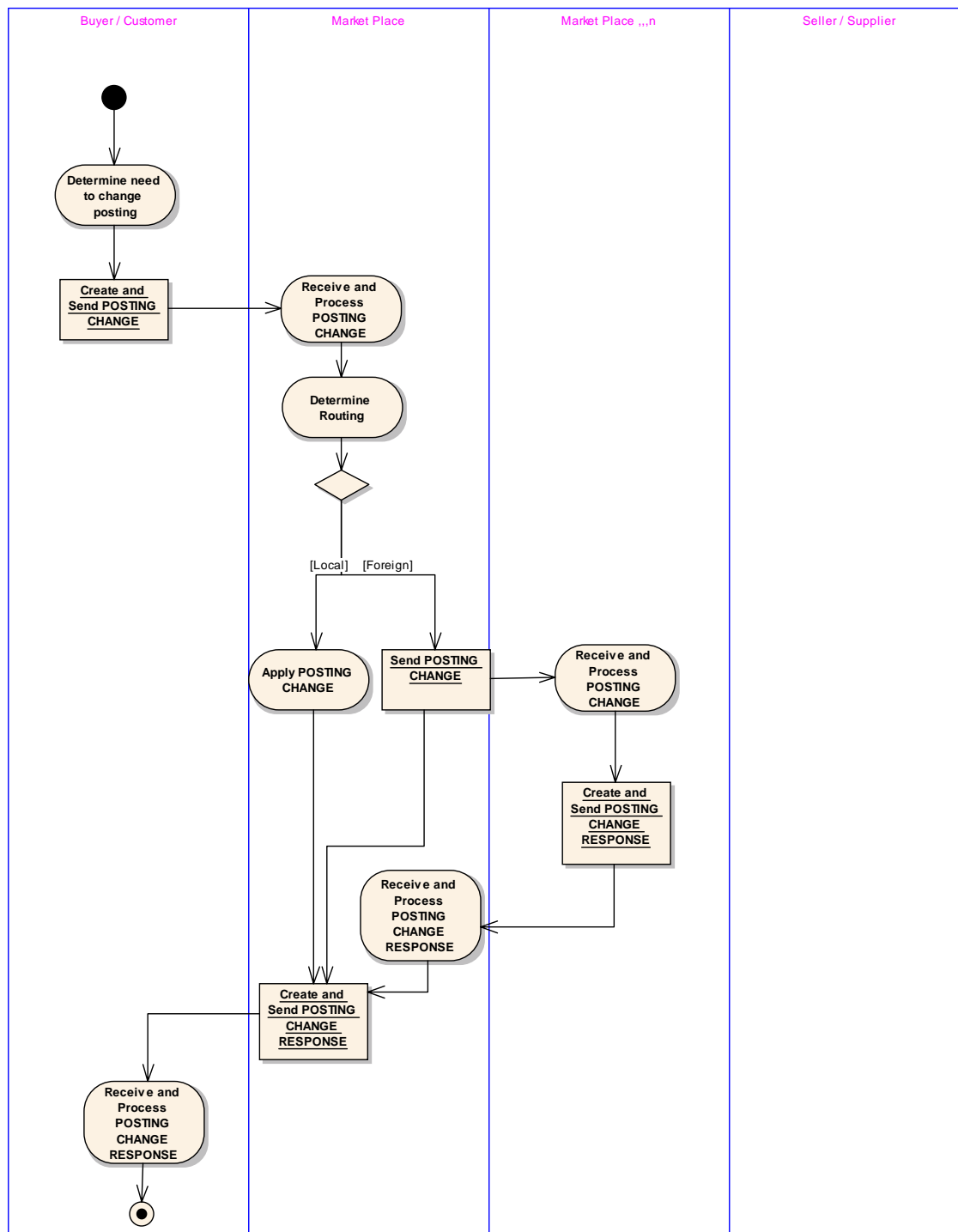


Figure 10.2.2.a: PostingChange / PostingResponse transactions

This diagram illustrates the process and transaction model in which a Buyer-initiated change to an existing posting is managed across multiple Marketplaces. A similar diagram could be constructed for changes relating to Seller-initiated postings and would be opposite, but symmetrical, to the diagram shown above.

As indicated by the thin, solid lines in the diagram, the method by which a Buyer communicates a change request can be communicated by any one of several means, including telephone, fax, e-mail, etc.

