

Paris, January 15th, 2013

Request for contribution to Rec.14 Annex on Legally-enabling environment

Dear Sir or Madame,

UN/CEFACT, the trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards branch of the UN, is revising the Recommendation 14 on “Authentication by means other than a [manual] signature.” The text of the revised recommendation is currently underway. All on going work is available for your consultation on the UNECE Confluence website:

<http://www1.unece.org/cefact/platform/display/CNP/Revision+of+Recommendation+14%2C+Authentication+of+Trade+Documents+by+Means+other+than+Signature>

The future recommendation will be accompanied by two annexes: the first on legally enabling environments and the second on a repository of technical implementations. I am writing to you to solicit your contribution on the first annex. We would be very interested in having an example from your economy or sector on the transition from a paper-based process to an electronic process, and the legally enabling environment that allowed this.

Could you please take the time to consider the attached submission template and consider a brief submission of one or two pages (maximum)?

Contributions will be included in the final recommendation and are planned to be revised approximately every three to five years. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I thank you very much in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,

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Rec14 Revision Working Group Chair, UN/CEFACT
International Development Manager, CONEX

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MODEL TEMPLATE FOR REC14 ANNEX 1 SUBMISSION (LEGALLY ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS)

Any points that do not apply just skip.

If responses are only from a certain domain point of view, please note it (i.e. "From a customs point of view ..."). Also indicate if there are intentions to implement where applicable.

Please try to be brief and keep the total response under two pages maximum (one page preferably).

- I. **LEGAL CONTEXT (VERY BRIEF)**
 - a. Type of legal system (civil law / common law / other...)
 - b. What is the fastest that a legally enabling environment can be created? (delay, process)
 - c. Environment for adding / amending laws
 - i. Fast track, parliamentary ...?
 - d. What types of trade documents must be signed/authenticated?
 - e. Are there trade documents which do not legally require a signature?

- II. **TRANSITION TO ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT**
 - a. What considerations needed to be addressed before passing any laws creating the legally enabling environment?
 - b. How was the private sector involved in the process (public outreach, commentary period, etc.)?
 - c. Were there any unexpected obstacles or complications that needed to be addressed?

- III. **REMOVING MANUAL SIGNATURE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT**
 - a. Please briefly note current laws and their role in removing manual signature / enabling electronic exchange of trade-related documents.

- IV. **RESULTING IMPLEMENTATION IN PUBLIC SECTOR (RELATING TO TRANS-BOUNDARY TRADE)**