



CAx-IF Recommended Practices

for

Composite Materials

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Preface

This document is to be a supplement to the existing AP 242 ed4 Recommended Practices document and is an update to Revision 4.3 Composite Material Recommended Practices document to reflect changes to Material Properties.

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Document History

Revision	Section / Figure	Change
3.4	Section 3.1.2.1	Update ply orientation specification
3.4	Figures 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22	Update figures to reflect new ply orientation specification instantiations
4.0	Section 3.1.2.3	Add descriptions of nominal vs manufacturing edge of ply
4.0	Section 3.1.2.2	Add description of multiple Rosettes
4.0	Annex A	Add Notes to define abbreviations in instantiation diagrams
4.0	Front matter	Restrict scope of this document to AP242 ed2
4.0	Figure 20	Corrected diagram to properly represent reinforcement orientation basis
4.0	Figure 8	Replaced figure with correct figure
4.1	Section 3.1.1	Added description of “associated shape”
4.1	Figure 4	Added entities used to represent “associated shape”
4.1	Sections 3.1.1.1 through 3.1.1.5	Added a NOTE referring to Section 3.1.1 for a description of “associated shape”
4.1	Section 3.1.1.5	Changed references to <code>percentage_ply_definition</code> to <code>percentage_ply</code>
4.1	Figure 11	Changed references to <code>percentage_ply_definition</code> to <code>percentage_ply</code>
4.1	Section 3.1.2.2	Added a clarification that there should be one <code>{property_definition.name = 'basis'}</code> for each rosette
4.2	Section 3.1.2.2	Changed the description of <code>curve_11</code> angle offset to match the 3ds approach agreed to by the LOTAR Composites working group
4.3	Section 3.1.2.2	Added a reverse flag to change the primary fiber direction relative to the guide curve
4.3	Section 3.1.2.1	Added guidance for courses and sectors
4.3	Section 4	Added section for 4 Limited Length or Area Indicator Assignments (LLAI)
4.3	Section 3.1.2.1	Added guidance for the use of both MEOP and EEOP ply shapes
4.3	Section 3.1, 3.1.1.5, 3.1.1.7	Minor editorial changes

4.3	Annex B	Updated the MIM long form schema reference to be for 10303-242 ed4
4.4	3.1.3	Reorganized to add a subclause for 3.1.3.3 for Material Properties, and move introductory material to other sections. Add a new introduction to 3.1.3.

Contents

Table of Contents

1 Introduction.....	7
2 Document Identification.....	7
3 Using AP242 ed4 to represent Composite Material Shape and Structure	8
3.1 Composite Part and Constituent Representations	8
3.1.1 Composite Part Structural Representation	12
3.1.1.1 Ply Laminate Table	14
3.1.1.2 Composite Assembly Table	17
3.1.1.3 Thickness Laminate Table	18
3.1.1.4 Percentage Laminate Table	20
3.1.1.5 Percentage Ply	21
3.1.1.6 Smeared Material	22
3.1.1.7 Use of Point_zone_shape to represent “Core Samples”	22
3.1.2 Composite Constituent and Shape Representations	23
3.1.2.1 Ply	24
3.1.2.2 Ply Orientation.....	26
3.1.2.3 Ply Shape.....	31
3.1.2.4 Processed Core	36
3.1.2.5 Core Orientation.....	37
3.1.2.6 Core Shape	38
3.1.2.7 Filament Laminate.....	38
3.1.2.8 Ply Laminate	39
3.1.2.9 Composite Assembly	40
3.1.3 Materials and Properties.....	41
3.1.3.1 Material Specifications	41
3.1.3.2 Material Callout	42
3.1.3.3 Material Properties	42
4 Limited Length or Area Indicator Assignments (LLAI) for laminate tables	43
4.1 Point Based LLA I	43
4.2 Line Based LLA I.....	44
4.3 Area Based LLA I (Excluding Butt and Overlap Splice Areas).....	45
4.4 Area Based LLA I (Butt Splice Area).....	46
4.5 Area Based LLA I (Overlap Splice Area)	47
4.6 User Defined	49
5 Geometric Founding of Composite Constituent Product Definitions	50
5.1 Referenced Shape in an Assembly with Additional Laminate Table Representation	50

5.2 Founding of Ply Subtypes and Composite Constituents with Respect to a Laminate Table subtype – the Most General Case	52
Annex A Abbreviations used in Instantiation Diagrams.....	53
Annex B Availability of implementation schemas	54
https://www.mbx-if.org/home/mbx/resources/express-schemas/	54

Figures

Figure 1: Composite Laminate Table ARM Subtypes	9
Figure 2: Composite Laminate Table MIM Subtypes	10
Figure 3: ARM Composite Constituents	11
Figure 4: Laminate Table	13
Figure 5: Ply Laminate Table	15
Figure 6: Part Laminate Table Sequence Definitions.....	16
Figure 7: Composite Assembly Table	17
Figure 8: Thickness Laminate Table	18
Figure 9: Multiple Zones Sharing Plies.....	19
Figure 10: Percentage Laminate Table	20
Figure 11: Percentage Ply.....	21
Figure 12: Smeared Material.....	22
Figure 13: Composite Constituents	23
Figure 14: Ply	24
Figure 15: Courses and Sectors.....	25
Figure 16 Example: Multiple Rosettes for a Laminate Table.....	26
Figure 17: Ply Orientation Angle by Cartesian Placement, Curve, Cylindrical,	28
Figure 18: Ply Orientation by Curve - Offset and Reverse Specification.....	29
Figure 19: Ply Orientation by Point Array	30
Figure 20: Ply Orientation by User Defined Specification	31
Figure 21: Types of Ply Shapes	32
Figure 22: Ply Shape.....	33
Figure 23: Flat Pattern Ply Shape	34
Figure 24: Projected Ply Shape (Surface Ply Shape or View Ply Shape).....	35
Figure 25: Processed Core – Beveled Sheet Representation Case	36
Figure 26: Processed Core – Solid Shape Representation Case	37
Figure 27: Filament Laminate.....	38
Figure 28: Ply Laminate	39
Figure 29: Composite Assembly	40

Figure 30: Stock Material	41
Figure 31: Limited Length or Area Assignments	43
Figure 32: Point Based LLAI	44
Figure 33: Line Based LLAI.....	45
Figure 34: Area Based LLAI (Excluding Butt and Overlap Splice Areas).....	46
Figure 35: Area Based LLAI (Butt Splice Area).....	47
Figure 36: Area Based LLAI (Overlap Splice Area).....	49
Figure 37: User Defined LLAI.....	50
Figure 38: Referenced Shape in an Assembly with Additional Laminate Table Representation - Most General Geometric Founding Case	51
Figure 39: Founding of Ply and Composite Constituent Shapes - Most General Case	52

Tables

Table 1: Changes in SUBTYPEs from AP209 ed1 to Current STEP Composites	8
Table 2: Laminate Table Mappings.....	13
Table 3: Ply Subtypes and Composite Constituents	52

1 Introduction

This Recommended Practices document has been prepared as a usage guide for industry. This document assumes that the reader has at least a rudimentary knowledge of both 10303 STEP and its associated AP242 ed4 (10303-242 ed4) application domains. The figures in this document are intended to provide a navigational view of portions of the AP with boxes representing entities, lines being relationships, and arrow heads indicating the pointer direction. This document is to be a supplement to the existing AP 203ed2 Recommended Practices document and is an excerpt and superset from the existing AP 209ed2 Recommended Practices document.

This document will provide pre- and post-processor recommendations where attributes from the conceptual STEP data models may not actually have values in the AP242 ed4 application domains. The terms pre-processor and post-processor refer to the applications that write and read the application data respectively. In these recommendations, the term 'no standard mapping' means there is no mapping defined in the AP's ARM-to-AIM mapping table for the data.

2 Document Identification

For validation purposes, STEP processors shall state which Recommended Practice document and version have been used in the creation of the STEP file. This will not only indicate what information a consumer can expect to find in the file, but even more important where to find it in the file.

This shall be done by adding a pre-defined ID string to the `description` attribute of the `file_description` entity in the STEP file header, which is a list of strings. The ID string consists of four values delimited by a triple dash ('---'). The values are:

Document Type---Document Name---Document Version---Publication Date

The string corresponding to this version of this document is:

CAX-IF Rec.Pracs.---Composite Materials---4.3---2025-10-02

It will appear in a STEP file as follows:

```
FILE_DESCRIPTION(('...', 'CAX-IF Rec.Pracs.---Composite Materials---4.3---2025-10-02', ), '2;1');
```

3 Using AP242 ed4 to represent Composite Material Shape and Structure

This section describes how AP242 ed4 is intended to be used to represent structures made of composite materials. This section will establish examples and limits on some of the data constructs that are not constrained in the Application Interpreted Model (AIM) of the Application Protocols (AP).

3.1 Composite Part and Constituent Representations

A composite part is made of constituents that are laminated in layers to create the part. AP 242 ed4 provides specialized product definitions to represent the structural makeup and properties of composite parts in SUBTYPEs of `Laminate_table`. The ARM EXPRESS-G for `Laminate_table` is shown in Figure 1, and the MIM EXPRESS-G in Figure 2.

NOTE: The names of the SUBTYPEs in the MIM of the original AP209 ed1 were different. These names were changed in the interests of clarity for implementers. Table 1 summarizes these changes.

New SUBTYPE Name	Old SUBTYPE Name
<code>ply_laminate_table</code>	<code>ply_laminate_definition</code>
<code>composite_assembly_table</code>	<code>composite_assembly_definition</code>
<code>thickness_laminate_table</code>	<code>thickness_laminate_definition</code>
<code>percentage_laminate_table</code>	<code>percentage_laminte_definition</code>
UNCHANGED	<code>smeared_laminate_definition</code>

Table 1: Changes in SUBTYPEs from AP209 ed1 to Current STEP Composites

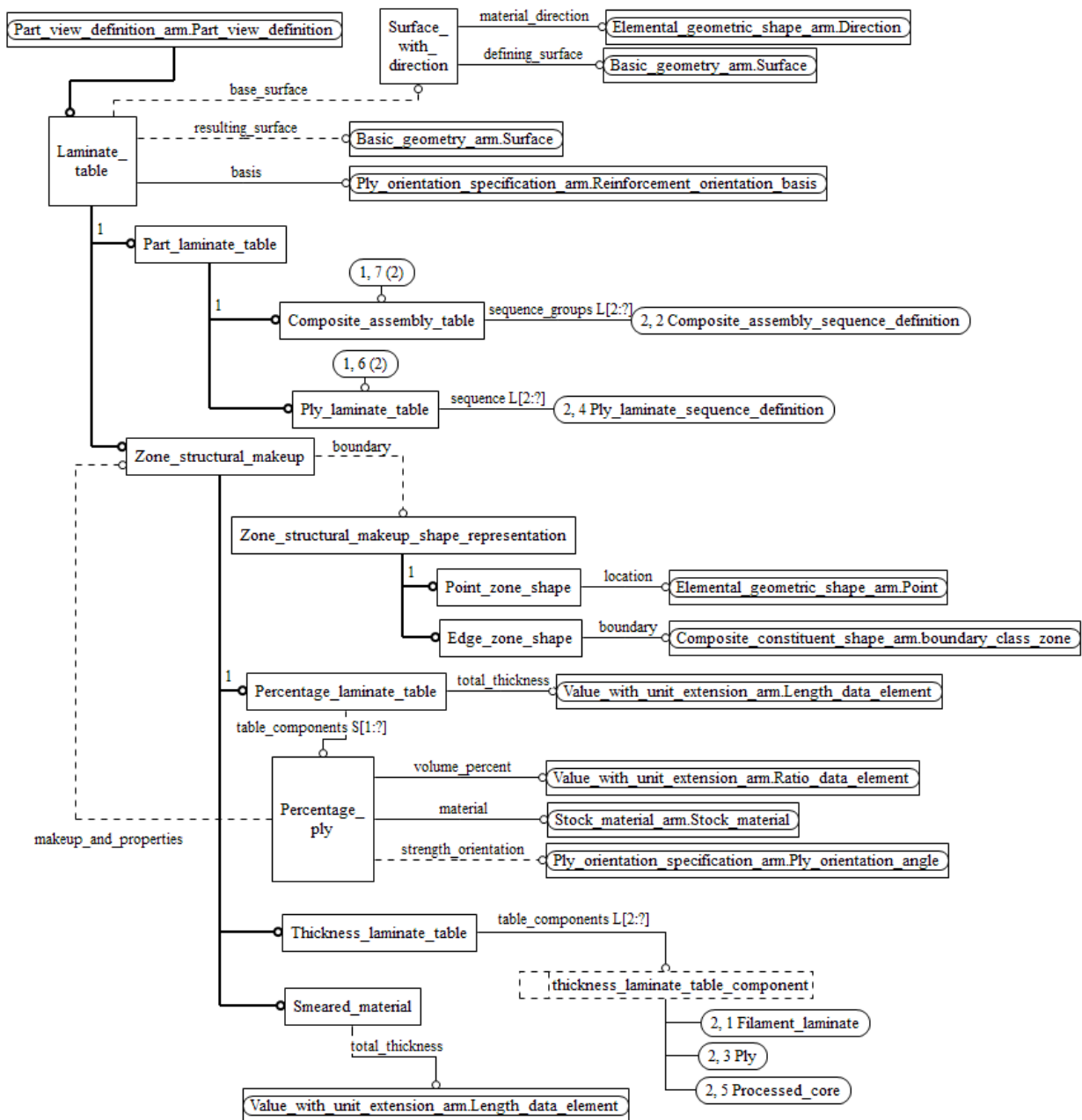


Figure 1: Composite Laminate Table ARM Subtypes

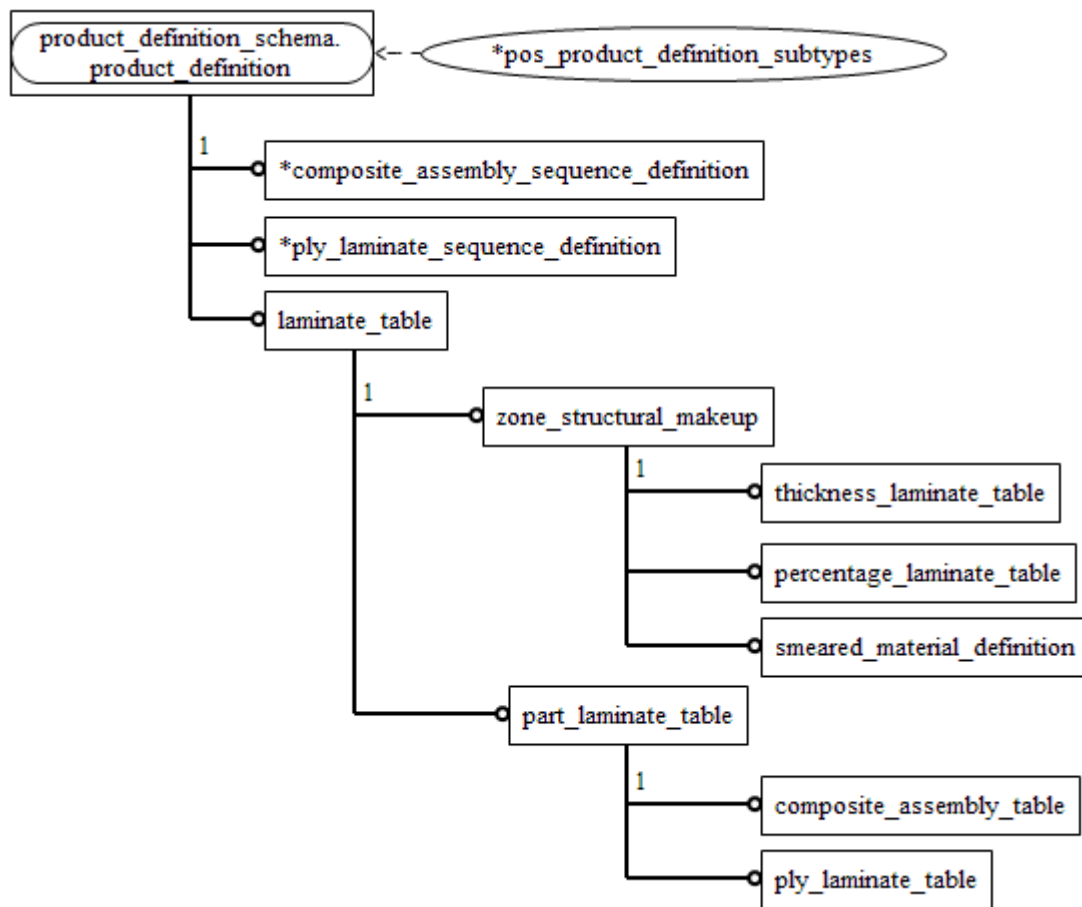


Figure 2: Composite Laminate Table MIM Subtypes

Ply, processed_core, and filament_laminate are the basic constituents in composite parts. A ply laminate is a composite part that is composed of layers or sequences of plies. A composite_assembly is also constructed in layers, except that a composite assembly may have sequences of constituents other than plies, such as processed core, and may contain ply laminates and other composite assemblies as constituents. The ARM diagram illustrating the composite constituents is shown in Figure 3.

Note that there are no specific MIM entities for the composite constituents. The instantiation rules are set in the mapping table of ISO 10303-1770 Part and zone laminate tables. Specific implementation examples are illustrated in 3.1.2.