The Posting Change message allows for individual line items to be added, selectively modified, or deleted. The changes that are requested e.g., the effective dates of the posting or the posting's intended audience, may be global and affect all of a posting's line items, or the requested changes may be against specific line items.

(Note: If the intention is to delete or inactivate all line items, the Posting Cancel message should be used instead.)

Business Scenarios for Posting Change / Posting Response

Specific scenarios that initiate a Posting Change message and its corresponding Posting Response message are presented below:

Changes to an existing posting can be initiated in one of two ways:

- **Business Scenario 1**

The Buyer that originally created the posting has a change in the original demand, perhaps as a result of meeting all or part of the original demand through another channel.

- **Business Scenario 2**

The Buyer's original demand has been partially filled by a Seller's acceptance of one or more of the posting's line items (or by partially filling specific line items if the Marketplace permits partial fills).

There is no material difference in how the change to an existing posting is managed in a single Marketplace or across multiple Marketplaces.

M_1 may or may not accept the change request depending on the type of change requested and the current state of the posting and its line items. M_1 's acceptance or rejection of the changes may be a local decision, independent of the acceptance or rejection of any other Marketplace, or it may depend on the responses of other Marketplaces.

M_1 communicates its response to the Buyer. As indicated by the thin, solid lines in the diagram, M_1 may respond to the Buyer by any one of several means, including telephone, fax, e-mail, etc., and the use of these Chem eStandards. If the requested changes are accepted and M_1 has published the posting locally, M_1 may notify or alert its community of Sellers subject to the constraints that were discussed in the Posting Create/Posting Response transaction model.

As indicated by the thin, solid lines in the swim diagram, the notice/alert messages to Sellers are outside the scope of this standard. Notices and alerts may be communicated by any one of several means, including telephone, fax, e-mail, etc. If M_1 has successfully exported the posting to other Marketplaces, such as M_2 , it is responsible for communicating those changes to the other Marketplaces. As illustrated in the swim diagram, Marketplaces communicate changes using the Posting Change message defined in these Chem eStandards.

The information communicated between M_1 and M_2 in the Posting Change message is similar to the information that was communicated in the Buyer-initiated change request.

The business model assumes that the originating Marketplace, M_1 in this case, maintains control of the posting and its line items throughout the posting's life cycle. For this reason, whether M_2 makes the appropriate changes or not is irrelevant. If it does not make the changes, M_2 runs the risk that its Sellers may accept a posting based on out-of-date information. The acceptance is then likely blocked by M_1 when it receives a Posting Accept message from M_2 .

M_2 's decision to accept or reject the changes is communicated to M_1 using the same Posting Response message that is used in the Posting Create transaction model. As illustrated in the diagram, M_1 may or may not rely on M_2 's response for formulating its own response to the Buyer.

Note that M_2 does not respond directly to the Buyer, even if M_1 has provided the identity of the Buyer to M_2 . This is based on a business model assumption that multiple communication paths relating to multiple instances of the same posting would lead to unacceptable complexity.

If M_2 accepts the changes, it may notify its community of Sellers in a like manner to M_1 .

