

44th Meeting of the IEC-ISO-ITU-UNECE eB MoU/MG

Report from UN/CEFACT SCMP Domain

Background

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) Supply Chain Management and Procurement Domain (SCMP) creates standards for business messages from quotation to invoice as well as identifying the processes and messages for effective and efficient acquiring of goods, services and works.

The Supply Chain Management and Procurement Domain builds upon the structures and work items formerly established by the international trade and business processes group (TBG1) as well as the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (TBG6) and their predecessor within the UNECE Working Party 4 which was founded in the 1960s.

Under this area of activity, UN/CEFACT develops and maintains e-business standards related to supply chain management and procurement as well as some White Papers and Executive Guides. These include key themes such as:

- Buy Ship Pay Reference Data Models
 - Including the Supply Chain Reference Data Model (SCRDM)
 - Along with Multi-modal and Transport MMT RDM
 - Based on the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library (CCL)
 - Scoped by the UN/CEFACT Reference Model of the International Supply Chain (ISCRM)
- The Cross-Industry family of standards which include
 - Cross-Industry Invoice
 - Cross-Industry Delivery
 - Cross-Industry Catalogue
 - Cross-Industry Quotation
 - Cross-Industry Remittance Advice
 - Cross-Industry Scheduling
 - Cross-Industry Ordering
 - Cross-Industry Purchase Order Financing
- E-Tendering
- Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management
- eNegotiation

Recent achievements of UN/CEFACT SCMP

Buy Ship Pay Reference Data Model

UN/CEFACT has been working on Reference Data Models (RDMs) for International Supply Chains and Multi-Modal Transport. These two RDMs share a same base of components from the UN Core Component Library (UN CCL). These are interlinked but used differently due to the differences in context between the international sales and transport contracts. In the concept of RDM, as outlined by the UN/CEFACT White Paper on RDM approved in April 2017, these are complete and focused subsets specific to the needs of a particular domain. The context messages are then subsets of the RDMs. The current project would create an intermediate subset of the UN CCL showing the shared aspects across the international supply chain and transport-logistics chains. For maintenance purposes, if the current two RDMs are developed separately, any changes in one will require changes to the other. A higher level RDM has therefore been created to cover Buy Ship and Pay thereby facilitating their use and maintenance. This project was approved and delivered in 2020.

Export Packing List

The data exchange of Export Packing Lists is a data exchange to support sellers providing transport services providers with shipment delivery information. The data requirements to support this data exchange is well covered within the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library and the Supply Chain Reference Data Model. However, many trading partners still have a document-centric approach to data exchange such as the HANMOV UN/EDIFACT UNSM which was developed to cover these requirements. This project was completed and published to our website in 2020.

Current projects

Supply Chain Track and Trace

The purpose of the project is to create Business Process Models and Business Class Diagrams to document the business scenarios and business transactions involved in the exchange of information about asset (product, lot, pallet etc.) traceability. The scope of the project is tracing (monitoring the history of a traceable asset) and tracking (monitoring the present and future movements of the asset). Business cases supported by these processes are business to business concerning products, events within a country or transborder events. A traceable asset can be any item (for example an object, a product or other traded item or a service) that needs to be tracked along a supply chain. This UN/CEFACT project will develop project Business Requirement Specification and corresponding data requirements and proposed XML schema.

Standard on Transferable Records

Facilitating paperless trade has been an important objective of UN/CEFACT's deliverables, especially working on the dematerialization of the business processes. However, there are still paper documents such as negotiable financial instruments (e.g. Bill of Lading) which are widely used today which have resisted this dematerialization. This project will propose a White Paper on the topic to explore how the requirements as stated in the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records can be fulfilled by technology, a reference implementation using blockchain technology and an Annex on accreditation framework.

eNegotiation

eNegotiation is an automated negotiation process using artificial intelligence (AI) or robot process automation (RPA). The project standardizes the data elements used in this negotiation process, such as the booking in maritime transport, the demand forecast in manufacturing, the freight space adjustment for air cargo.

Automotive Project

The automotive sector is a major user of electronic data exchange and already uses UN/CEFACT standards. This project updated the Cross-Industry Scheduling and Cross-Industry Delivery standards to include the requirements for the global automotive sector. This includes processes involving demand forecasts, supply instructions, just-in-time instructions, dispatch and receiving advices.

Semantic harmonization

The UN/CEFACT SCMP Domain invites all groups within the transport and logistics space to submit their data requirements in order to harmonize them with existing standards and to other procedures in the supply chain. This is in line with the eB-MoU/MG resolution R07/06.

The UN/CEFACT SCMP Domain invites all interested parties on Electronic Invoicing to join its relevant work and reuse its publicly available standards on Cross Industry Invoice. This is in line with the eB-MoU/MG resolution R16/06.