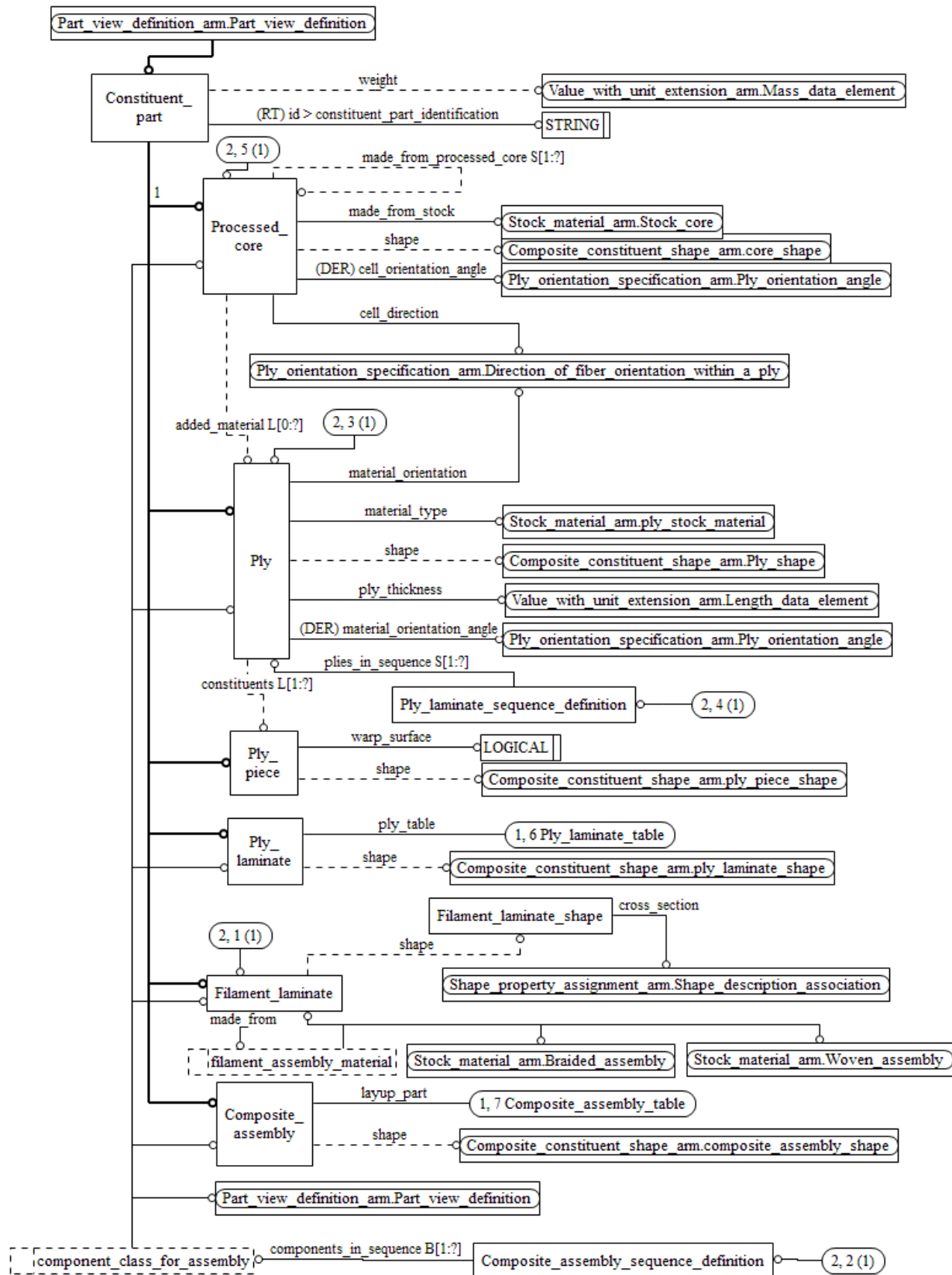


Figure 3: ARM Composite Constituents

3.1.1 Composite Part Structural Representation

The structural makeup of a composite part is described by a laminate table. The laminate table exists as one of its two subtypes: part laminate table and zone structural makeup. The part laminate table describes allocation of the physical constituents for the overall laminate, while the zone structural makeup is used to describe the physical constituents for a particular zone, area, or point on the part. The part laminate table and zone structural makeup in turn exist as one of their respective subtypes. The part laminate table is called the ply laminate table for a ply laminate part, and the composite assembly table for a composite assembly part. The zone structural makeup may be a thickness laminate table or percentage laminate table that provides allocation of the composite constituents by thickness or percentage, respectively. A smeared material definition is a special case of zone structural makeup representation, where all the composite constituents across the thickness are lumped together.

Associated with each laminate table is a `shape_representation` for the base surface of the composite part, which includes in its set of items a surface and a direction that specifies the material side. The surface and direction geometric `representation_items` shall be the first and second `representation_items` respectively in the items of this `shape_representation`. The name attribute of the surface `representation_item` is set to 'base_surface'. A second `shape_representation` may be used to represent the opposing surface that results from the build-up of material on the base surface, with the name attribute of the surface `representation_item` is set to 'resulting_surface'. Both surfaces are represented as shape aspects for the laminate table (Figure 4).

Normally the shape of a composite part is represented by the sum of the shapes of the composite constituents of the laminate table. Optionally associated with a laminate table (and therefore all of its subtypes) is zero, one or many “associated shape” for the cases where another shape representation is required to add information, typically referred to as “Edge of Part” (EOP). The representation context of these associated shape(s) must be identical or related to the representation context of the laminate table. The type of “associated shape” is defined by the `shape_aspect.name` attribute, where typical values may be such as “nominal shape” or “manufacturing shape”, while the attribute `shape_aspect.description` provides further information.

NOTE 1: Figure 4 applies to ply laminate table, composite assembly table, thickness laminate table, percentage laminate table, and smeared material as follows: Ply laminate table and composite assembly table are subtypes of part laminate table, which is in turn a subtype of laminate table. Hence, ply laminate table and composite assembly table inherit all of the attributes of laminate table and part laminate table. Likewise, thickness laminate table, percentage laminate table, and smeared material are subtypes of zone structural makeup, which is in turn a subtype of laminate table. Hence, thickness laminate table, percentage laminate table, and smeared material inherit all of the attributes of laminate table and zone structural makeup. Finally, the “associated shape” in Figure 4 applies to all the subtypes of laminate table. The mapping for these entities are as follows:

Table 2: Laminate Table Mappings



NOTE 2: Figure 4 also shows a reference to a `product_related_product_category` with a string of 'Part'. This is quite important as it documents the fact that the `laminate_table` Part is ALSO the Part that is a member of the product structure.

A laminate table is also characterized by one or many reinforcement orientation bases (rosettes). See 3.1.2.2 for a complete discussion on laminate and ply orientation specification.

NOTE 3: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 4.

The material properties to be used in the finite element analysis of a composite part may be specified by associating the overall properties to the laminate table. To this end, the `fea_material_property_representation` entity is used to relate the material property representation to the `product_definition` for the laminate table.

3.1.1.1 Ply Laminate Table

The ply laminate table that describes the sequencing of ply layers for a ply laminate is represented by a `ply_laminate_table` in AP242 ed4. The `product_definition` for a ply laminate part or constituent is related to the ply laminate table by a `make_from_usage_option`. Each layer in the laminate is represented by a `ply_laminate_sequence_definition`. The first `ply_laminate_sequence_definition` in the table is related to the `ply_laminate_table` by a `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` entity. The `ply_laminate_table` is the `relating_product_definition`, and the `ply_laminate_sequence_definition` is the `related_product_definition` in this relationship. Subsequent layers in the ply laminate are likewise related to the preceding layer through `next_assembly_usage_occurrences`, thus forming a chain of `ply_laminate_sequence_definitions` (Figure 5). The `ply_laminate_table` and the associated `ply_laminate_sequence_definitions` all point to the `product_definition_formation` for the ply laminate part.



NOTE 2: See Figure 4 and Note 1 in 3.1.1 for details of associated an “associated shape”.

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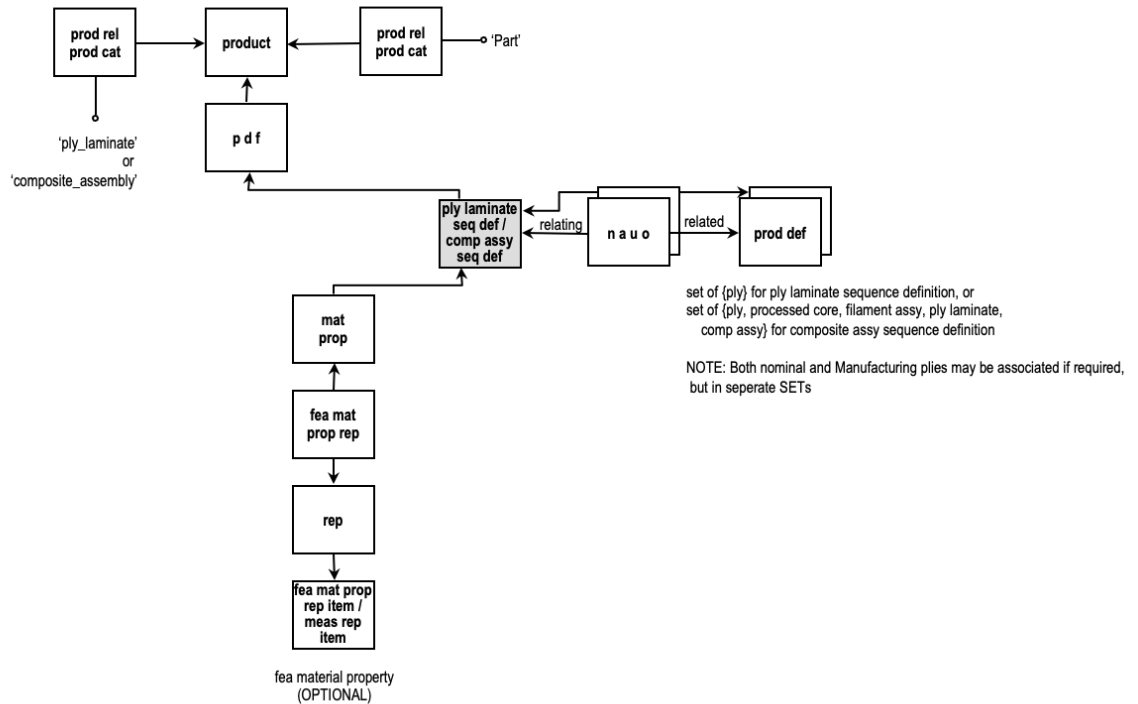


Figure 6: Part Laminate Table Sequence Definitions

NOTE 2: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 6.

NOTE 3: See Figure 4 and Note 1 in 3.1.1 for details of associated an “associated shape”.

The material properties to be used in the finite element analysis of a ply laminate part may be specified by associating the overall properties to the laminate table as discussed above (see 3.1.1.1), or by associating the properties to each sequence in the `ply_laminate_table`. The `fea_material_property_representation` entity is used to relate the material property representation to a `ply_laminate_sequence_definition`.

3.1.1.2 Composite Assembly Table

A composite assembly is similar in structure to a ply laminate, except that a composite assembly may have sequences of constituents other than plies, such as processed core, and may include other assemblies. A composite assembly structure is thus represented by a chain of `composite_assembly_sequence_definitions` headed by a `composite_assembly_table` (Figure 6). The `composite_assembly_table` and the associated `composite_assembly_sequence_definitions` all point to the `product_definition` for the composite assembly part.

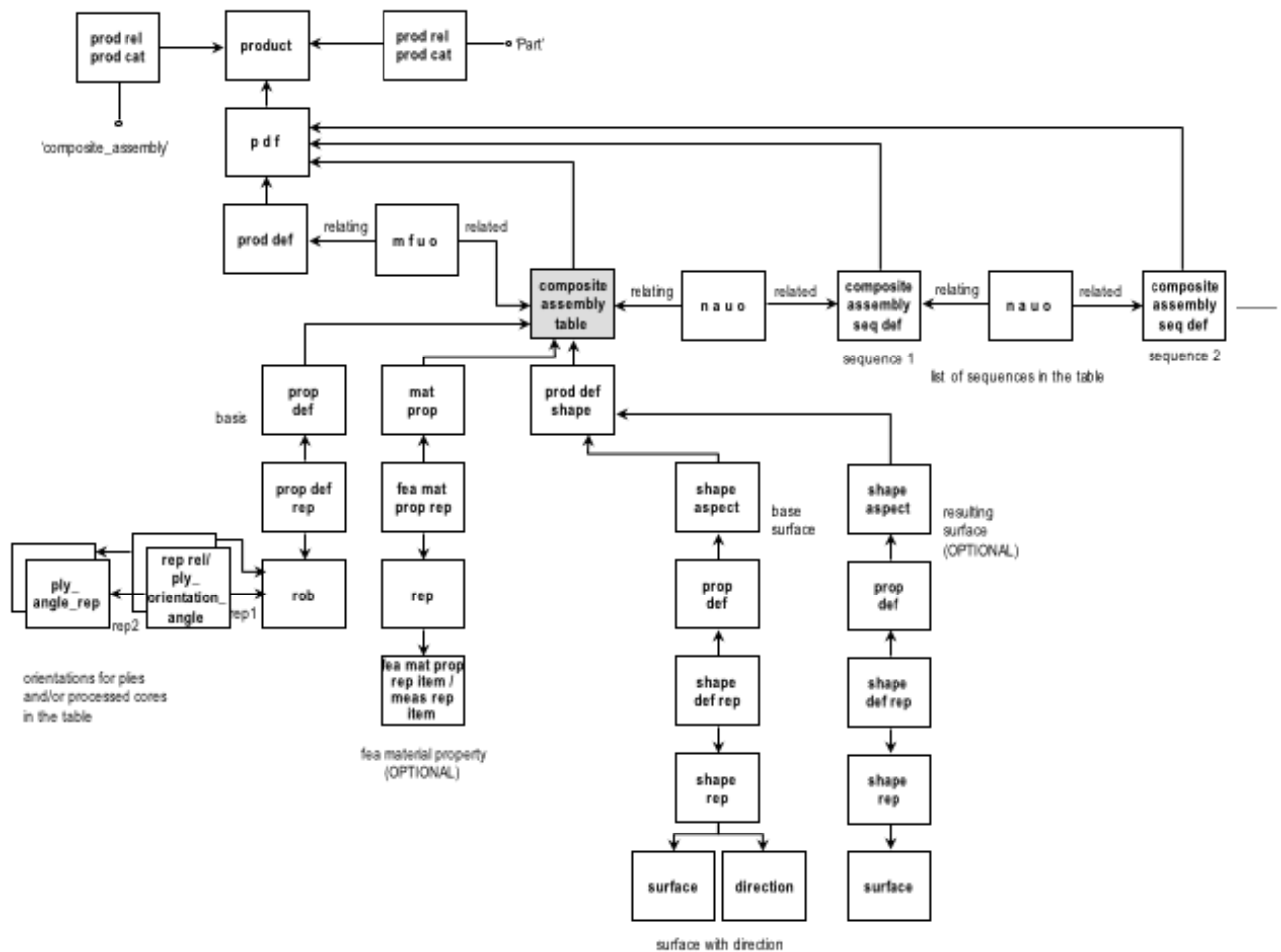


Figure 7: Composite Assembly Table

NOTE 1: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 7.

NOTE 2: See Figure 4 and Note 1 in 3.1.1 for details of associated an “associated shape”.

Like the `ply_laminate_sequence_definition`, the `composite_assembly_sequence_definition` is linked to its composite constituent `product_definitions` through branches of `next_assembly_usage_occurrences` (Figure 6).

The material properties to be used in the finite element analysis of a composite assembly part may be specified by associating the overall properties to the laminate table as discussed above (see 3.1.1.1), or by associating the properties to each sequence in the `composite_assembly_table`.

3.1.1.3 Thickness Laminate Table

The diagram illustrates the relationships between various components in a laminate table, organized into several interconnected boxes representing different data types and their relationships. Key components include:

- prod rel prod cat**: A box at the top left, connected to **product** and **prod def**.
- product**: A central box at the top, connected to **prod rel prod cat** and **prod def**.
- prod def**: A box below **product**, connected to **prod rel prod cat** and **thickness laminate_table**.
- p d f**: A box below **product**, connected to **prod def** and **thickness laminate_table**.
- m f u o**: A box below **prod def**, connected to **prod def** and **thickness laminate_table**.
- thickness laminate_table**: A central box, connected to **prod def**, **p d f**, **m f u o**, and **prod def shape**.
- prod def shape**: A box below **thickness laminate_table**, connected to **thickness laminate_table** and **shape aspect**.
- shape aspect**: A box below **prod def shape**, connected to **prod def shape** and **shape def rep**.
- shape def rep**: A box below **shape aspect**, connected to **shape aspect** and **shape rep**.
- shape rep**: A box below **shape def rep**, connected to **shape def rep** and **surface**.
- surface**: A box below **shape rep**, connected to **shape rep** and **direction**.
- direction**: A box below **surface**, connected to **surface** and **point**.
- point**: A box below **direction**, connected to **direction** and **point zone shape (OPTIONAL)**.
- point zone shape (OPTIONAL)**: A box at the bottom right, connected to **point**.
- prop def**: A box below **thickness laminate_table**, connected to **thickness laminate_table** and **prop def rep**.
- prop def rep**: A box below **prop def**, connected to **prop def** and **rep**.
- rep**: A box below **prop def rep**, connected to **prop def rep** and **fea mat prop rep**.
- fea mat prop rep**: A box below **rep**, connected to **rep** and **fea material property (OPTIONAL)**.
- fea material property (OPTIONAL)**: A box at the bottom left, connected to **fea mat prop rep**.
- ply_angle_rep**: A box at the bottom left, connected to **rep2** and **rep rel/ply_orientation_angle**.
- rep2**: A box at the bottom left, connected to **ply_angle_rep** and **rep rel/ply_orientation_angle**.
- rep rel/ply_orientation_angle**: A box at the bottom left, connected to **ply_angle_rep** and **rep2**.
- rob**: A box at the bottom left, connected to **rep rel/ply_orientation_angle** and **prop def**.
- base surface**: A label below **shape aspect**, connected to **shape aspect**.
- resulting surface (OPTIONAL)**: A label below **shape aspect**, connected to **shape aspect**.
- boundary (OPTIONAL)**: A label below **shape aspect**, connected to **shape aspect**.

Relationships are indicated by arrows, some labeled with terms like 'relating', 'related', 'basis', 'base surface', 'resulting surface (OPTIONAL)', and 'boundary (OPTIONAL)'. The diagram illustrates the flow of information from high-level product categories down to specific material properties and geometric shapes.

NOTE 1: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 8.

When multiple thickness laminate tables intersect, that is, share constituent parts, it may be necessary to distinguish the chain of next assembly usage occurrence entities belonging to a

`thickness_laminate` table form that belonging to another. This can be accomplished by using the same description for all the `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` entities in a chain that is consistent with the description for the `thickness_laminate_table` at the top of the chain. This is illustrated in Figure 9.

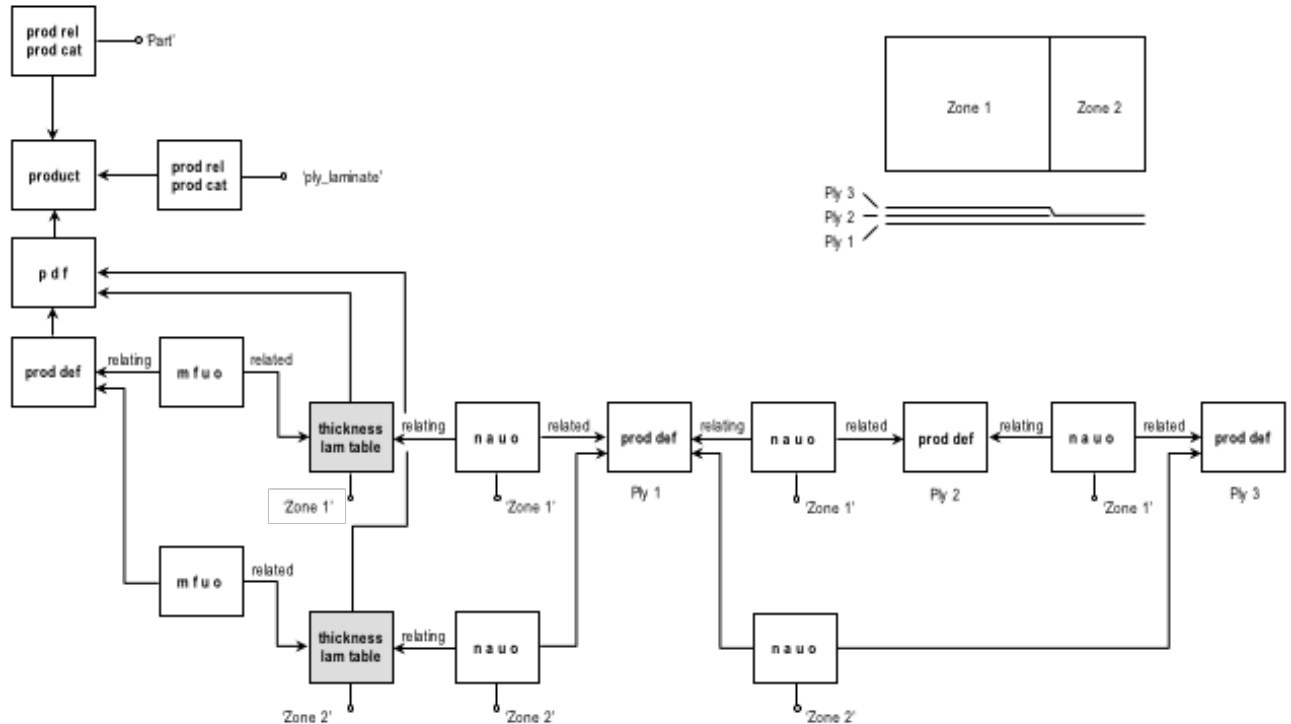


Figure 9: Multiple Zones Sharing Plies

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 9.