10.2.3 PostingCancel / PostingCancelResponse

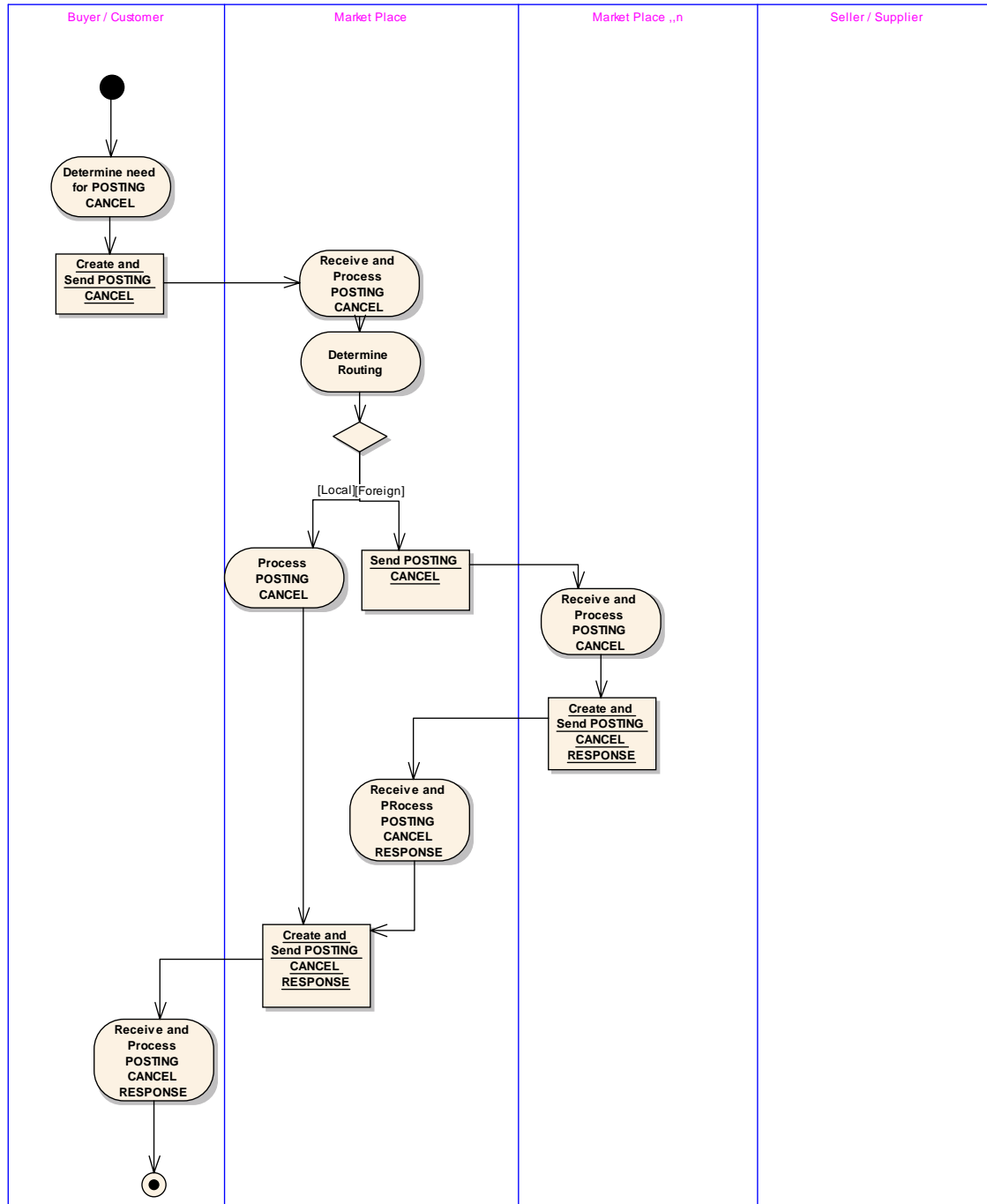


Figure 10.2.3.a: PostingCancel / PostingCancelResponse transactions

This diagram illustrates the process and transaction model in which a Buyer initiates a cancel request against one of its existing postings. A similar diagram could be constructed for a Seller-initiated cancel request and would be opposite, but symmetrical, to the diagram shown above.

Business Scenarios for PostingCancel / PostingCancelResponse

Specific scenarios that initiate a Posting Cancel transaction and its corresponding message PostingCancelResponse are presented below:

Cancellation requests may occur for two reasons:

- **Business Scenario 1**

The Buyer that originally created the posting initiates the request, perhaps as a result of satisfying the original demand through other channels.

- **Business Scenario 2**

Where multiple instances of the same posting exist, an acceptance against one of the instances takes the posting out of play, and therefore all other instances should be canceled.

A successful cancellation is one in which the posting and all of its line items are rendered inactive. For example, consider a posting with ten line items. Two of the line items are accepted, and three are deleted as the result of a change-request. A cancellation request would therefore only impact the remaining five line items that have neither been accepted nor deleted.

Cancel requests impact the entire posting, including all the line items. If line items are to be selectively removed, the Posting Change message should be used.

As indicated by the thin, solid lines in the diagram, the Buyer may communicate a cancellation request by any one of several means, including telephone, fax, e-mail, etc.

M_1 's acceptance or rejection of the cancel request, and the cancel results themselves, may be a local decision, independent of the acceptance, rejection, or results of any other Marketplace; or it may depend on the responses of other Marketplaces.

M_1 communicates its response to the Buyer and, as indicated by the solid, thin line in the swim diagram, the response messages between the Marketplace and Buyer are outside the scope of these Chem eStandards, although the possibility of using the Posting Cancel Response is a future consideration.

