

UN/CEFACT Project Proposal

Proposed project name:	Digitization transit accompanying documents. Document requirements for goods in transit		
Date submitted:	23.02.2022	Project proposed by:	TPF; AGRI
Date last updated:			

1. Project purpose

Required

Goods crossing territories in transit towards their final destination need to be compliant with national legislation of these transit countries regarding customs laws the protection of the environment, plant and animal health and animal welfare. Shippers must ensure that they obtain all relevant licenses, approvals, certificates for the movement of the goods and that the shipments are correctly labeled/marked, documented, and presented to the authorities in the country of departure, destination, and country (ies) of transit. The necessary arrangements include that the goods/shipments moved under transit are accompanied by documents, including the customs documentation (in EU terminology called TAD), and other licenses and certificates related to the shipments and goods. Hauliers (carriers) must present these documents at the offices of departure, destination and offices of transit, as well as sometimes also for controls en-route.

Up until today, in most jurisdictions, these documents need to be presented in paper form to the authorities in the office(s) of transit. Initiatives for digitization of cross-border trade documents are foremost designed to suit the requirements of the authorities in the country of destination and departure. The legal obligations of authorities in the transit countries seem not always been taken into consideration. An exception is the customs domain where various regional framework are designed or in place to digitize the entire transit procedure, or most recent initiatives in the transport sector related to the DAR.

The dematerialization of trade documents and paperless exchange of SPS and other licenses, such as CITES or WASTE, between authorities of the importing and exporting country may create a challenge for authorities in transit countries. The hard copy of the respective documents that must be presented and approved to fulfil legal obligations related to those documents, is no longer there and the data is not available for authorities in transit countries in the required format. For goods in transit, hauliers still must present these documents in the offices of transit and control points.

This White Paper aims to take stock of existing challenges and constraints for movement of goods under transit and to identify how they could be addressed to create a paperless transit environment. It reviews existing legal and operational practices with regards to presentation and control of transit accompanying documents (non-customs), and the use of relevant UN/CEFACT standards (data models, messages, BRS). It will further explore options with regards to integration of requirements of authorities in transit countries and identify possibilities for the private sector to make electronic exchanged documents available for authorities of transit countries.

It will also take stock of existing legal requirements for prior approval or movement of goods under transit on SPS ground and explore venues for simplification through principles such as mutual recognition agreements to satisfy the SPS objectives.

The aim is to present options for paperless controls by authorities in transit countries by making digital exchange schemes available and, where considered possible and appropriate, simplify relevant transit permits and licenses (and related procedures).

2. Project scope

Required

The project is part of UN/CEFACT activities of the PoW 2021-2022, namely focus area C Developing further;

(g) The development of standards and recommendations to enhance the harmonization, exchange and processing of certificates used in trade;

(h) Work on a mutual recognition mechanism to facilitate domestic and cross-border paperless trade; and,

(i) Recommendations and standards relevant to existing UN/CEFACT domains such as Transport and Logistics; Supply Chain Management and Procurement; Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrifood; Travel and Tourism; etc.

UN/CEFACT considers Cross-border standardization, simplification and harmonization to be fundamental tools for the facilitation of international trading processes forming the nucleus of UN/CEFACT work.

It complements existing UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations and aims to overcome existing challenges and constraints for paperless movement of goods under transit ...

The project will provide clear, accessible and concise guidance for options to make accompanying documents digital available during transit and, where deemed possible, for further enhancing integration capabilities of authorities in transit countries for their controls of digitized transit documents as well as, simplifications. This work will benefit the development of UN/CEFACT standards in future and governments implementing digitized trade facilitation solutions for goods moving in transit.

3. Project deliverables

Required

Deliverable 1:	Webinar to invite experts for brainstorming
Deliverable 2:	White Paper on digitization transit accompanying documents
Deliverable 3:	Webinar to present findings
...	

4. Exit Criteria

Required

Exit Criteria for Deliv. 1:	
Exit Criteria for Deliv. 2:	White paper ready to publish. Internal and External comment logs demonstrating that all comments have been taken into consideration.
Exit Criteria for Deliv. 3:	

Exit Criteria for ... :	
5. Project Team membership and required functional expertise	
Membership is open to UN/CEFACT experts with broad knowledge in the area of:	Trade Facilitation, SPS, transport, Cross-border data harmonization, CITES and Basel Convention
In addition, Heads of Delegations may invite technical experts from their constituency to participate in the work.	
Experts are expected to contribute to the work based solely on their expertise and to comply with the UN/CEFACT Code of Conduct and Ethics and the policy on Intellectual Property Rights.	
6. HoD support	
7. Geographical focus	
The geographical focus of the project is global	
8. Initial contributions	
The following contributions are submitted as part of this proposal. It is understood that these contributions are only for consideration by the Project Team and that other participants may submit additional contributions to ensure that as much information as possible is obtained from those with expertise and a material interest in the project. It is also understood that the Project Team may choose to adopt one or more of these contributions "as is".	
List any initial contributions:	
BSP RDM eCERT	
9. Resource requirements	
Participants in the project shall provide resources for their own participation. The existence and functioning of the project shall not require any additional resources from the UNECE secretariat.	
Any additional request:	Webinar support by UNECE Secretariat
10. Proposed project leadership	
Proposed:	Birgit Viohl
E-mail:	
Proposed:	
E-mail:	
11. Milestones	

The following are draft milestones of the project.

Yes/No*	ODP Stage	Expected Completion Date (Approval + 12 months)
Yes	Project Inception	Approval + 2 months
No	Requirements gathering	
Yes	Draft development	Approval + 10 months
No	Public Draft Review	
Yes	Project Exit	Approval + 11 months
Yes	Publication	Approval + 12 months

* NOTE: The following stages are obligatory: Project Inception, Project Exit and Publication. Public Draft Review is obligatory for recommendations, business standards and technical standards. The presence of "Yes" in the field indicates that the stage is required for the project and an expected completion date should be provided.