3.1.1.4 Percentage Laminate Table

A percentage laminate table, represented by a `percentage_laminate_table`, is used to specify the percentages of the composite constituents at a point or area of the part. The table components are percentage plies, represented by `percentage_ply_definition` entities. Each `percentage_ply_definition` is related to the `percentage_laminate_table` by a `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` entity. A `shape_representation` may be used to represent the edge or point zone shape for the percentage laminate table. A `representation` is used to specify the total thickness for the zone. The `representation` shall have a `measure_representation_item` that has a `length_measure_with_unit` in its set of items (Figure 10).

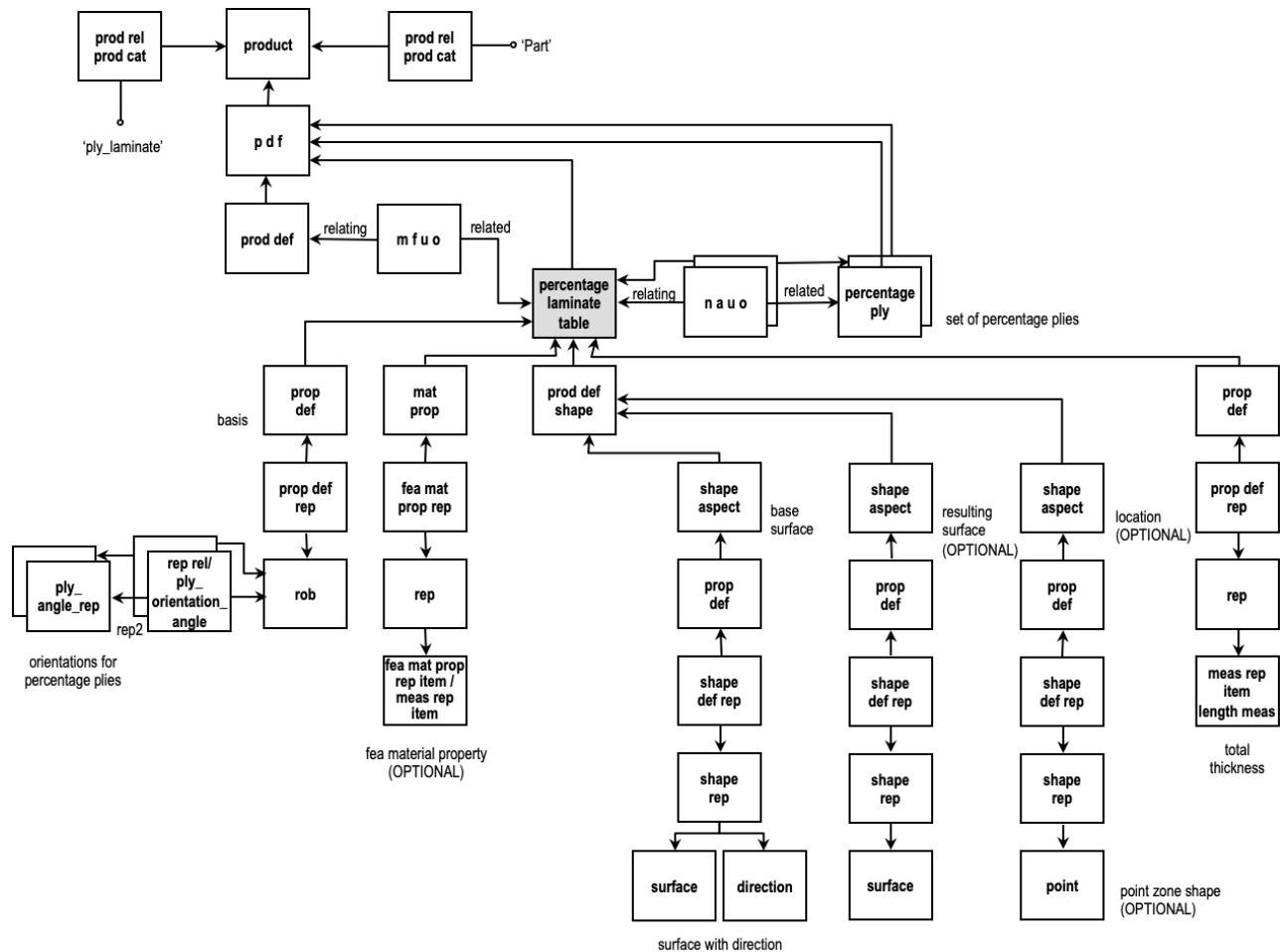


Figure 10: Percentage Laminate Table

NOTE 1: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 10.

NOTE 2: See Figure 4 and Note 1 in 3.1.1 for details of associated an “associated shape”.

3.1.1.5 Percentage Ply

A `percentage_ply` (Figure 11) is the 'composite constituent' for a percentage laminate table. A `make_from_usage_option` entity is used to relate the `percentage_ply_definition` to its `stock material product_definition`, which is associated with a product in a `product_related_product_category` with a name of 'filament_assembly', 'discontinuous_fiber_assembly', 'stock_core', 'isotropic_material', or 'anisotropic_material'. The internal makeup of a percentage ply may in turn be specified by one of the zone structural makeup representations.

A `percentage_ply` has a representation to denote its percentage. The representation shall have a `measure_representation_item` that is a `ratio_measure` in its set of items. The volume percents of the `percentage_plys` in the table shall add up to 100%.

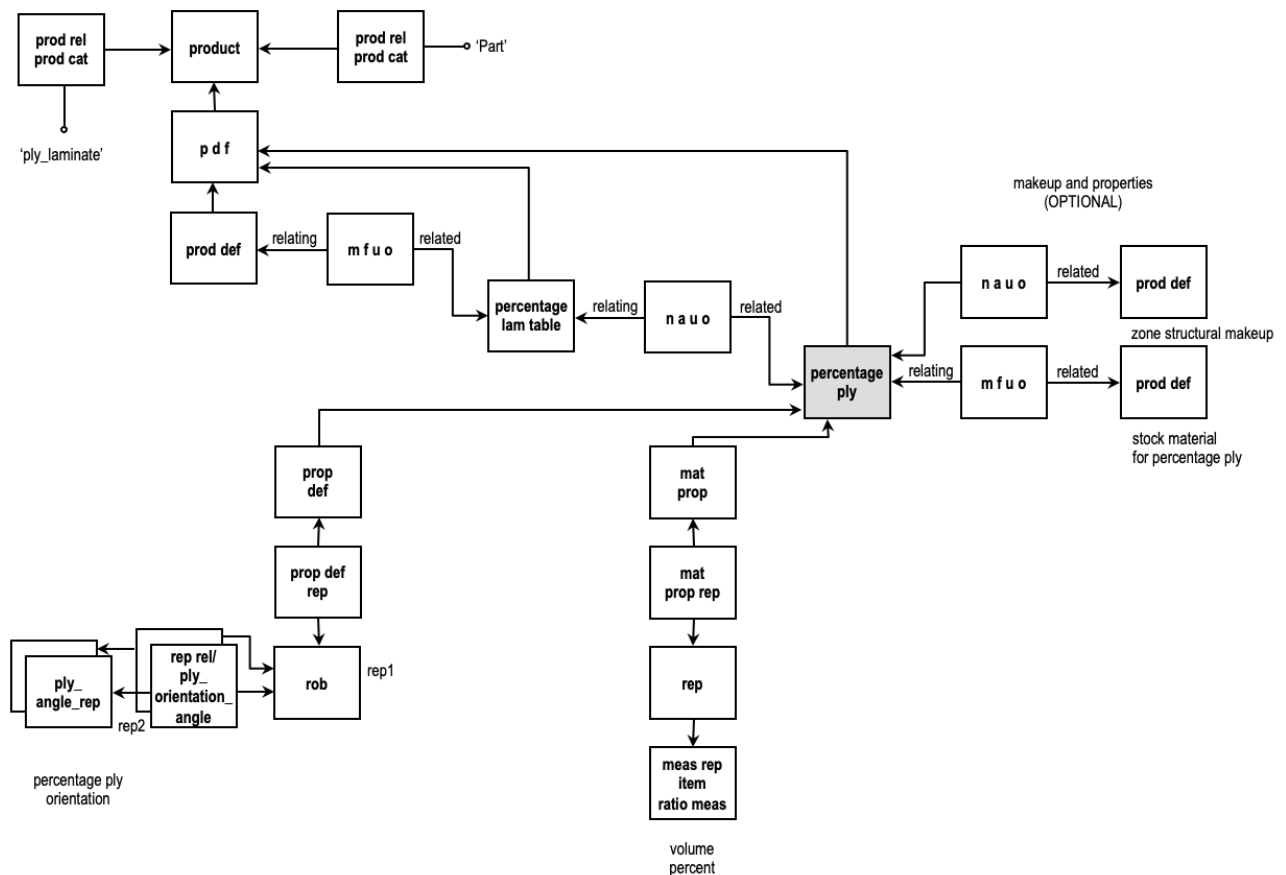


Figure 11: Percentage Ply

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 11.

3.1.1.6 Smeared Material

A `smeared_material_definition` is an alternate definition that lumps all the composite constituents together (Figure 12). A `shape_representation` may be used to represent the zone shape for the `smeared_material_definition`. A `representation` is used to specify the total thickness. If the smeared material definition is used together with a percentage laminate table or a thickness laminate table, the thickness specified for the `smeared_material_definition` shall be consistent with that for the `percentage_laminate_table`, or with the sum of thicknesses of the composite constituents in the `thickness_laminate_table`.

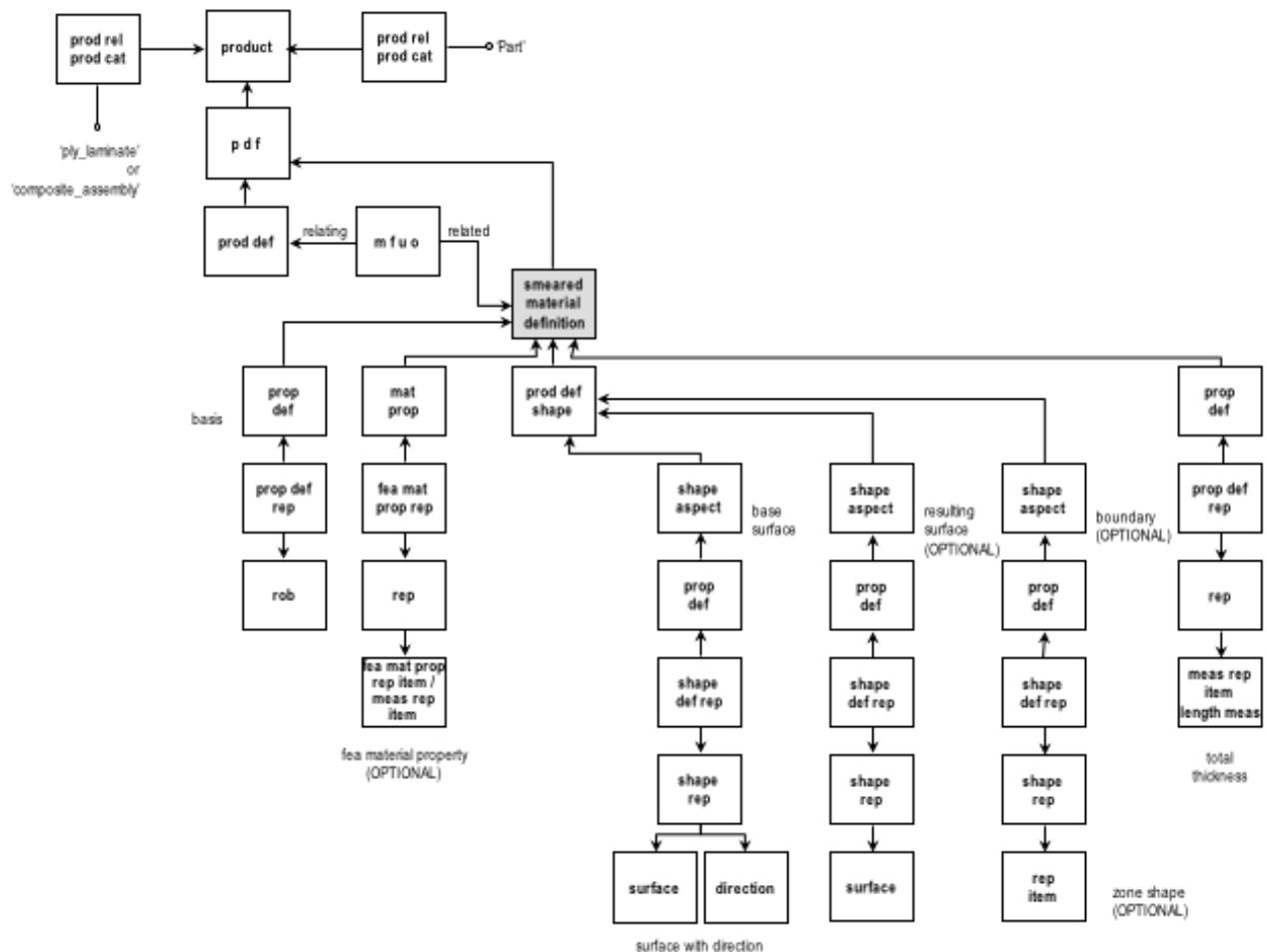


Figure 12: Smeared Material

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 12.

3.1.1.7 Use of Point_zone_shape to represent “Core Samples”

All subtypes of ARM concept `Zone_structural_makeup` (`Percentage_laminate_tabe`, `Thick-ness_laminate_table`, and `Smeared_material`) may be of type `Point_zone_shape` or `Edge_zone_shape`. It is the `Point_zone_shape` SUBTYPE that is to be used to represent “Core Samples” – i.e. the laminate table stacking sequence at a point. See Figure 8: Thickness Laminate Table, Figure 10: Percentage Laminate Table, and Figure 12: Smeared Material for the details of how to specify a `Point_zone_shape`.

In AP 203 ed2, AP 209 ed2, and AP242 ed4 ply, processed core, and filament laminate are the basic composite constituents that are layered to form ply laminates or composite assemblies. Ply laminates and composite assemblies can also be used as composite constituents in a composite assembly.

A composite constituent exists as one of its five subtypes: ply, processed core, filament laminate, ply laminate, and composite assembly. This is indicated by associating the product for the composite constituent with a `product_related_product_category` that has the corresponding name attribute of 'ply', 'processed core', 'filament laminate', 'ply laminate', or 'composite assembly'. The material for a composite constituent is specified by a `make_from_usage_option`. The constituent `product_definition` is the `relating_product_definition`, and the material `product_definition` is the related product definition in this relationship (Figure 13).



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3.1.2.1 Ply

Figure 14: Ply

If two or more ply pieces are combined together in a single layer to make up the ply, then the list of the ply pieces shall be given by a chain of `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` entities. The first `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` in the chain shall have the `product_definition` for the ply as the `relating_product_definition`, and the `product_definition` for the first ply piece in the list as the `related_product_definition`. The second `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` in the chain shall likewise link the `product_definitions` for the first and second ply pieces in the list, and so on.

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A `ply_piece` may be a `Course` or `Sector`, which provide additional information for the manufacturing of plies (Figure 15: Courses and Sector).

A `Sector` provides the order, path, and specifications of fiber placement in specific area of a `ply_piece`. The `sector_drape_order` attribute of a `Sector` is specified by a chain of `product_definition_relationship` instances between `Sectors` head to tail so as to provide order to the list. The `sector_strategy_point` attribute of a `Sector` is specified by a `cartesian_point` associated with a `shape_aspect` whose `.name` attribute is 'sector strategy point'. The `sector_strategy_curve` of a `Sector` is specified by a `curve` associated with a `shape_aspect` whose `.name` attribute is 'sector strategy curve'. The `sector_specifications` attribute of a `Sector` is specified by a `product` which has a `product_realated_product_category` whose `.name` attribute is set to 'document' that is associated by a `product_definition_relationship`.

A `Course` is a type of `ply_piece` that is made of multiple materials that are laid in sequence together and bound by the same set of parameters for the layup process. The `course_center_line` of a `Course` is specified by a `curve` associated with a `shape_aspect` whose `.name` attribute is 'course center line'. The `course_overlap_maximum_tolerance` and `course_overlap_minimum_tolerance` attributes of a `Course` are specified by a `representation` whose `.name` attribute is set to 'maximum tolerance' or 'minimum tolerance'.

