

## noexcept Specifier

## Chapter 3 Unsafe Features

```

struct D2 : B // The noexcept on an overriding function must be compatible.
{
    int foo() const& override; // Error, incompatible exception specification
    int bar() const& override; // OK
};

template <typename T>
auto sum(T a, T b) noexcept -> decltype(a + b); // goes before trailing return

```

Note that **exception specifications** on **overriding** virtual functions must be compatible with (i.e., the same or stricter than) the corresponding virtual function **declaration(s)** in the corresponding base class(es) — e.g., see **structs D1** and **D2** above. For additional details and a full example involving **dynamic exception specifications**, see Section 2.1. “**noexcept Operator**” on page 615.

Decorating a function using just the keyword **noexcept** is equivalent to using the longer, conditional **noexcept** syntax, **noexcept(true)**. The absence of **noexcept**, other than for the special cases of **defaulted special member functions** (see Section 1.1. “Defaulted Functions” on page 33), as well as *any destructors* and deallocation functions (see below), is equivalent to using the conditional **noexcept** syntax, **noexcept(false)**.

An **implicitly declared** special member function for a **class type**,  $T$ , will be **noexcept(true)** unless the implicitly generated function must invoke a function that is not **noexcept(true)**.

A **user-declared special member function** having no explicitly stated **exception specification** that is **defaulted in class scope** will have the same **exception specification** as if it had been declared implicitly. If a **defaulted user-declared special member function** *is* also decorated with an explicitly stated **exception specification**, the stated specification will be honored irrespective of what might have otherwise been generated implicitly.<sup>2</sup>

For example, consider a family of classes,  $S_0 \dots S_3$ , each having an explicitly stated **exception specification** for, say, its **user-declared default constructor** (but the same applies to the other five **special member functions** too)<sup>3</sup>:

<sup>2</sup>As originally designed for C++11, providing an **exception specification** on a **defaulted user-declared special member function** that did not match the implicit **exception specification** was **ill formed**. In 2014, a solution to CWG issue 1778 (**usa13**) was resolved — as a **defect report** — so that any such previously **ill-formed special member functions** would become **deleted**. Implementing this change proved problematic because **exception specifications** — being a **complete-class context** — could not generally be determined implicitly before they were needed. Moreover, C++ developers might legitimately want to explicitly supersede the implicitly generated **exception specification** in either direction; see *Use Cases — Declaring nonthrowing move operations* on page 1094. In 2019, changes introduced by **smith19** — also as a **defect report** — enabled an explicit **exception specification** on a **defaulted user-declared special member function** to simply take precedence over the implicit specification.

<sup>3</sup>Note that on older compilers that predate the implementation of the aforementioned changes the constructor of  $S_3$  will be deleted, as will the corresponding implicit constructors of  $C_3$  and  $D_3$  below.