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UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR TRADE FACILITATION AND ELECTRONIC BUSINESS (UN/CEFACT)

**The Harmonized Data Model
Buy-Ship-Pay subset for international trade (including UNeDocs)**

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Informal Note by the Bureau

The document was developed by the UN/CEFACT Bureau in order to inform Delegations of progress being made towards the release of a UN/CEFACT Buy-Ship-Pay Cross Border Subset for International Trade, including UNeDocs. This document is **for information**.

THE HARMONIZED DATA MODEL

BUY-SHIP-PAY SUBSET FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE (INCLUDING UNEDOCs)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The UN/CEFACT Plenary at its 13th session, 14-16 May 2007, approved the Cross-Border Supply Chain Business Requirements Specification (BRS) – ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2007/8.
2. This paper describes the developments and work still in progress by the related working groups of the International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG) towards the achievement of a UN/CEFACT Business Standard for cross-border supply chain under a revised BRS entitled, “Buy-Ship-Pay Cross Border subset for international trade, including UNeDocs (BSP-UNeDocs)”. This project is following the Open Development Process and, as an important step forward, the TBG has formed a Buy-Ship-Pay Team to address the data requirements for the separate sub-processes of cross-border trade from an integrated point of view, as described by the UN/CEFACT International Supply Chain Reference Model. This work will enable the development of documents for international trade that use common data definitions and thus can be used or generated by different systems, i.e. are interoperable.

II. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 13th PLENARY

Development of the Harmonized Data Model

3. The major achievement during the past year has been the very important cooperation and successful core component harmonisation which has taken place across all of the relevant TBG business domain working groups and has led to the development of a harmonized data model.
4. The UN/CEFACT International Trade and Business Group (TBG) has introduced the harmonized data model as an integral part of the BRS, “Buy - Ship - Pay Subset for International Trade including UNeDocs”. The data model is based on the upcoming draft Core Components Library (CCL) 08B. It provides a master template of the information exchanged in international trade, and is the base from which every UNeDocs document will be derived.
5. The data model development follows a 12-month period of implementation verification with more than 10 separate pilot projects in seven countries and three regional initiatives.
6. The resulting data model provides a cross-sector platform for specifying the data requirements for international supply chains. It is a platform for Single Window implementation covering Business-to-Business (B2B); Business-to-Government (B2G) and Government-to-Government (G2G) data exchange.
7. In parallel, harmonization work with the OASIS Universal Business Language (UBL) Technical Committee has also started, and the draft CCL 08B release will facilitate the completion of that work.
8. The intent of the data model is to support document exchanges in both simple and complex environments, for both SMEs and global traders, and for both paper-based and digital documents.

9. During the past two years UN/CEFACT has received information on ongoing projects and requests for implementation support from numerous countries, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States of America, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Philippines and Mongolia, as well as from the European Union, ASEAN and APEC.

III. NEXT STEPS

10. The current status of the set of deliverables is as follows:

- a) The Cross-Border Supply Chain (UNeDocs) BRS will be updated with the inclusion of the harmonized data model, Buy-Ship-Pay subset for international trade including UNeDocs. This will be completed not later than the UN/CEFACT Forum meeting in Senegal in November 2008.
- b) The CCTS compliant data model will be released following the publication of the Core Component Library 08B, also not later than the Senegal Forum.

11. An initial list of documents to be built on this foundation has been envisaged (see below) and the list is now being reviewed by the TBG working groups to reflect current requirements, priorities and achievements:

- a) Quotation
- b) Order
- c) Export Cargo Shipping Instructions (ECSI)
- d) Freight Forwarding Instructions (FFI)
- e) Consignment Document Despatch Notice
- f) Non-Negotiable Sea Waybill
- g) Non-Negotiable IMMTA
- h) Negotiable IMMTA
- i) CMR (Road Consignment note)
- j) Certificate Of Origin
- k) Export Customs Declaration
- l) Invoice

12. The business requirements for each of the above documents shall be specified in a business requirements specification (BRS) that includes a business information model derived from the Buy-Ship-Pay data model.

13. The deliverables for each document will include:

- a) Class diagrams of the business models and the presentation mapping of the document based on the UN Layout Key (UNECE Recommendation 1);
- b) Box Completion Guidelines
- c) UN/EDIFACT message implementation guidelines, if required;
- d) XML electronic document implementation guidelines and aligned stylesheets or other formats for freely distributable and reusable forms.

14. The planning for the completion of these deliverables will be presented no later than the Senegal Forum meeting in November 2008.