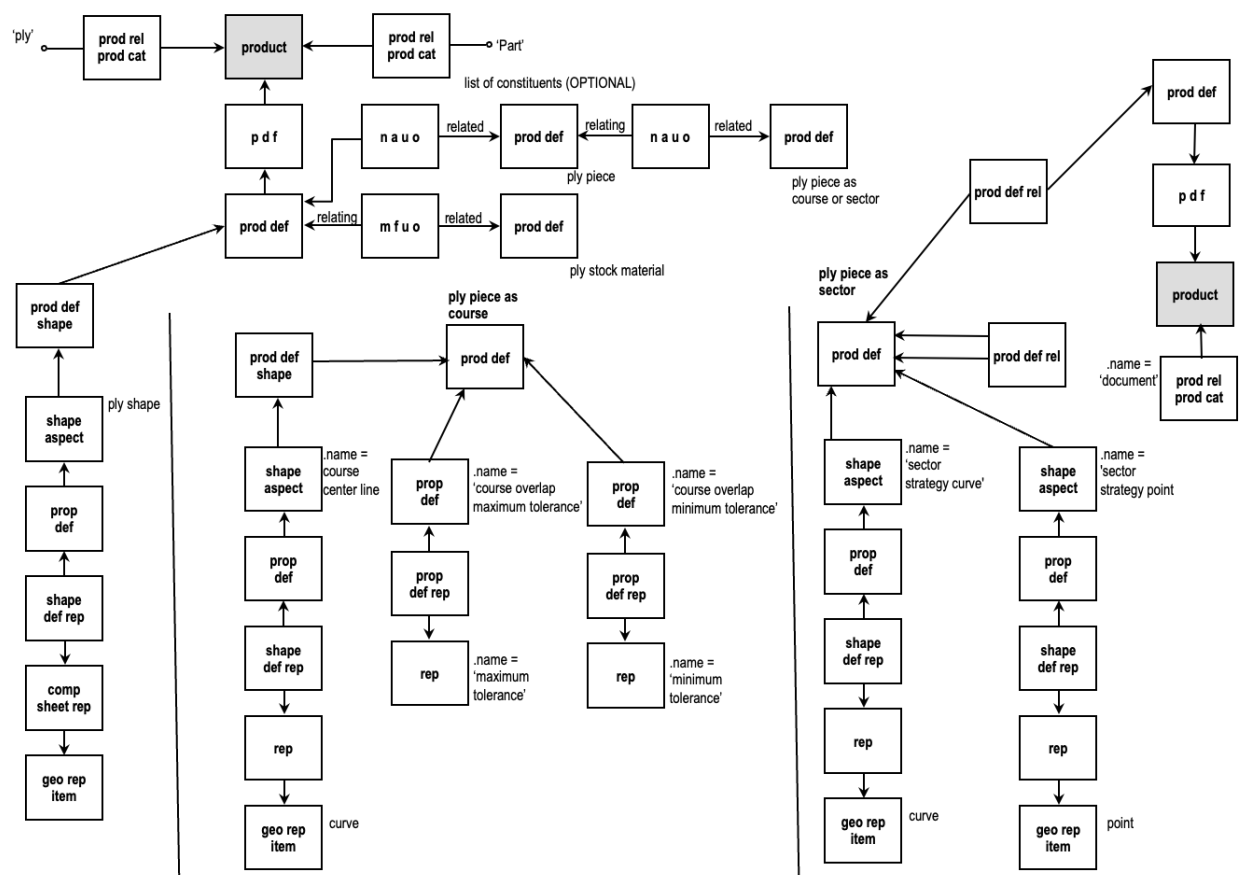


Figure 15: Courses and Sectors

3.1.2.2 Ply Orientation

A ply has a representation to denote its fiber 11 orientation, commonly called a Rosette. The 11 direction is specified by the combination of a `reinforcement_orientation_basis` that provides the reference (or basis) direction for the ply angle, and an angle that is specified with respect to that basis direction in the plane tangent to the `base_surface` of the `laminate_table`.

There may be one or many `reinforcement_orientation_basis` in a laminate table. Each ply's material orientation Rosette shall reference one of the `reinforcement_orientation_basis` of the laminate table. An example of a laminate table utilizing multiple Rosettes is shown in Figure 16.

Note that per the mapping table there should be one `{property_definition.name = 'basis'}` for each rosette:

```
property_definition.definition
{property_definition.name = 'basis'}
property_definition <-
property_definition_representation.definition
property_definition_representation
property_definition_representation.used_representation ->
representation
```

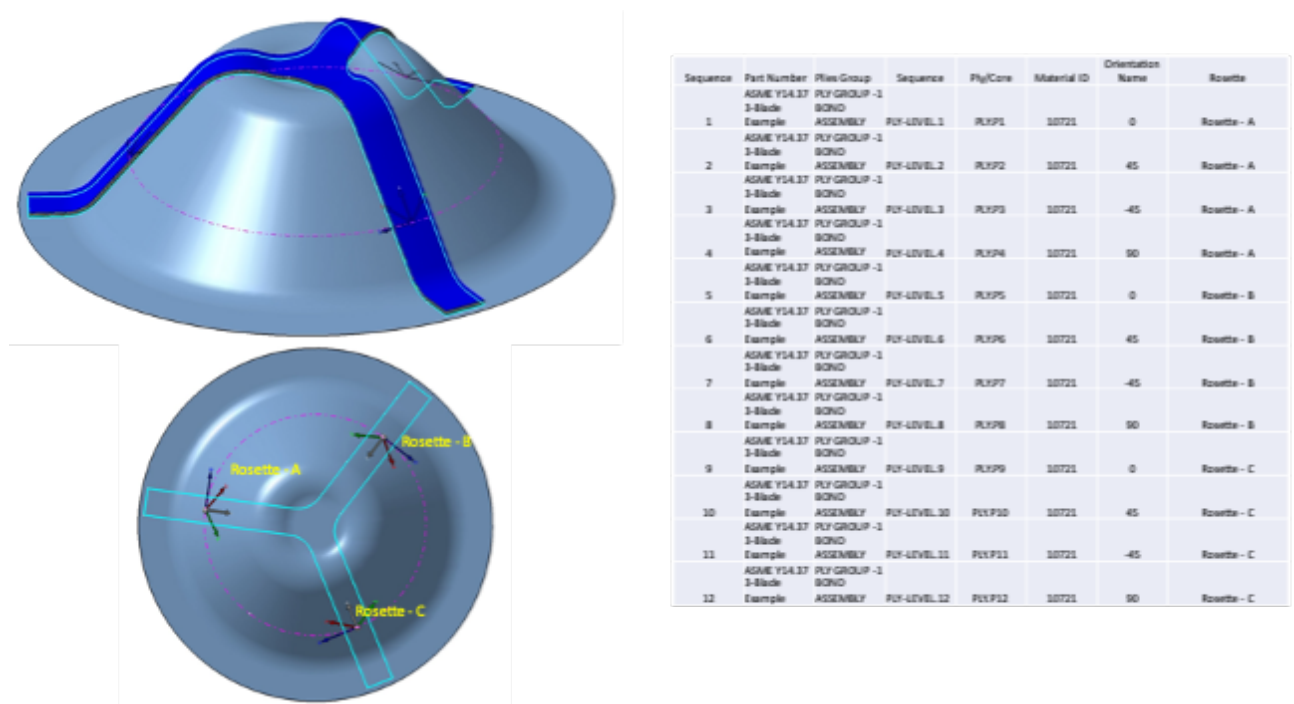


Figure 16 Example: Multiple Rosettes for a Laminate Table

There are several ways to represent basis of the ply fiber orientation (seeFigure 17):

- A `cartesian_11` Rosette specifies that the basis 11 is the 11 direction of an `axis2_placement_3d` entity whose 33 direction is the upward (towards the topmost ply in the table) normal to the `base_surface` of the `laminate_table`;
- A `curve_11` Rosette specifies that the basis 11 direction is the tangent to the specified curve at any point along the curve where the 11 direction is to be evaluated. The `ply_orientation_angle` is right hand positive around the 33 direction normal to the plane, where the plane shall be tangent to the `base_surface` of the `laminate_table`. The 11 direction has an additional angle offset that is added to the `ply_orientation` angle with

complex instantiation of `bounded_curve+composite_curve+curve+geometric_representation_item+measure_with_unit+representation_item` as in #2 in the example below:

```
#2=(BOUNDED_CURVE()COMPOSITE_CURVE($,$)CURVE()CURVE_11()  
    GEOMETRIC_REPRESENTATION_ITEM()MEASURE_REPRESENTATION_ITEM()  
    MEASURE_WITH_UNIT($,$)REPRESENTATION_ITEM($));
```

Figure 18: Ply Orientation by Curve - Offset and Reverse Specification illustrates how the `curve_11` attributes `fiber_11_offset` and `reverse` are instantiated.

- A `cylindrical_11` Rosette specifies that the basis 11 direction is a tangent to the curve at any point evaluated along a curve on the surface of the cylinder where the curve is created by the intersection of the cylinder surface with a plane through the centerline of the cylinder. The `ply_orientation_angle` is specified by right hand rule about the 33 direction of the outward facing normal to the plane tangent to the cylindrical `base_surface` of the `laminate_table` at the evaluated point;
- A `polar_11` Rosette specifies that the basis 11 direction is always in the radial direction from the center of the part. A Radial Rosette shall be placed in the exact center of the part, for example at the apex of a spherical cap. When the Rosette mapping takes place the direction of the 0° orientation is pointing outward in a radial direction. No guide curve is required. The `ply_orientation_angle` is with respect to the plane tangent to the `base_surface` of the `laminate_table` with the 33 direction parallel to the outward normal of the `base_surface`.

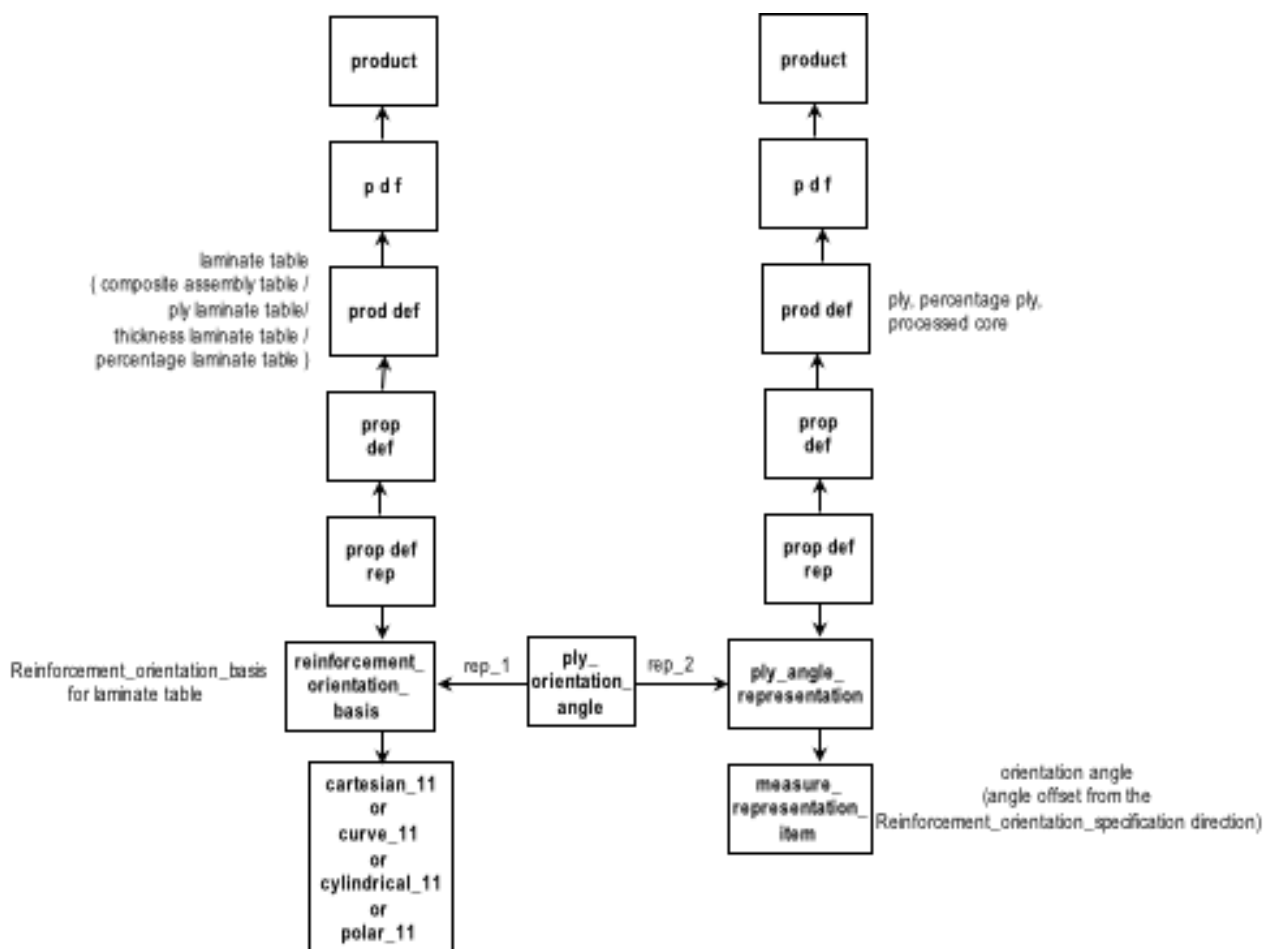


Figure 17: Ply Orientation Angle by Cartesian Placement, Curve, Cylindrical, or Polar 11 Basis Direction

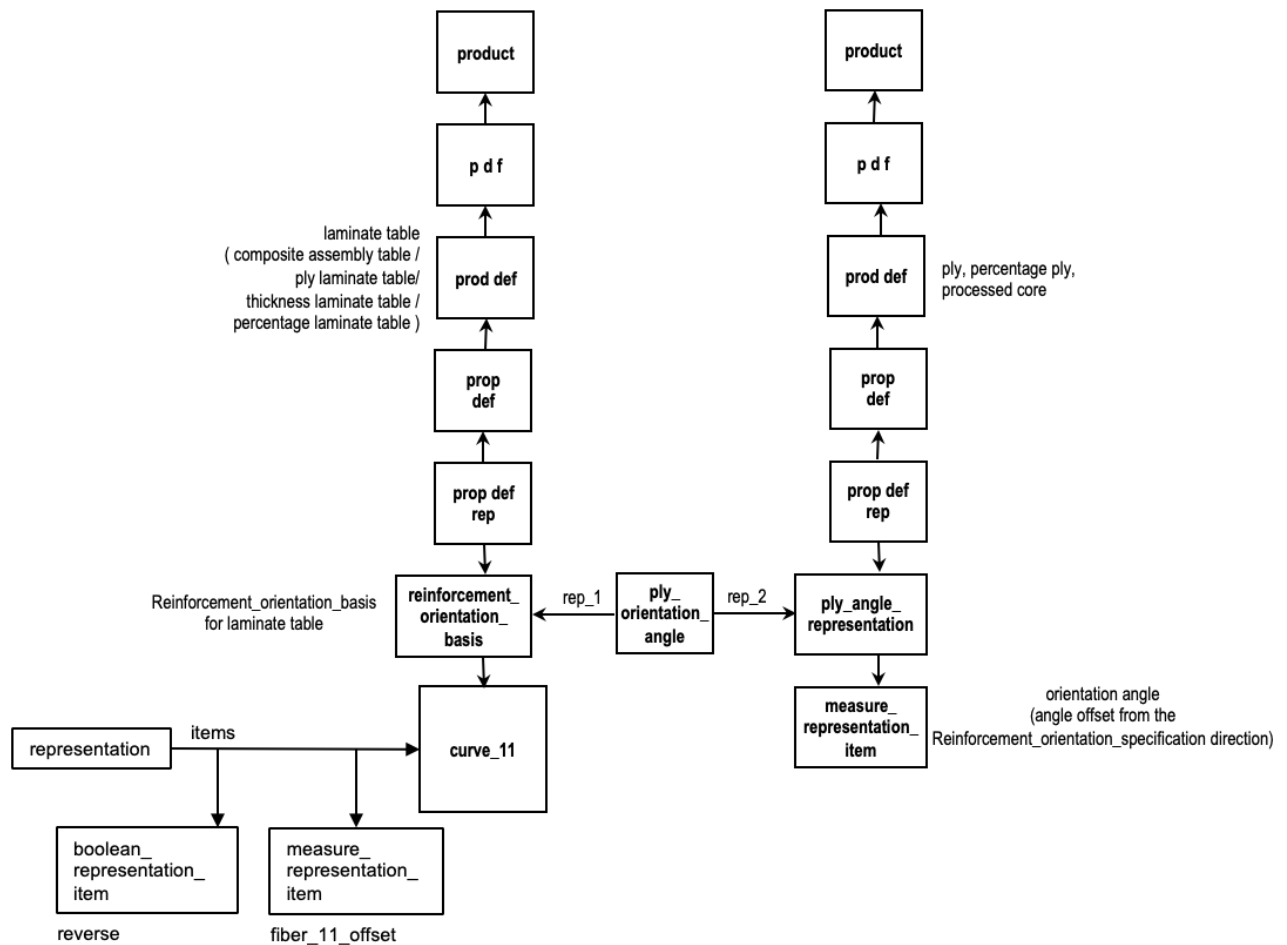


Figure 18: Ply Orientation by Curve - Offset and Reverse Specification

NOTE 1: The full description of these ply orientation options is specified in Clause 4 of ISO 10303-1772 Ply orientation specification.

NOTE 2: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 17.

If the ply orientation is specified by a `point_array`, the major and minor directions of the `point_and_vector` entities in the point path will be associated with the axis direction of the `axis2_placement_3d`. A point array is represented in AP 203 ed2, AP 209 ed2 and AP 242 ed4 by a chain of `point_and_vector` entities, headed by a `point_array`. The `point_array` and `point_and_vector` are both subtypes of `shape_representation`. A `point_and_vector` represents a point and the associated vector pairs on a point path. The first `representation_item` in the items of a `point_and_vector` shall be a `point` entity, the second a `direction` entity representing the major direction, and the third a `direction` entity representing the minor direction) (see Figure 19: Ply Orientation by Point Array).

NOTE 3: The ply 11 and 22 directions are known only at the points of the `point_array`. If the ply orientations need to be known in-between them a suitable interpolation scheme, such as spline surfaces, should be used.