M_1 is expected to have a record of the other Marketplaces to which it successfully exported the original posting and it is M_1 's responsibility to communicate the cancel request to those marketplaces – M_2 in this case.

M_1 uses the Posting Cancel message to forward the cancel request to M_2 . M_2 , in turn, uses the Posting Cancel Response message to communicate its acceptance or rejection of the cancel request and the results of the cancel operation.

The PostingCancel message allows for two types of cancellation requests:

- all or nothing, in which either all of the open line items are rendered inactive or none of them are canceled.
- partial, in which all of the open line items are rendered inactive, if possible

A line-item cancellation request might fail because the line item is locked and in the process of being accepted. Line item exceptions in a failed cancellation request are communicated in the Posting Cancel Response message.

The business model assumes that the originating Marketplace, M_1 in this case, maintains control of the posting and its line items throughout the posting's life cycle. For this reason, whether M_2 successfully cancels its export instance of the posting or not is irrelevant. If it does not cancel the posting, M_2 runs the risk that its Sellers may accept a posting based on out-of-date information. The acceptance will then likely be blocked by M_1 when it receives a Posting Accept message from M_2 .

10.2.4 PostingStatusRequest / PostingStatusResponse

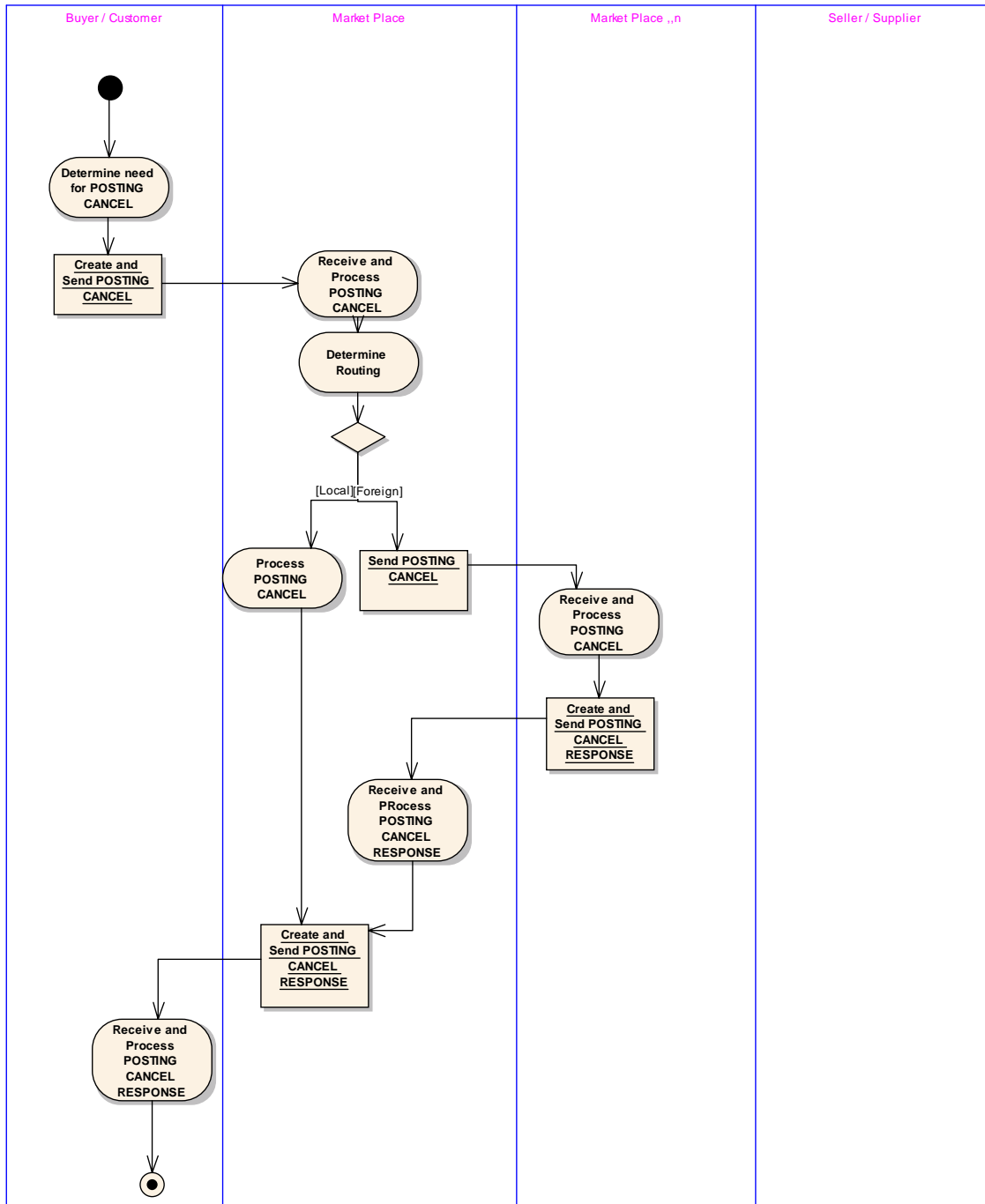


Figure 10.2.4.a: PostingStatusRequest / PostingStatusResponse transactions

This diagram illustrates the transaction model for handling a Buyer-initiated Posting Status Request. A similar diagram could be constructed for a Seller-initiated status inquiry and would be opposite, but symmetrical, to the diagram shown above.

