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**COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Eighth session, 27-30 May 2002

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**REPORT OF THE CODES WORKING GROUP (CDWG)  
TO THE UN/CEFACT PLENARY**

Submitted by the Chairman of the Codes Development Working Group

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The present report is submitted to the UN/CEFACT Plenary for information.

## **Introduction**

1. This report covers the activities of the Codes Working Group (CDWG) as they relate to the key work programme priorities.
2. Since the March 2001 UN/CEFACT Plenary, the CDWG has conducted two plenary meetings in Geneva, May 2001 and November 2001. A third plenary meeting is to be held the week prior to the May 2002 UN/CEFACT Plenary. The UN/LOCODE Expert Group has met on each occasion, on the day prior to the CDWG meeting.
3. A number of significant work items have been covered during the period since the last UN/CEFACT Plenary, including:
  - Progress with the development of the next version of Recommendation 20, - Codes for units of measure.
  - Arising from deliberations by the UN/LOCODE Expert Group, the inclusion of several enhancements to the UN/LOCODE, Recommendation No. 16.
  - Review of the draft Recommendation No. 30 - Harmonized commodity description and coding system for the coding of goods and commodities, and a CDWG decision to withdraw this recommendation.
  - Preparation and issuance for public comment of a Revised Recommendation No. 21 - Codes for types of cargo, packages and packaging materials.

## **Units of measure used in international trade**

4. Work on the fifth revision of Recommendation 20 has progressed and its completion is expected at the May 2002 meeting of the CDWG. This work has taken longer than expected due to the inherent complexity of the recommendation (e.g. it is derived from multiple sources). It is being updated in collaboration with ISO/TC 154 (Technical Committee - Processes, data elements in commerce, industry and administration). The intent is to include a number of enhancements to the presentation format of this recommendation, in addition to the inclusion of a number of requests for new code entries.
5. Changes are being applied to both the body text and the code lists (annexes I, II and III) of Recommendation 20. Provision has been made in annex II to include a code entry description in addition to the current columns. Code value descriptions will be progressively introduced for existing entries and where appropriate, shall be taken from recognized references. All new entries shall be applied to the code list with a description.
6. Following a two-month public comment on the draft revision of Recommendation 20, the CDWG shall prepare a final version for UN/CEFACT Plenary approval, taking account of the submissions received during the public comment period. Given that this is planned to occur during the third quarter of 2002, the CDWG will likely seek inter-sessional plenary approval following the procedures defined in TRADE/CEFACT/2001/30 (Inter-sessional approval of documents).

## **UN/LOCODE**

7. The UNECE secretariat published two releases of the UN/LOCODE in 2001, UN/LOCODE 2001-1 and UN/LOCODE 2001-2. Following consultation with the UN/LOCODE Expert Group, a number of enhancements were implemented in UN/LOCODE 2001-1 and carried forward into UN/LOCODE 2001-2.
8. The presentation of the location names has been segregated into two columns: one, which includes diacritic marks in the location place names, and one where these diacritic marks have been removed.
9. A new column for geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude) has been introduced. Data are being progressively added in this column when they are made available to the UNECE secretariat.
10. Change indicators have been introduced to indicate where UN/LOCODE entries have been added, changed or marked for deletion. The use of these change indicators is consistent with their use in other code- related recommendations and in the UN/EDIFACT environment.
11. In order to align the use of function classifiers in Recommendations 16 (UN/LOCODE) and 19 (Codes for modes of transport), the classifier "8" in Recommendation 16 will be reserved for inland waterway and lake ports and the border crossing function will be represented by a letter, eg. B. This change will be introduced once a list of inland waterway and lake ports has been established.
12. UN/LOCODE 2001-2 contains over 32,000 entries; some 380 entries were added to this release.
13. In connection with the publication of UN/LOCODE 2001-1, an electronic form for submitting requests was introduced on the UN/LOCODE web-site, enabling requestors to put forward any requests for new code entries directly by entering the data specified on the form.

## **Recommendation No. 30 - Harmonized commodity description and coding system for the coding of goods and commodities**

14. Recommendation No. 30 was designed to cover the use of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), as developed and maintained by the WCO, for more general trade and transport purposes related to the identification of goods and commodities.
15. Following the review of comments received on the draft Recommendation (TRADE/CEFACT/2000/12), the CDWG decided at its December 2000 meeting not to proceed with this Recommendation unless it received support from key transport bodies, notably in the maritime industry.
16. In view of the absence of strong support for the progression of Recommendation 30, a decision was reached at the CDWG meeting in May 2001 to withdraw Recommendation 30. The UNECE secretariat was informed accordingly.

**Recommendation No. 21 - Codes for types of cargo, packages and packaging materials**

17. The CDWG updated Recommendation No. 21 to incorporate a number of user requests for additional and changed code values for types of packages within the existing code list.

18. Accordingly, the code lists for Recommendation No. 21 have been updated.

19. The revision of annex V (Code list in code name order) and annex VI (Code list in code value order) of Recommendation No. 21 is submitted to the UN/CEFACT Plenary for information and noting as TRADE/CEFACT/2002/24 under agenda item 9. A two-month public comment period has commenced (18 March - 10 May 2002).

**Forthcoming meetings**

20. Further meetings of the CDWG are subject to the UN/CEFACT Plenary deliberations on the restructuring of the UN/CEFACT Working Groups.

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