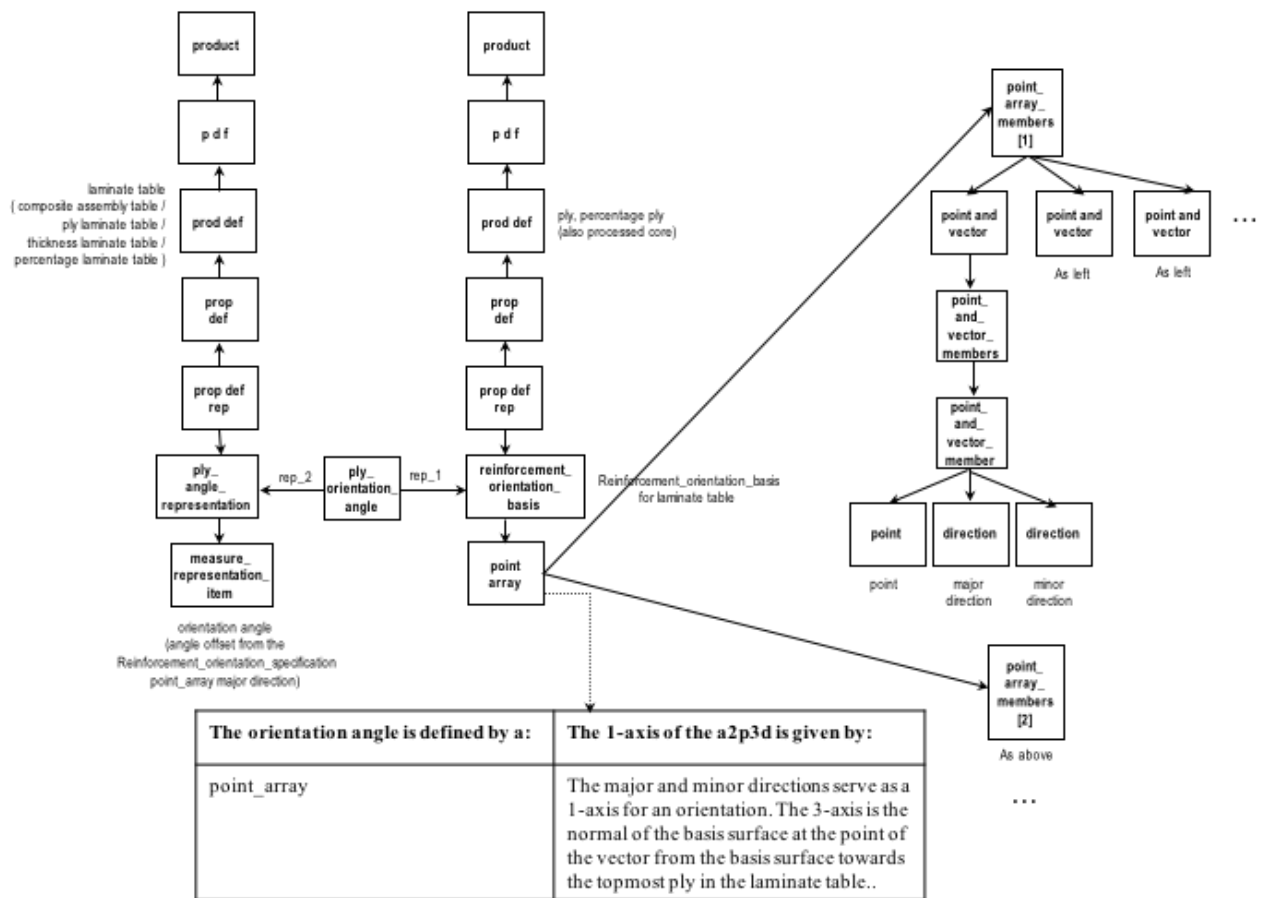


Figure 19: Ply Orientation by Point Array

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 19.

Some composite structural modeling tools allow and/or require that a ply orientation angle be named. In this case the inherited `.name` attribute of the `cartesian_11`, `curve_11`, `cylindrical_11` or `polar_11` entity shall be used for the name.

Alternately, the ply orientation may be specified implicitly through a user defined specification. This method allows a proprietary method to be specified (see Figure 20).

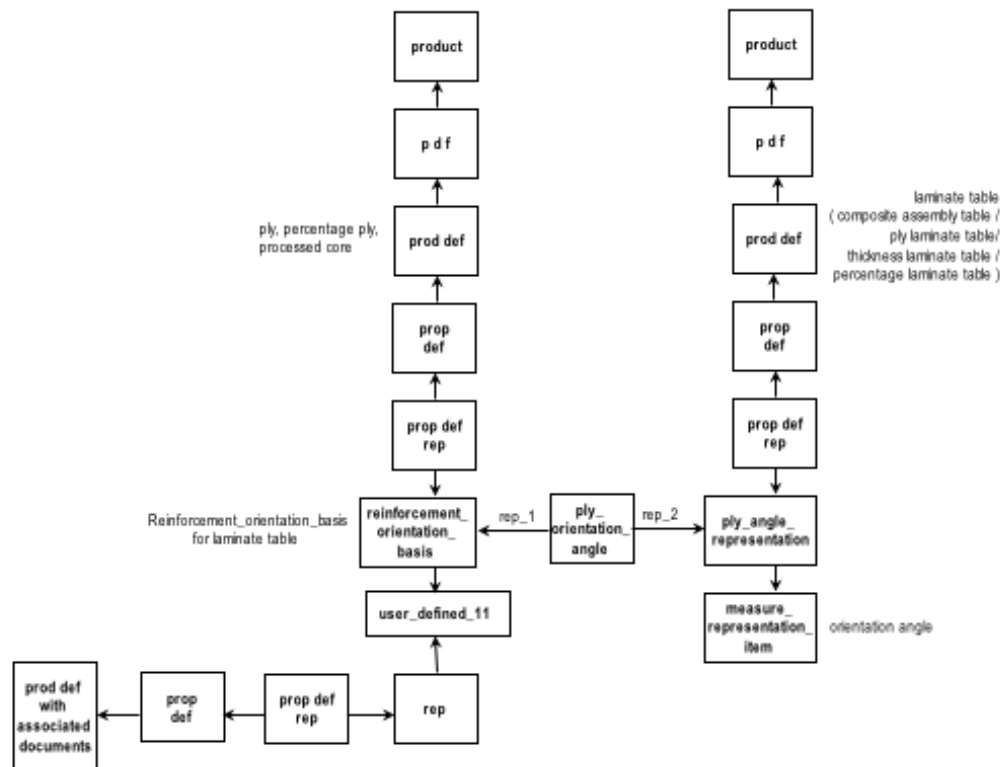


Figure 20: Ply Orientation by User Defined Specification

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 20.

3.1.2.3 Ply Shape

The shape of a ply is represented by a `product_definition_shape` entity. `Shape_aspects` that represent various features of the ply shape point to this `product_definition_shape`. The `name` attribute of the `shape_aspect` shall describe the feature that is being represented, such as 'laid ply shape', 'basis surface', and 'outer edge'.

The shape of a ply may be a nominal design shape, or a manufacturing shape. Figure 21 illustrates these types of shapes.

Note: The use of both nominal design and manufacturing ply shapes is illustrated in Figure 6: Part Laminate Table Sequence Definitions. The intent is that there be complete sequences for both the nominal design and manufacturing shape representations if both are desired in the same laminate table.

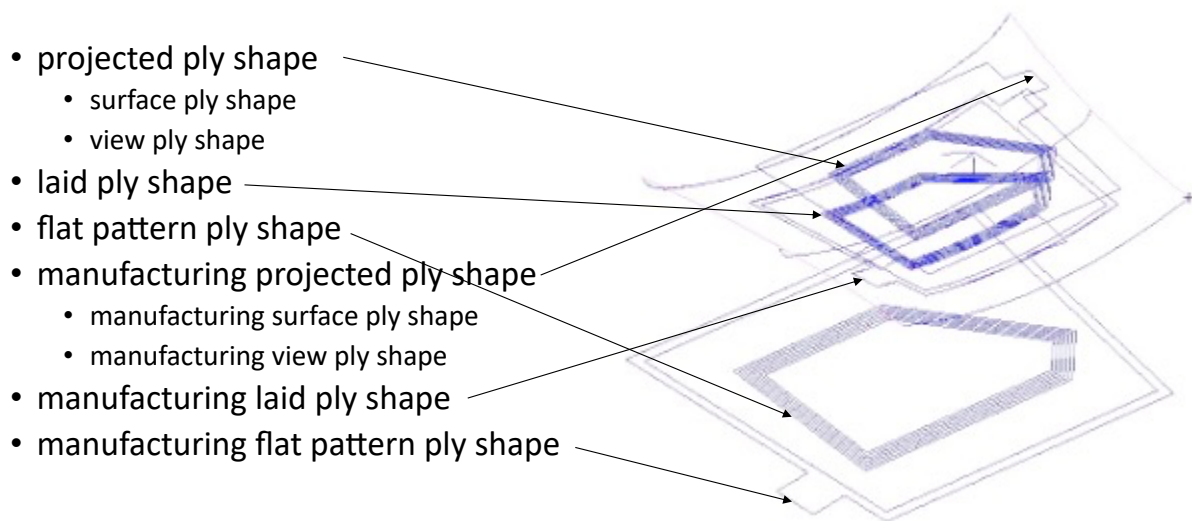


Figure 21: Types of Ply Shapes

The defining model for a ply shape is given by a `shape_representation` that is a `composite_sheet_representation`, an `advanced_brep_shape_representation`, a `csg_shape_representation`, a `curve_swept_solid_shape_representation`, an `elementary_brep_shape_representation`, a `tessellated_shape_representation`, or a `faceted_brep_shape_representation`. The `composite_sheet_representation` shall be either a `geometrically_bounded_surface_shape_representation` or a `manifold_surface_shape_representation` (Figure 22).

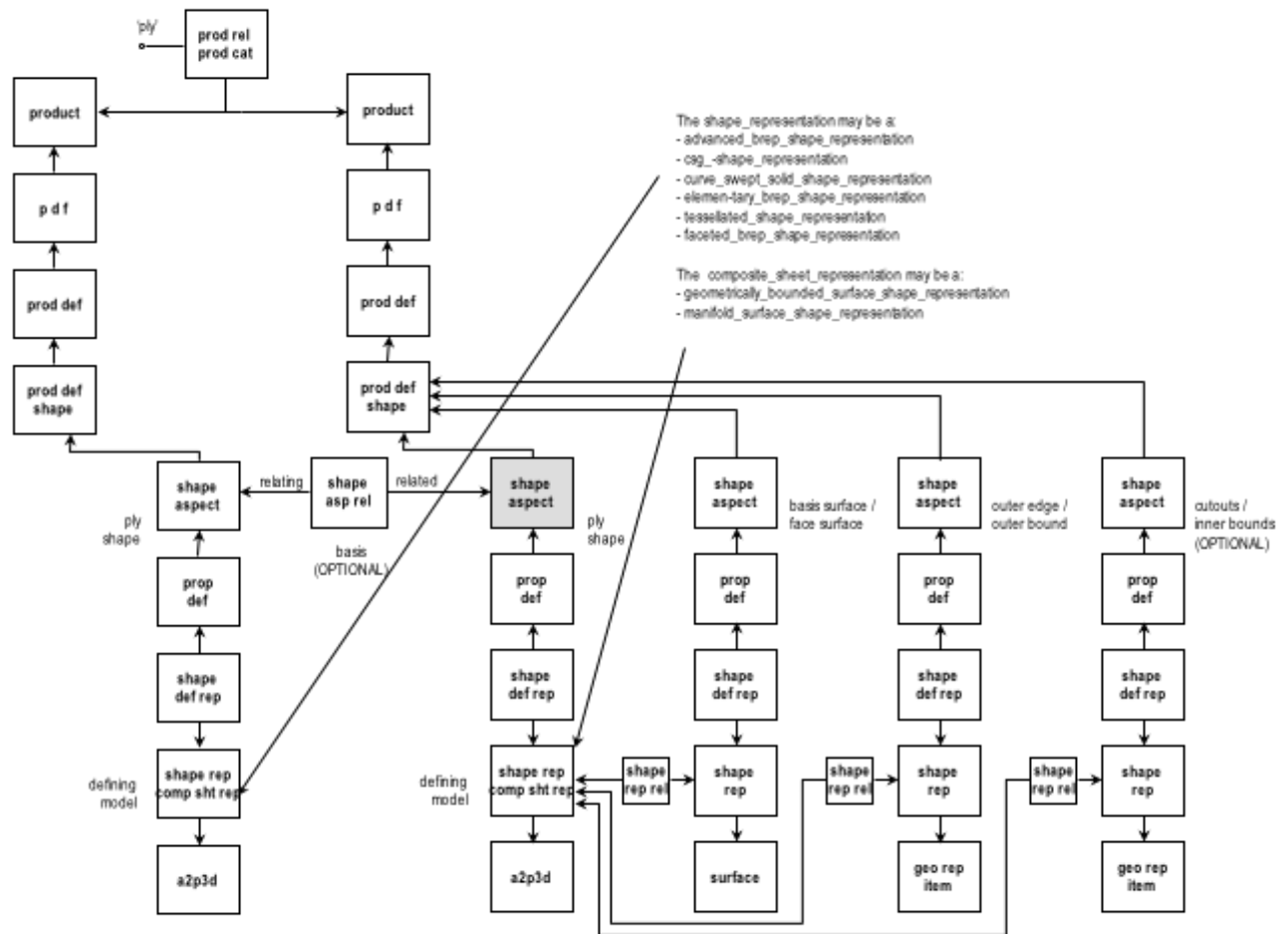


Figure 22: Ply Shape

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 22.

Associated with the defining model shape_representation are the shape_representations for: a) the basis or face surface of the ply with a corresponding shape_aspect.name of 'basis surface' or 'face surface'; b) outer edge or bound of the ply with a corresponding shape_aspect.name of 'outer edge' or 'outer bound'; and, optionally, c) the cutouts or inner bounds for the ply with a corresponding shape_aspect.name of 'cutouts' or 'innerbounds'. Each of these shape_representations is related to the defining model shape_representation by a shape_representation_relationship.

If the shape of a ply is based on or derived from another ply shape, then this relationship is represented by a shape_aspect_relationship between the shape_aspects for the defining model shape_representations of the two plies. The name attribute of the shape_aspect_relationship is set to 'basis'.

A ply shape may be one of: laid ply shape, flat pattern ply shape, projected ply shape, manufacturing laid ply shape, manufacturing flat pattern ply shape, or manufacturing projected ply shape.

For a laid ply shape, the name of the shape_aspect for the defining model is set to 'laid ply shape' or 'manufacturing laid ply shape'.

For a flat pattern ply shape, the `name` of the `shape_aspect` for the defining model is set to 'flat pattern ply shape' or 'manufacturing flat pattern ply shape' (see Figure 23).

The `flat_pattern_plane` attribute specifies the plane of the flat pattern ply shape.

The wrapup origin on the flat pattern is represented by the `wrapup_origin_on_plane` attribute in the items of the flat pattern `shape_representation`.

The `flat_pattern_rosette_on_plane` is the rosette specifying fiber 11 direction on the projected plane.

The wrapup origin on the 3D shape representation of the ply is represented by the origin of the `placement_representation_item` in the items of the 3D `shape_representation` from which the flat pattern is derived.

The `shape_representations` are linked together by a complex entity that is a `flat_pattern_ply_representation_relationship` and a `representation_relationship_with_transformation`. The `rep_1` attribute of the `representation_relationship_with_transformation` represents the 3D shape representation and the `rep_2` attribute is the flat pattern `shape_representation`. The `transformation_operator` attribute points to the `item_defined_transformation` entity that serves to match the origin points on the flat pattern and surface.

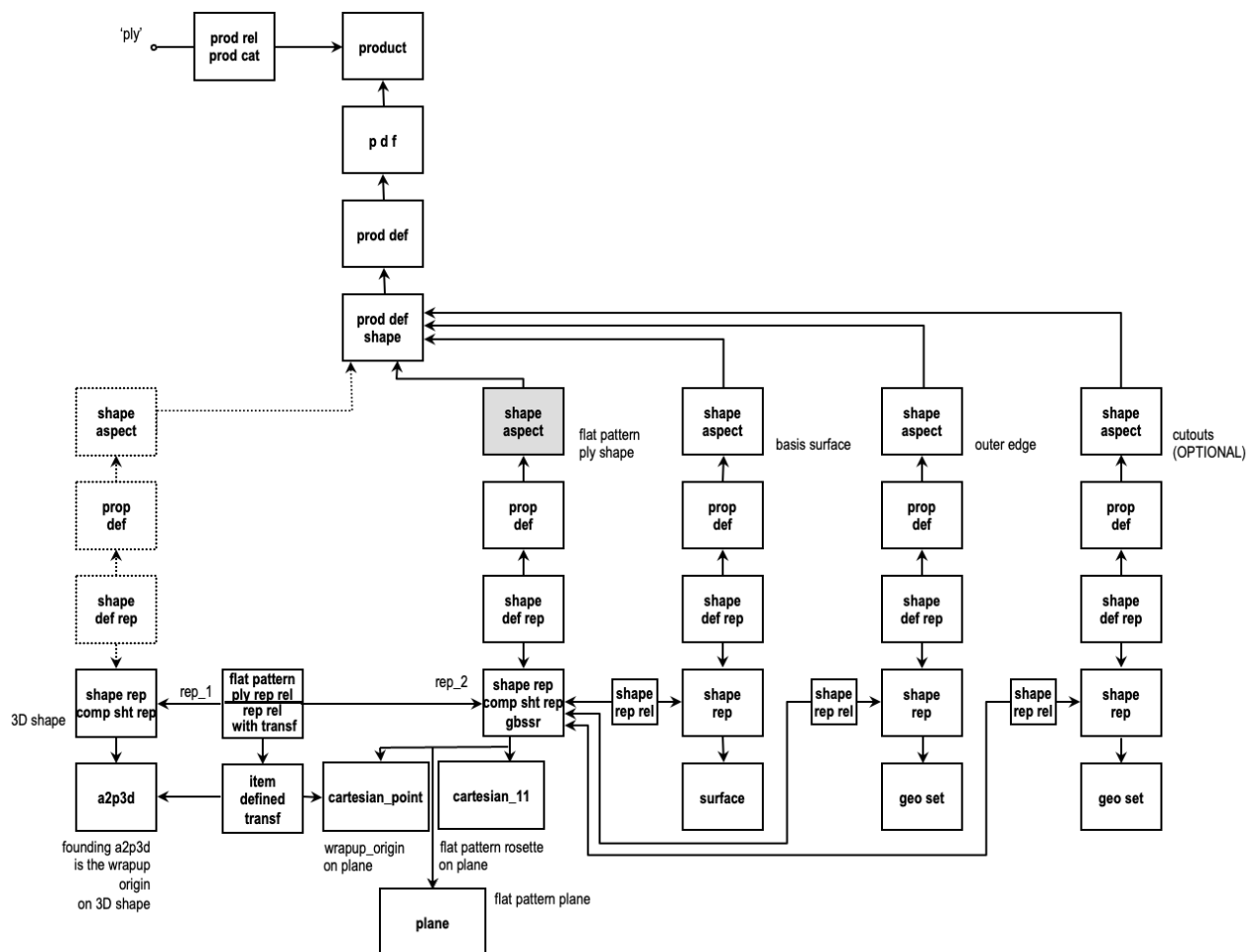


Figure 23: Flat Pattern Ply Shape

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 23.

For a projected ply shape, the ply shape may be a surface ply shape or a view ply shape depending on whether the ply shape is projected on a surface or a plane. The `shape_aspect` for the defining model is set to: 'reference direction projected surface ply shape', 'surface normal projected surface ply shape', 'reference direction projected view ply shape', 'surface normal projected view ply shape', 'manufacturing reference direction projected surface ply shape', 'manufacturing surface normal projected surface ply shape', 'manufacturing reference direction projected view ply shape', or 'manufacturing surface normal projected view ply shape' based on the projection method. If a direction other than the surface normal is used, a `shape_aspect` representing the projection direction is associated with the `product_definition_shape`, and a `placement` entity referencing the projection direction is included in the set of items of the corresponding `shape_representation` (see Figure 24).

