**6 Conformance**

**6.1 Conformance Targets**

This Reference Architecture Foundation is an abstract architectural description of Service Oriented Architecture. As such, tests of conformance to the RAF should be concerned primarily with adherence to principles rather than technical details such as prescribed syntax or coding conventions. Relevant principles are set out in the RAF through

* the modeling of concepts and relationships (defining what it means to realize, own, and use SOA-based systems and have such systems participate in a SOA ecosystem); and
* a series of Architectural Implications.

The discussion of concepts and relationships that elaborate the SOA principles in each of the main sections above, culminates in a ‘Architectural Implications’ section (sections 3.4, 4.1.4, 4.2.3, 4.3.6, 4.4.3, 5.1.4, 5.2.6, 5.3.7, and 5.4.5), where these sections contain formal conformance requirements (“MAY”, “MUST”, “SHOULD”) in accordance with **[RFC 2119]**.

In discussing conformance, we use the term **SOA-RAF Target Architecture** to identify the (typically concrete) architecture that may be considered as conforming to the abstract principles outlined in this document.

**SOA-RAF Target Architecture**

An architectural description of a system that is intended to be viewed as conforming to the SOA-RAF

While we cannot guarantee interoperability between target architectures (or more specifically between applications and systems residing within the ecosystems of those target architectures), the likelihood of interoperability between target architectures is increased by conformance to this Reference Architecture Framework and through the semantic engagement gained both within and across SOA ecosystems.

**6.2 Conformance and Architectural Implications**

The SOA-RAF focuses on concepts, and the relationships between them, that are needed to enable SOA-based systems to be realized, owned, and used. The Architectural Implications reflect specific elements that will be reflected in a more concrete architecture based on the SOA-RAF.

Conformance can therefore be measured both in terms of how a SOA-RAF Target Architecture uses the concepts and models outlined in the SOA-RAF; and how the various Architectural Implications have been addressed.

**6.3 Conformance Summary**

Concepts described in the RAF **SHOULD** be expressed and used in the target architecture. If used, such expression **MUST** reflect the relationships identified within this document.

Terminology within the target architecture **SHOULD** be identical to that in the RAF and the terms used refer to the same concepts; and any graph of concepts and relationships between them that *are* used **MUST** be consistent with the RAF.

The SOA-RAF Target Architecture MUST take account of the Architectural Implications in the sections listed above.