As illustrated in the swim diagram, indicated by the solid, thin line, the means by which a Buyer-initiated or Seller-initiated query/query response is communicated to a Marketplace may be by any one of several means, including telephone, fax, e-mail, etc.

Business Scenarios for PostingStatusRequest / PostingStatusResponse

Specific scenarios that initiate a Posting Status Request transaction and its corresponding message Posting Status Response are presented below:

- **Business Scenario 1**

A Marketplace that wants to make sure that it has the most current version of a posting or one or more of the posting's line items can initiate a status inquiry.

M_1 's response to the inquiry may be based on local status, independent of the status of the posting on any other Marketplace, or it may depend on the posting's status on other Marketplaces.

To the extent that M_1 queries other Marketplaces regarding a specific posting, it uses the Posting Status Request message. The response is received as a Posting Status Response message.

In general, the status of a posting can include active, inactive, locked, canceled, or expired items. Individual Exchanges or Marketplaces may provide more detailed status information, e.g., 'received,' 'suspended,' etc.; these are currently outside the scope of the standard.

Line items have an individual status that may include active, deleted, accepted, and locked.

10.2.5 PostingAccept / PostingAcceptResponse

The general business process model for the Posting Accept / Posting Accept Response transactions are depicted in the following diagram. Solid thick lines illustrate the transactions between one Marketplace and another Marketplace, or between the Buyer or Seller and the Marketplace. Solid thin lines illustrate the unsupported transactions (i.e. communications via phone, fax, e-mail, etc.) that are not included in these Chem eStandards.