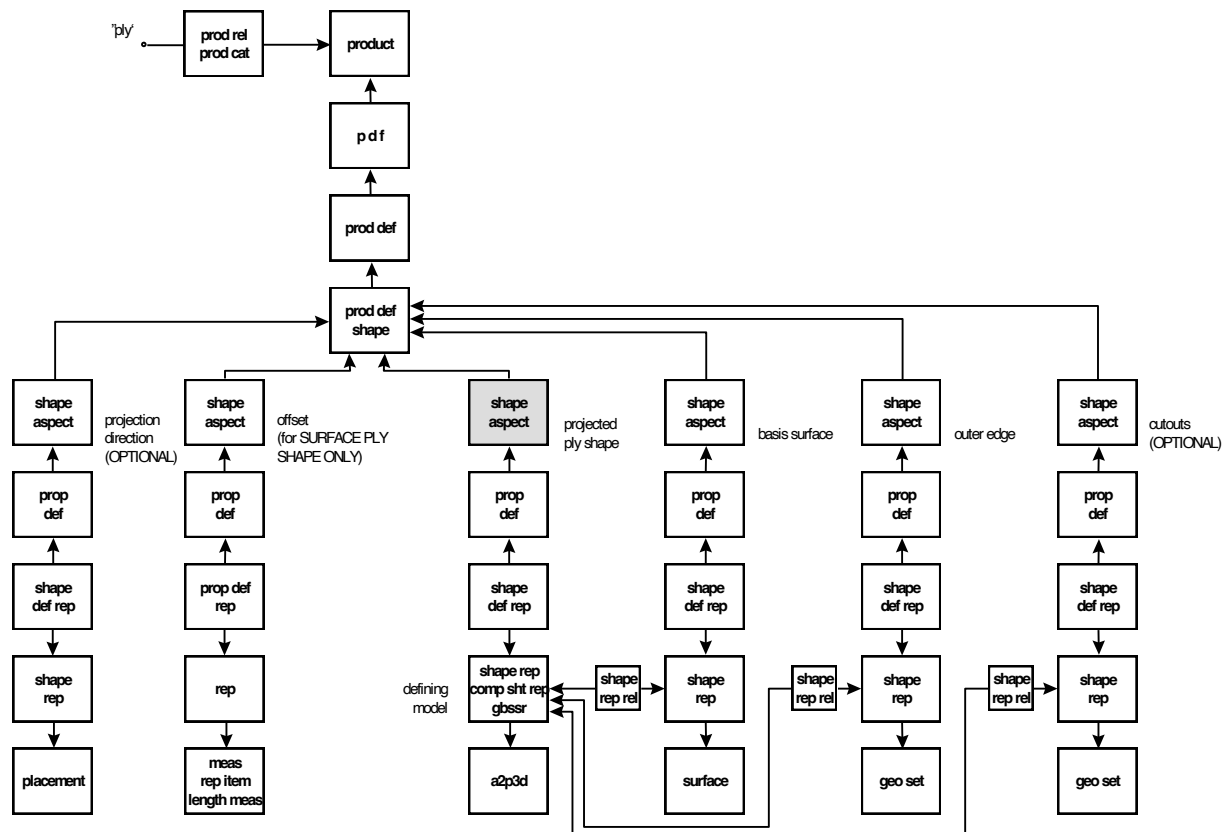


Figure 24: Projected Ply Shape (Surface Ply Shape or View Ply Shape)

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 24.

For a surface ply shape, the context of the surface is indicated by the description attribute of the `shape_aspect` for the defining model. It is recommended that the description be set to: 'layup surface', 'outer mold line', or 'inner mold line'. The offset distance from the layup surface is represented by a separate `shape_aspect`. The corresponding representation shall have a `measure_representation_item` that is a `length_measure_with_unit` in its set of items.

3.1.2.4 Processed Core

A processed core product is associated with a `product_related_product_category` with a name of 'processed_core' (Figure 25, Figure 26).

The processed core `product_definition` is related by a `make_from_usage_option` entity to its stock material `product_definition`, which will be associated with a product in a `product_related_product_category` with a name of 'stock_core'.

Processed core may have one of two different types of shape representations. The first type of shape representation is a beveled sheet representation (Figure 25) that is a sheet with thickness and beveled edges. The second type of shape representation is a solid model (Figure 26) where the core shape is a type of solid model. See ISO/TS 10303-1767:2014-02(E) Composite constituent shape clause 4.3 for more details on the types of processed core shape representations.

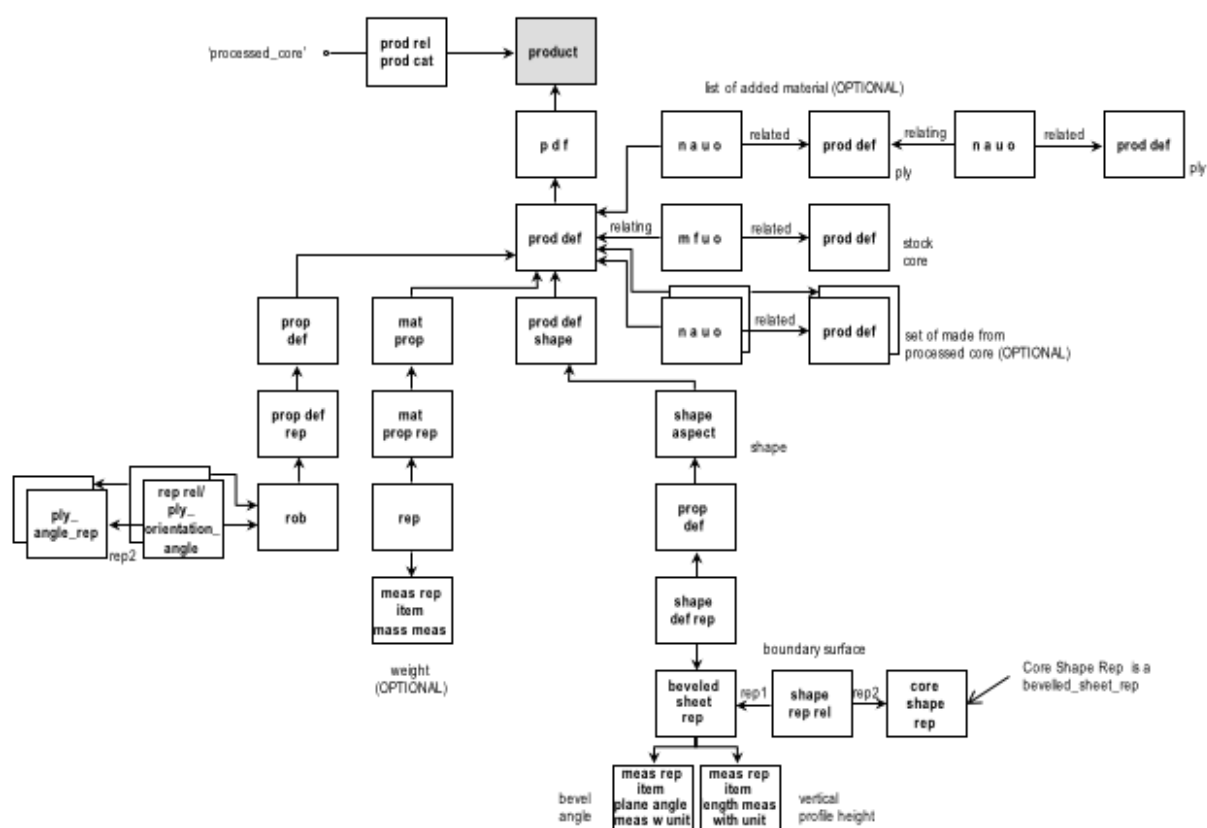


Figure 25: Processed Core – Beveled Sheet Representation Case

NOTE 1: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 25.

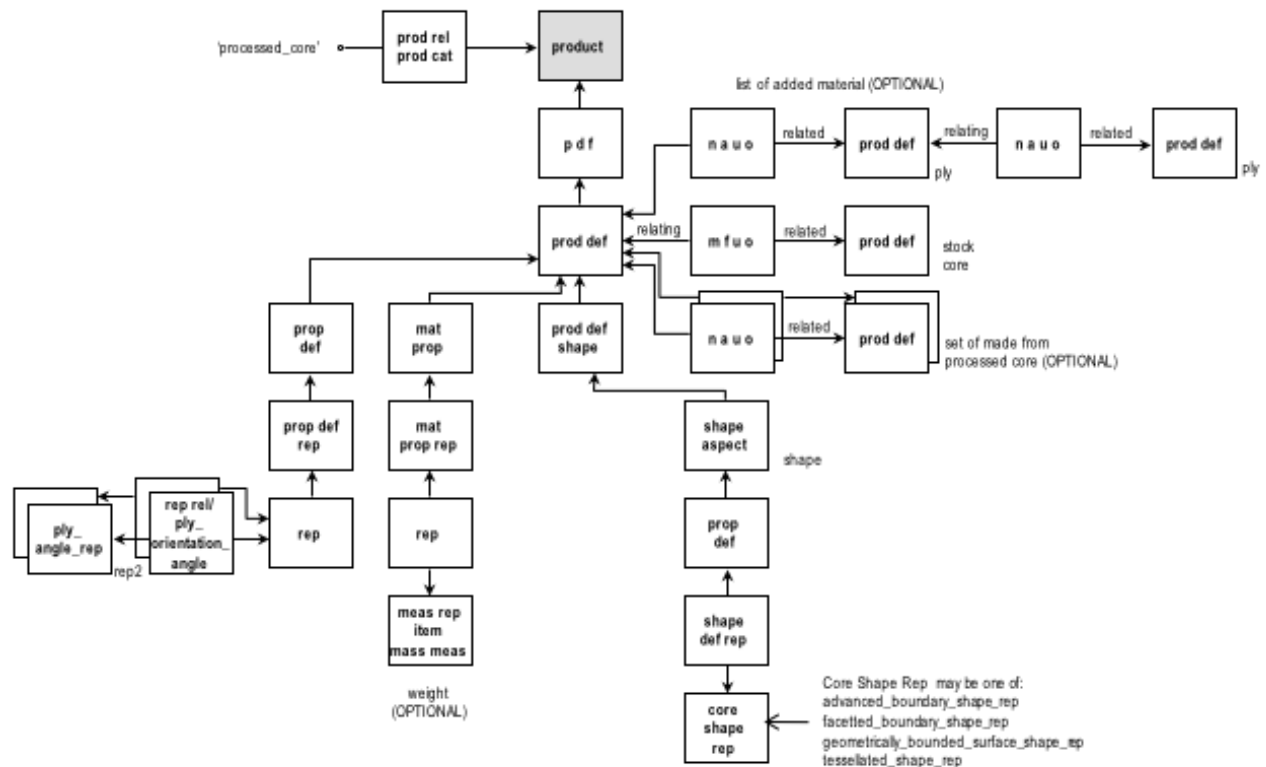


Figure 26: Processed Core – Solid Shape Representation Case

NOTE 2: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 26.

The list of any added material such as stabilizer, adhesive, and potting compound shall be given by a chain of `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` entities. The first `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` in the chain shall have the `product_definition` for the processed core as the `relating_product_definition`; the `product_definition` for the ply where the first added material in the list is applied shall be the `related_product_definition`. The successive `next_assembly_usage_occurrences` in the chain shall likewise link the `product_definitions` for the plies where subsequent added material in the list are applied.

If the processed core is made from one or more processed cores, then the `product_definitions` for the latter shall be related to that for the former by a set of `next_assembly_usage_occurrence` entities.

3.1.2.5 Core Orientation

A processed core has a cell orientation, i.e., the ribbon direction for the core. The orientation angle is derived in the manner described for a ply - see 3.1.2.2 for details.

3.1.2.6 Core Shape

The shape of a processed core may be represented by an `advanced_boundary_shape_representation`, `faceted_boundary_shape_representation`, `geometrically_bounded_surface_shape_representation`, a `tessellated_representation` or a `beveled_sheet_representation`. A `beveled_sheet_representation` is a subtype of `shape_representation` whose base boundary surface is based on a `composite_sheet_representation`. Two `measure_representation_items` characterize a `beveled_sheet_representation`. The first `measure_representation_item` in its set of items is a `plane_angle_measure_with_unit` representing the angle between the surface normal of the base surface to the beveled surface. The second is a `length_measure_with_unit` representing the height of the core measured vertically from the base surface.

3.1.2.7 Filament Laminate

A filament laminate product is associated with a `product_related_product_category` with a name of 'filament_laminate' (Figure 27). The filament laminate `product_definition` is related by a `make_from_usage_option` entity to its filament assembly `product_definition`, which will be associated with a `product` in a `product_related_product_category` with a name of 'filament_assembly'.

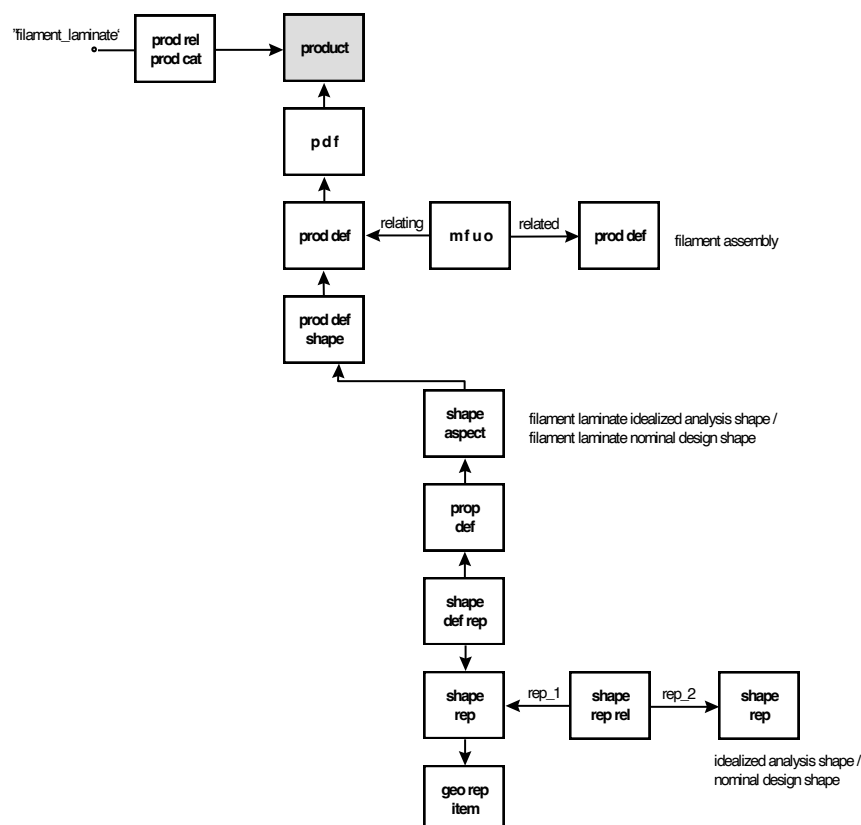


Figure 27: Filament Laminate

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 27.

The shape of a filament laminate is given by a `shape_representation` for its cross section. This `shape_representation` is related to the nominal design or idealized analysis `shape_representation` through a `shape_representation_relationship`. The name of the `shape_aspect` is set accordingly to 'filament_laminate_nominal_design_shape' or 'filament_laminate_idealized_analysis_shape'.

3.1.2.8 Ply Laminate

A ply laminate product is associated with a `product_related_product_category` with a name of 'ply_laminate' (Figure 28). The ply laminate `product_definition` is related by a `make_from_usage_option` to the `product_definition` for the ply laminate table that is represented by a `ply_laminate_table` (see 3.1.1.1).

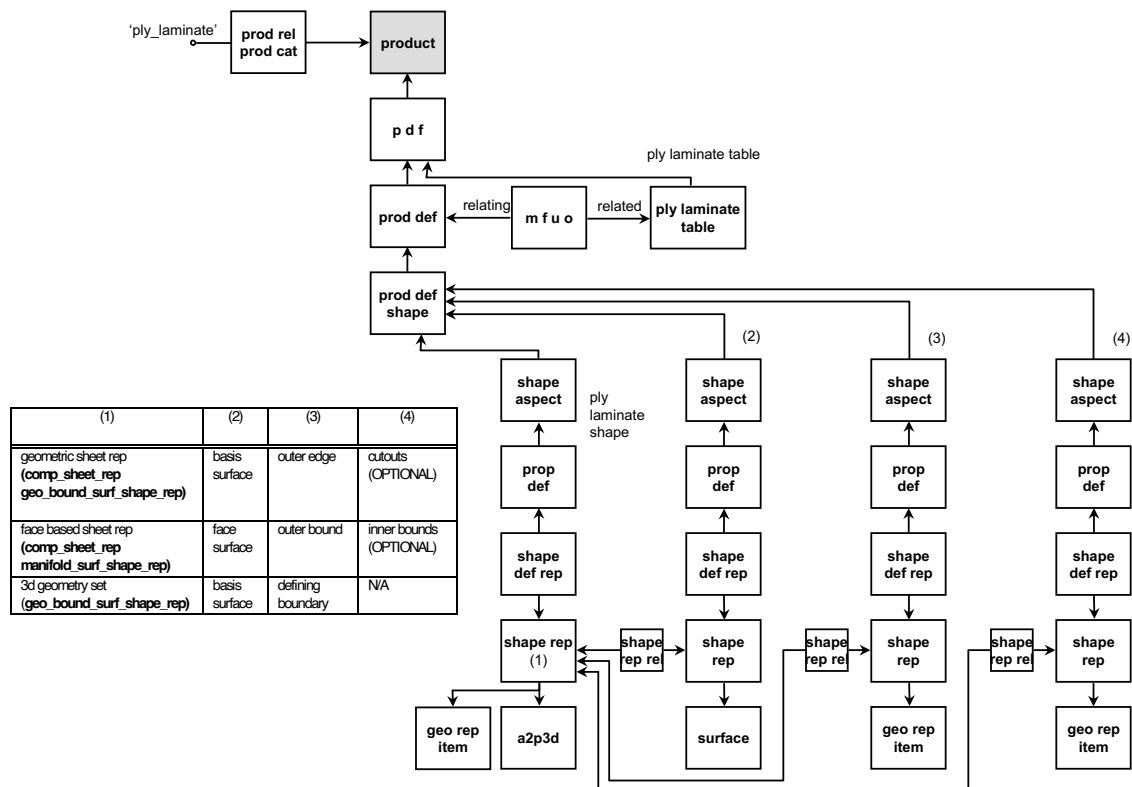


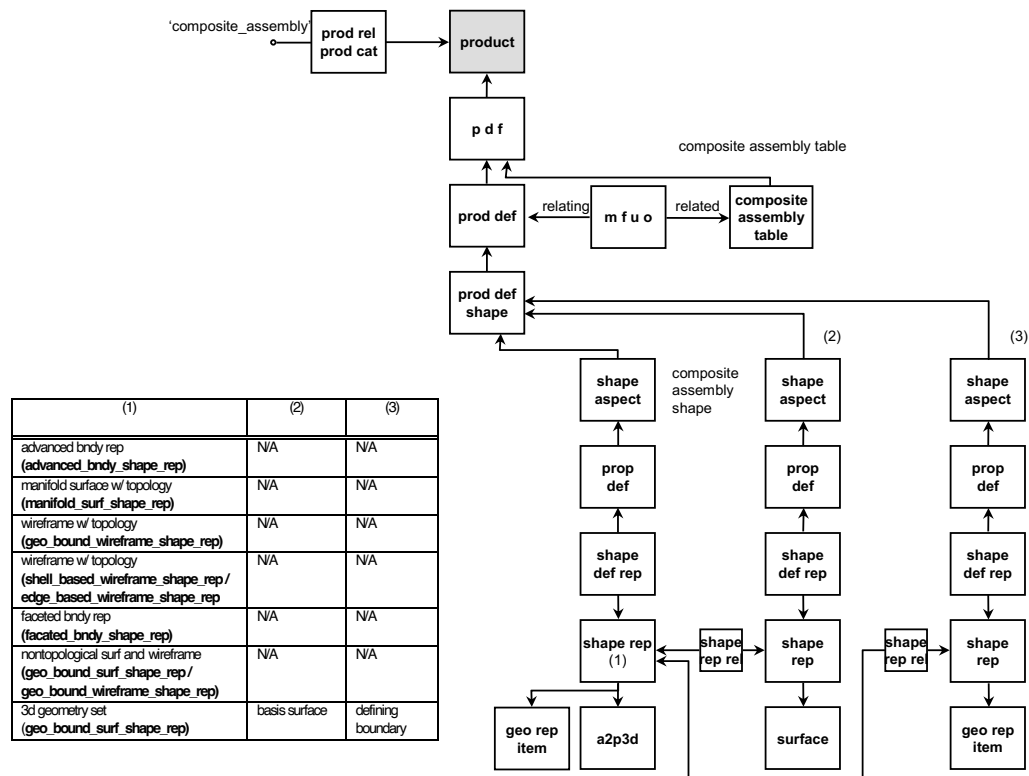
Figure 28: Ply Laminate

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 28.

The shape of a ply laminate may be represented by a `composite_sheet_representation` or a 3D geometry set. The `composite_sheet_representation` shall be a `geometrically_bounded_surface_shape_representation` or a `manifold_surface_shape_representation`. Associated with the `composite_sheet_representation` are `shape_representation`s for the basis or face surface of the ply laminate, outer edge or bound of the ply laminate, and optionally the cutouts or inner bounds for the ply laminate (see 3.1.2.8 for the respective `shape_aspect.name` values). Each of these `shape_representation`s is related to the ply laminate `shape_representation` by a `shape_representation_relationship`.

A 3D geometry set shape is represented by a `geometrically_bounded_surface_shape_representation` entity. Associated with this `shape_representation` are `shape_representation`s for the basis surface of the ply laminate (`shape_aspect.name` of 'basis_surface') and the defining boundary of the ply laminate (`shape_aspect.name` of 'defining_boundary'). The context of the basis surface is indicated by setting the description attribute of the corresponding `shape_aspect` to 'layup_surface', 'outer_mold_line', or 'inner_mold_line'.

A composite assembly product is associated with a `product_related_product_category` with a name of 'composite_assembly' (Figure 29). The `composite_assembly_product_definition` is related by a `make_from_usage_option` to the `product_definition` for the composite assembly table, represented by a `composite assembly table` (see 0).



NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 29.

The shape of a composite assembly may be represented by one of the following shape representations: advanced or faceted boundary representation (advanced_boundary_shape_representation or faceted_boundary_shape_representation); manifold surface with topology (manifold_surface_shape_representation); wireframe with topology (shell_based_wireframe_shape_representation or edge_based_wireframe_shape_representation); nontopological surface and wireframe (geometrically_bounded_surface_shape_representation or geometrically_bounded_wireframe_shape_representation); or a 3D geometry set (geometrically_bounded_surface_shape_representation).

3.1.3 Materials and Properties

A **Material_specification** is a type of specification that specifies properties of raw material, mixtures, or semi-fabricated material that are used in the fabrication of a product. It is an informal or formal contractual, internal, or institutional document that details the production of qualities of a material.

A **Material_callout** is the association of a material designation with a product or a part of a product or with an unrealised product.

A **Material_property** is a quality of a material that is as measured by specific procedure and obtained by an accepted analysis.

3.1.3.1 Material Specifications

Stock material is treated as a product in AP 203 ed2, AP 209 ed2 and AP242 ed4. A stock material product shall be among the `products` of a `product_related_product_category` with a name of: `'isotropic_material'`, `'anisotropic_material'`, `'filament_assembly'`, `'discontinuous_fiber_assembly'`, `'braided_assembly'`, `'woven_assembly'`, or `'stock_core'` (Figure 30). The `stock_material_product_definition` may have an approval in AP 203 ed2, AP 209 ed2 and AP242 ed4.

Material specifications that are applicable to a stock material are related to the stock material `product_definition` through an `applied_document_reference` entity. The stock material `product_definition` is contained in the items of the `applied_document_reference`. The `assigned_document` attribute inherited from the `document_reference` supertype of `applied_document_reference` points to the specification document (Figure 30).

NOTE: that the **Material_specification** has environmental information to specify under what conditions that the specification is valid, but has no associated material properties as that is specified by a separate **Material_property**. Also note that the `data_environment` is populated to classify the `property_definition` instances referenced by the `data_environment` as being in the role of environmental conditions.

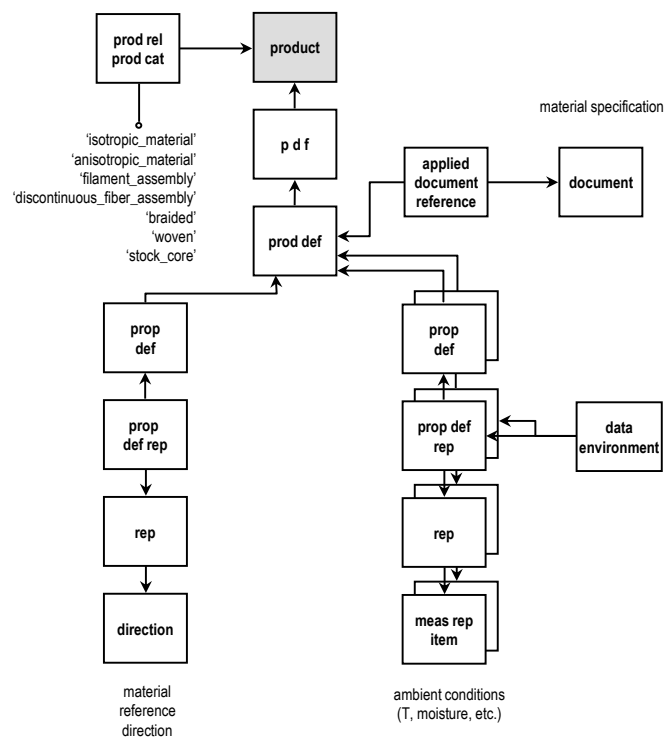


Figure 30: Stock Material

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 30.

3.1.3.2 Material Callout

The designation of the material for a part is accomplished through a `make_from_usage_option` entity. The `make_from_usage_option.relatating_product_definition` shall be the 'design discipline' `product_definition` for the part. If the component part or the composite constituent is produced from a single material, then the `make_from_usage_option.related_product_definition` shall be the `product_definition` for the material (such as an 'isotropic material', 'anisotropic material', or 'filament assembly'). If the component part is a composite, the `make_from_usage_option.related_product_definition` shall be the `product_definition` for the laminate table representation (e.g., `ply_laminate_table`, `composite_assembly_table`, or `thickness_laminate_table`).

NOTE: Due to legacy implementations and broad industry support, the use of `material_designation` is not recommended in this document, although it remains an option in the STEP standard.

3.1.3.3 Material Properties

Material properties, including finite element analysis material properties, are represented by the `property_definition` subtype `material_property`. The name attribute inherited from the `property_definition` supertype is used to denote the particular property being qualified or quantified. The `material_property_representation` entity links a `material_property` to a representation that may contain a `measure_representation_item` in its set of items to provide a quantitative value the property.

Conditions such as temperature and moisture content that affect the material properties are specified by the `data_environment.elements` attribute that is referenced by the `material_property_representation` entities as their `dependent_environment`. The use of material properties is fully detailed in the CAX-IF document "Recommended Practices for Material Identification Assignment and Related Properties" version 3.0.

4 Limited Length or Area Indicator Assignments (LLAI) for laminate tables

A Limited_length_area_indicator provides information about constraints for point, length or area aspects of a laminate table (Figure 31: Limited Length or Area Assignments). A user defined LLAI is also provided for those cases not covered by the point, line, or area LLAI assignments.

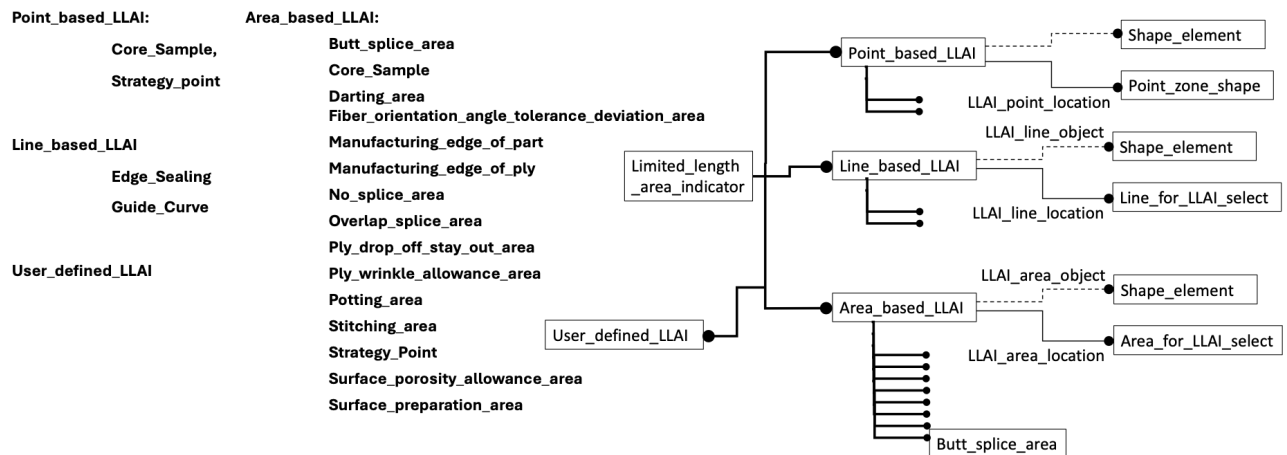


Figure 31: Limited Length or Area Assignments

4.1 Point Based LLAIs

The inherited `llai_point_object` attribute of the `point_based_llai` SUBTYPES that identifies the type of object for the `point_based_llai` are specified by the allowable `shape_representation` SUBTYPES shown in Figure 32: Point Based LLAIs.

The inherited `llai_point_location` attribute of the `point_based_llai` that optionally identifies the location of the `point_based_llai` SUBTYPES is specified by the associated `shape_aspect` that is a `Shape_element`.

There is a specific type of specification document associated to the `point_based_llai` SUBTYPES that is optionally specified by an associated `product` that has a `product_related_product_category` whose `.name` attribute is 'document'.

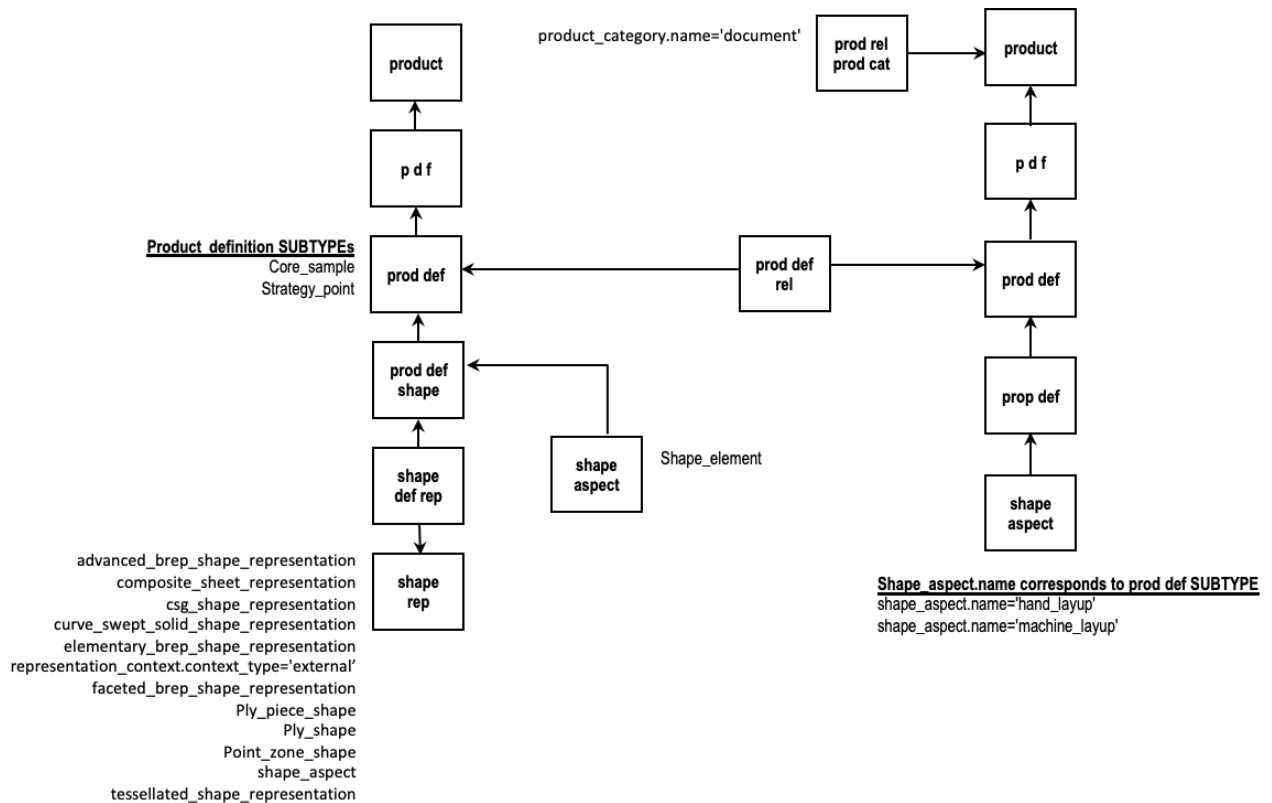


Figure 32: Point Based LLA

4.2 Line Based LLA

The inherited `llai_line_object` attribute of the `line_based_llai` SUBTYPES that identifies the type of object for the `line_based_llai` are specified by the allowable `shape_representation` SUBTYPES shown in Figure 33: Line Based LLA.

The inherited `llai_line_location` attribute of the `line_based_llai` that optionally identifies the location of the `line_based_llai` SUBTYPES is specified by the associated `shape_aspect` that is a `shape_element`.

There is a specific type of specification document associated to the `line_based_llai` SUBTYPES that is optionally specified by an associated `product` that has a `product_related_product_category` whose `.name` attribute is 'document'.

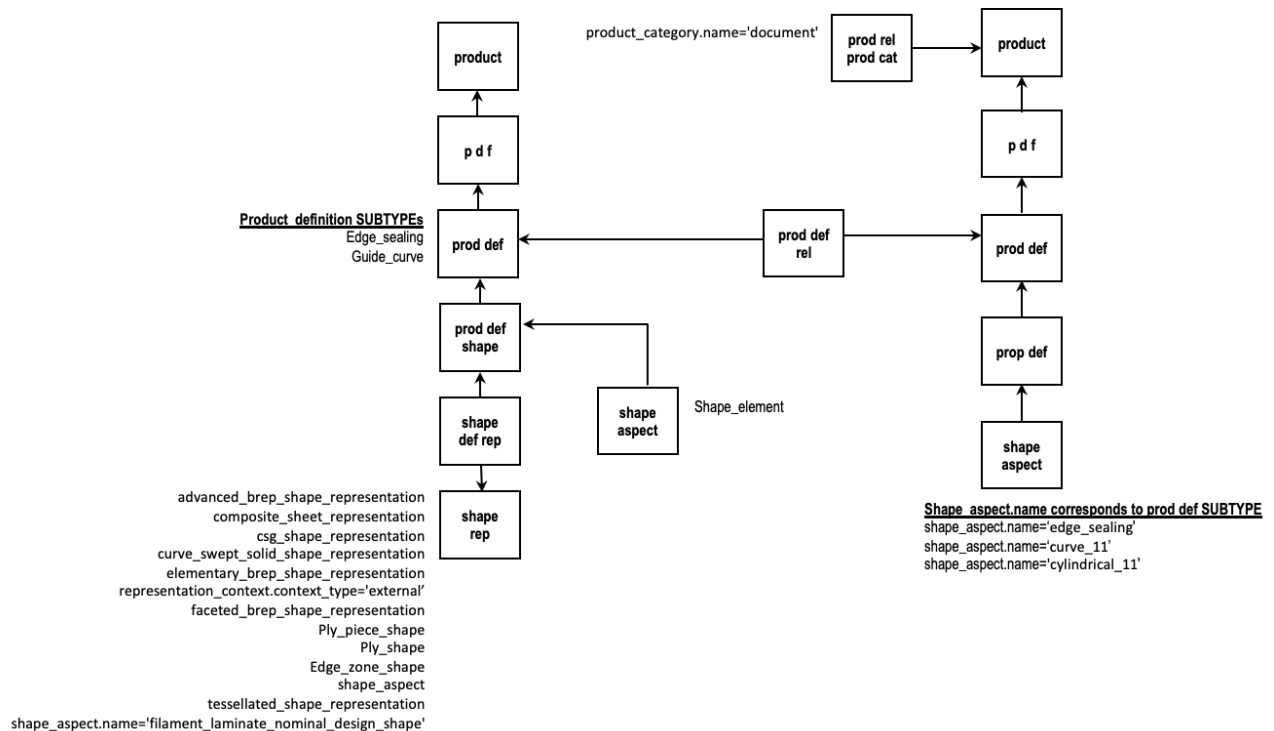


Figure 33: Line Based LLAI

4.3 Area Based LLAI (Excluding Butt and Overlap Splice Areas)

The inherited `llai_area_object` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPES that identifies the type of object for the `area_based_llai` are specified by the allowable `shape_representation` SUBTYPES shown in Figure 33: Line Based LLAI.

The inherited `llai_area_location` attribute of the `area_based_llai` that optionally identifies the location of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPES is specified by the associated `shape_aspect` that is a `Shape_element`.

There is a specific type of specification document associated to the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPES that is optionally specified by an associated `product` that has a `product_related_product_category` whose `.name` attribute is 'document'.