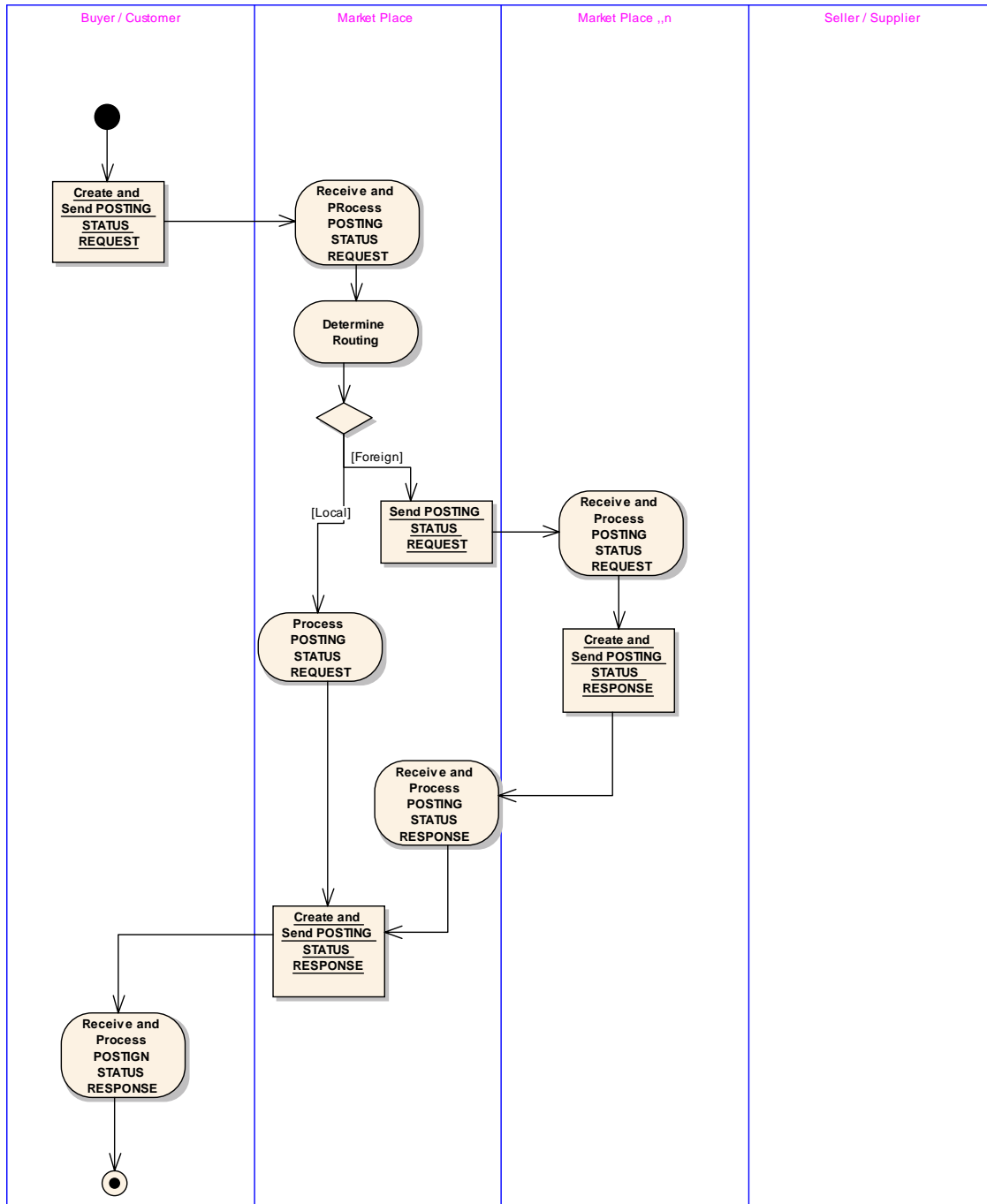


Figure 10.2.5.a: PostingAccept / PostingAcceptResponse transactions

This diagram illustrates the transaction model for accepting a buy-side posting. A similar diagram could be constructed showing the acceptance of a sell-side posting that would be opposite, but symmetrical, to the diagram shown above.

Business Scenarios for PostingAccept / PostingResponse

Specific scenarios that initiate a Posting Accept transaction and its corresponding Posting Accept Response message are presented below

- **Business Scenario 1**

A Marketplace receives an acceptance from a Seller

The Marketplace evaluates whether it accepts or rejects the Seller's offer.

The means by which a Seller communicates its offer of acceptance is outside the scope of the standard.

The acceptance model allows individual line items to be accepted independently of one another.

The ability to offer and accept partial quantities of a line item is Marketplace-specific and subject to prior agreements between Buyers, Sellers, and Marketplaces.

The Marketplace that receives the Seller's acceptance, M_2 , evaluates whether it accepts or rejects the Seller's offer. If the posting on M_2 was imported from M_1 , M_2 cannot confirm the acceptance of the posting without first confirming the acceptance with M_1 , the originating Marketplace. M_2 therefore sends M_1 a Posting Accept request.

The Posting Accept request must identify the Seller and it must specify the details of the line items that are being accepted. This gives M_1 the opportunity to confirm that the Seller is acceptable to the Buyer, allows the Seller to indicate a different quantity than that which is indicated in the line-item being accepted (where supported by the Marketplace), and allows M_1 to make sure that the most current versions of the line items are being accepted.

(Note: If the posting that is being accepted were on M_3 , which imported the posting from M_2 , which imported the posting from M_1 , then the acceptance request would have to cascade from M_3 to M_2 to M_1 since M_3 may not know that M_1 is the originating Marketplace.)

M_1 either accepts or rejects the acceptance request. In acceptances involving multiple line items, partial acceptances are subject to the business rules and trading partner agreements of each individual Marketplace.

M_1 responds with the Posting Accept Response message and, if an affirmative response, M_1 must identify the Buyer.

When the acceptance is confirmed, both M_1 and M_2 have all of the information they need to communicate the acceptance to the Buyer and Seller. This communication is outside the scope of this standard.

If an acceptance is confirmed, it is the responsibility of the originating Marketplace, in this case M_1 , to notify other Marketplaces where it has successfully exported the posting that the posting or line items accepted have changed or are no longer available.