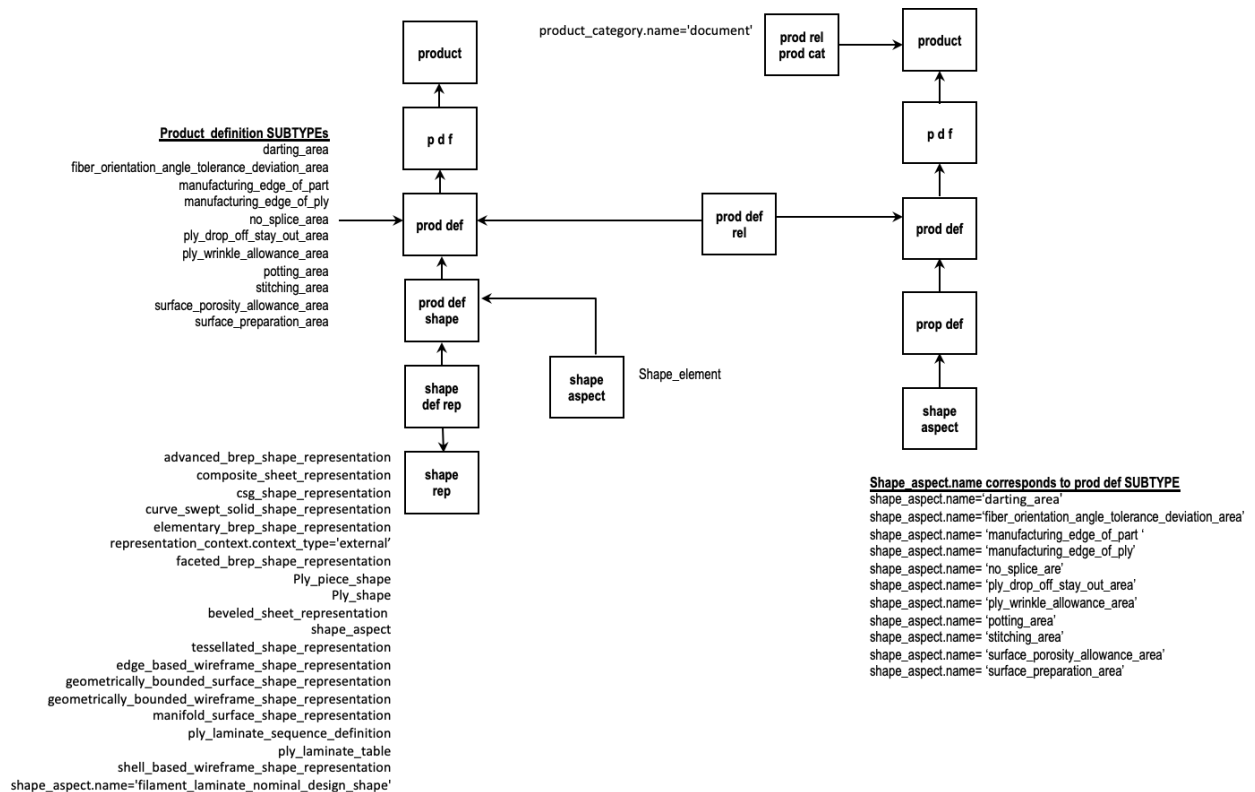


Figure 34: Area Based LLAI (Excluding Butt and Overlap Splice Areas)

4.4 Area Based LLAI (Butt Splice Area)

The inherited `llai_area_object` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `butt_splice_area` that identifies the type of object for the `area_based_llai` are specified by the allowable `shape_representation` SUBTYPES shown in Figure 35: Area Based LLAI (Butt Splice Area).

The inherited `llai_area_location` attribute of the `area_based_llai` that optionally identifies the location of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `butt_splice_area` is specified by the associated `shape_aspect` that is a `Shape_element`.

There is a specific type of specification document associated to the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `butt_splice_area` that is optionally specified by an associated `product` that has a `product_related_product_category` whose `.name` attribute is 'document'.

The `allowed_repeat_pattern` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `butt_splice_area` that the number of times it is permissible to use the same joining design in a specific butt splice area is specified by the associated `property_definition` with an associated `count_measure`.

The `butt_direction` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `butt_splice_area` that specifies an indication of the path or orientation along which the butt splice area has been laid is specified by the associated `property_definition` with an associated `direction`.

The `gap` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `butt_splice_area` that specifies a measure of the distance between the butts forming the butt splice area is specified by the associated `property_definition` whose `.description` attribute is set to 'gap' with an associated `length_measure_with_unit`.



The inherited `llai_area_object` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE overlap_splice_area that identifies the type of object for the `area_based_llai` are specified by the allowable `shape_representation` SUBTYPES shown in Figure 36: Area Based LLAI (Overlap Splice Area).

The inherited `llai_area_location` attribute of the `area_based_llai` that optionally identifies the location of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `overlap_splice_area` is specified by the associated `shape_aspect` that is a `Shape_element`.

There is a specific type of specification document associated to the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `overlap_splice_area` that is optionally specified by an associated `product` that has a `product_related_product_category` whose `.name` attribute is 'document'.

The `allowed_repeat_pattern` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `overlap_splice_area` that specifies the number of allowed repeated patterns is specified by the associated `property_definition` with an associated `count_measure`.

The `overlap_direction` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `overlap_splice_area` that specifies the direction the overlap of the splice has been laid is specified by the associated `property_definition` with an associated `direction`.

The `stagger_distance` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `overlap_splice_area` that specifies the measureable distance of the staggering between overlap splices is specified by the associated `property_definition` whose `.description` attribute is set to 'stagger distance' with an associated `length_measure_with_unit`.

The `overlap_width` attribute of the `area_based_llai` SUBTYPE `overlap_splice_area` that specifies the measureable distance of the width of an overlap splice is specified by the associated `property_definition` whose `.description` attribute is set to 'overlap width' with an associated `length_measure_with_unit`.

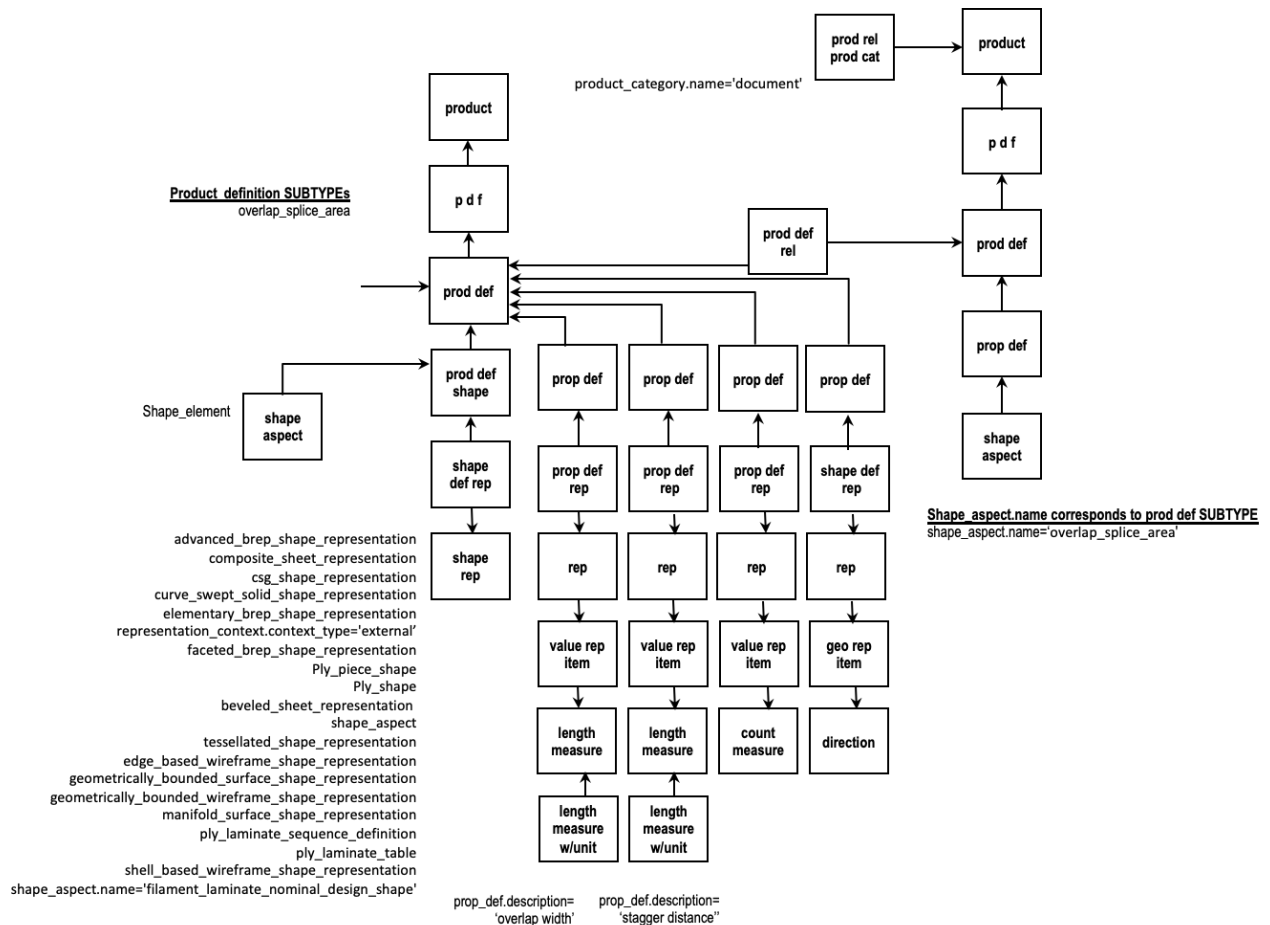


Figure 36: Area Based LLAI (Overlap Splice Area)

4.6 User Defined

The `shape_for_user_defined_llai` attribute of the `user_defined_llai` that identifies the type of object for the `point_based_llai` are specified by the allowable `shape_representation` SUBTYPES shown in Figure 37: User Defined LLAI.

The `user_defined_location_for_llai` attribute of the `user_defined_llai` that optionally identifies the location of the `user_defined_llai` is specified by the associated `shape_aspect` that is a `Shape_element`.

The `user_defined_llai_specification` attribute of the `user_defined_llai` is a specific type of specification document that is optionally specified by an associated `product` that has a `product_related_product_category` whose `.name` attribute is 'document'.

The `user_defined_llai_type` attribute of the `user_defined_llai` is a text string contained in the `product_definition.description` attribute that is used to describe the LLAI type defined by the user.

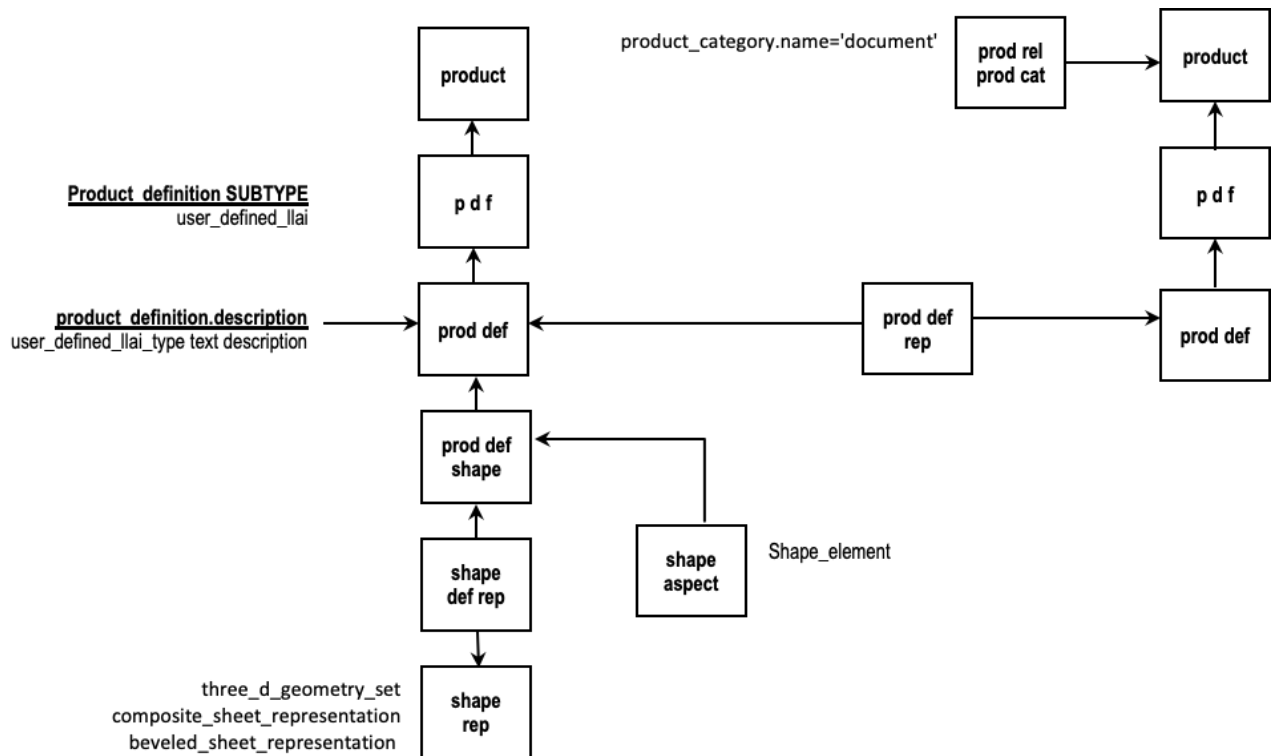


Figure 37: User Defined LLAI

5 Geometric Founding of Composite Constituent Product Definitions

The simplest case for composite constituent product definitions is when all product definitions use the same `representation_context`. No transformations are required for the simplest case. This applies to a Laminate Table subtype and to any Ply or Composite Constituent shape representations.

This is by far the most frequently instantiated case.

5.1 Referenced Shape in an Assembly with Additional Laminate Table Representation

Figure 38 represents the case where the laminate table subtype is founded with respect to the component/detail within an assembly. Note that it is not required for the component/detail be in an assembly, and that the laminate table subtype could also be related to the assembly.

This is the second most frequently instantiated case.



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5.2 Founding of Ply Subtypes and Composite Constituents with Respect to a Laminate Table subtype – the Most General Case

The Ply shape subtypes and Composite Constituent shapes listed in Table 3 represent the different types of shape indicated on the right – hand side of Figure 39. Any of these shapes may be founded with respect to each other, or with respect to the Laminate Table subtype that they are a member of.

This is a rarely instantiated case included for completeness.

Laid Ply Shape
Flat Pattern Ply Shape
Projected Ply Shape – Surface Ply Shape
Projected Ply Shape – View Ply Shape
Processed Core Shape
Filament Laminate Shape
Ply Laminate Shape
Composite Assembly Shape

Table 3: Ply Subtypes and Composite Constituents

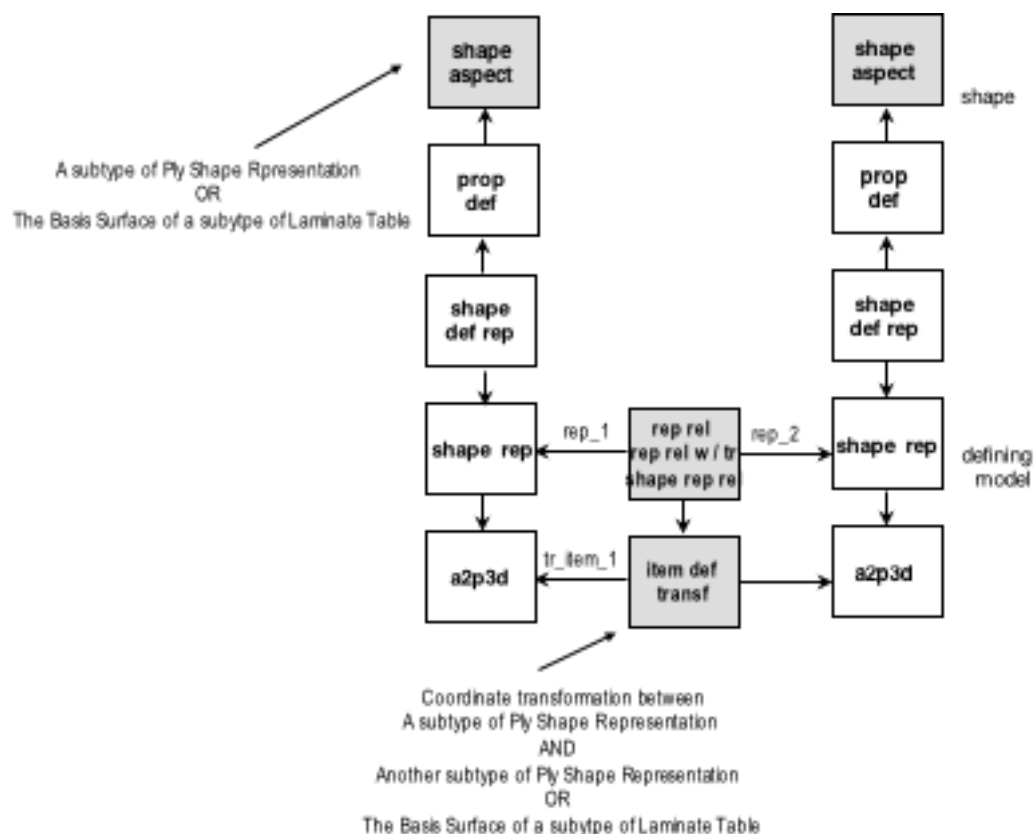


Figure 39: Founding of Ply and Composite Constituent Shapes - Most General Case

NOTE: See Annex A for the abbreviations used in Figure 39.

Annex A Abbreviations used in Instantiation Diagrams

Abbreviation	Entity Type
a2p3d	axis2_placement_3d
beveled sheet rep	beveled_sheet_representation
comp assy seq def composite assembly seq def	composite_assembly_sequence_definition
comp sht rep comp sheet rep	composite_sheet_representation
composite assembly table	composite_assembly_table
fea mat prop rep	fea_material_property_representation
fea mat prop rep item	fea_material_property_representation_item
flat pattern ply rep rel	flat_pattern_ply_representation_relationship
gbssr geo bound surf shape rep	geometrically_bounded_surface_shape_representation
geo rep item	geometric_representation_item
geo set	geometric_set
item defined transf	item_defined_transformation
length meas	length_measure
length meas w unit	length_measure_with_unit
m f u o	make_from_usage_occurrence
mass meas	mass_measure
mat prop	material_property
mat prop rep	material_property_representation
meas rep item	measure_representation_item
mssr manifold surf shape rep	manifold_surface_shape_representation
n a u o	next_assembly_usage_occurrence
p d f	product_definition_formation
percentage laminate table	percentage_laminate_table
percentage ply def	percentage_ply_definition
plane angle meas w unit	plane_angle_measure_with_unit
ply angle rep	ply_angle_representation
ply laminate seq def	ply_laminate_sequence_definition
ply laminate table	ply_laminate_table
prod def	product_definition
prod def shape	product_definition_shape

Abbreviation	Entity Type
prod def with associated documents	product_definition_with_associated_documents
prod rel prod cat	product_related_product_category
prop def	property_definition
prop def rep	property_definition_representation
ratio meas	ratio_measure
rep	representation
rep item	representation_item
rep rel	representation_relationship
rep rel w/ tr rep rel with transf	representation_relationship_with_transformation
rob	reinforcement_orientation_basis
shape asp rel	shape_aspect_relationship
shape def rep	shape_definition_representation
shape rep	shape_representation
shape rep rel	shape_representation_relationship
smeared material definition	smeared_material_definition
thickness lam table	thickness_laminate_table

Annex B Availability of implementation schemas

B.1 AP242 Edition 2

The long form EXPRESS schema for the fourth edition of AP242 (2020) can be retrieved from:

<https://www.mbx-if.org/home/mbx/resources/express-schemas/>