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Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures  
and Practices for Administration,

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda of the

Meeting of Experts on Data Elements

and Automatic Data Interchange (GE.1)

(fifty-sixth session, 17-18 September 1997)

#### SYNTAX DEVELOPMENT GROUP

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting 19 - Herrenberg, 12-16 May 1997

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Submitted by the Syntax Development Group (SDG) \*

This document is submitted for information.

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**SYNTAX DEVELOPMENT GROUP - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**Meeting 19 - Herrenberg, 12-16 May 1997**

Submitted by the Syntax Development Group (SDG)

**Summary of documents submitted by SDG**

In addition to this Executive summary, the following documents have also been submitted by SDG to the September 1997 session:

ISO 9735 Part 4 - TRADE/WP.4/R.1244/Rev.1	(for approval and submission to ISO)
ISO 9735 Part 7 - TRADE/WP.4/R.1251/Rev.2	(for approval and submission to ISO)
ISO 9735 Part 10 - TRADE/WP.4/R.1284/Rev.1	(for approval and submission to ISO)

**Meeting details**

1. The SDG group held its 19th and last meeting in Herrenberg. Subsequent meetings of the group will be as the "Joint Syntax Working Group (JSWG)", a joint group between UN and ISO representatives under ISO/TC 154, having the responsibility for progressing the various parts of ISO 9735/Version 4 to International Standard (IS) status. In addition, the Group will be responsible for ongoing maintenance and development of ISO 9735.
2. A series of constructive editorial comments on Part 4 - Syntax and service report message for batch EDI (message type - CONTRL) was submitted to SDG by the delegation of Sweden. The majority of these comments have been applied to the document. No other comments were received, apart from those arising from the completion by SDG of all of the security parts. Since all of the security parts had been completed, SDG added to Part 4 the necessary additions to enable the CONTRL message to deal with the reporting of syntax errors related to security headers and trailers, in addition to those related generally to batch EDI. SDG recommends Part 4 for approval and for submission to ISO for fast-tracking.
3. Part 7 - Security rules for batch EDI (confidentiality) has been finalised by SDG, and Part 10 - Security rules for Interactive EDI has been reviewed and approved by the I-EDI sub-group of SDG. Both are recommended by SDG for approval and for submission to ISO for fast-tracking.
4. With the approval and submission to ISO of the above parts, all of the current parts of ISO 9735 Version 4 (ten in all) will have been submitted to ISO for fast-tracking, meaning that SDG will have completed the first phase of its task, an activity spanning nearly eight years.
5. Any new items of work related to ISO 9735 (such as the development of a CONTRL-type message for Interactive EDI, which is under consideration), will become a Work Item for the Joint UN/ISO Syntax Working Group (JSWG).

**Results to date of the ISO ballot on Parts 1, 2, 3 & 8**

6. At the date of preparing this Executive Summary, in brief, the results of the balloting on the above four parts are that all four have been approved in accordance with the ISO/IEC directives. Countries able to vote were: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA and Yugoslavia. One issue yet to be resolved is a blanket disapproval by Canada, based in the main on the question of ISO procedural matters, rather than on the technical content of the four parts. This issue is being handled by the ISO Central Secretariat.

7. In detail, for a DIS to be approved and to be progressed, 66.7% of the votes cast by the P-members of the technical committee or subcommittee must be in favour, and not more than 25% of the votes cast can be negative. Based upon these criteria, the results of the votes on the various parts were as follows:

Part 1: In favour 16 out of 18 (89%); Negative 2 out of 22 (9%)

Part 2: In favour 16 out of 18 (89%); Negative 2 out of 22 (9%)

Part 3: In favour 15 out of 18 (83%); Negative 3 out of 22 (14%)

Part 8: In favour 17 out of 18 (94%); Negative 1 out of 22 (5%)

8. A meeting of an Editing Team to address comments which have been received with some of the votes, has been arranged to be held in July. A report of the outcome of the meeting has to be provided to the ISO Central Secretariat for circulation to P-members of TC 154 by the end of September. An attempt will also be made to coordinate a convenient meeting date for the JSWG, in accordance with ISO procedures. An oral update on this item will be given by the Chair of the JSWG, when this Executive Summary is presented to the September session. The annex attached shows the status of 9735 Version 4 to date.

### **Security implementation guides**

9. Requests have been received by the security sub-group of SDG from several parties, including Germany, the UK, the Joint Finance Security Working Group, and some other countries, for more documentation on how to implement the security messages and mechanisms (including headers and trailers). The security sub-group recognises that this a valid request, particularly regarding the use of codes specified for the security mechanisms.

10. The security sub-group has estimated that this will require a considerable amount of work, perhaps in the order of 100+ man-days, resulting in a significant amount of documentation. Already, attempts to develop a 'brief' version have demonstrated the extent of the task.

11. In the view of SDG, this task is outside the scope of the UN/ISO JSWG, and recommends that the task should be dealt with under the CEFACT process, for eventual publication as a CEFACT document. While one security sub-group member is prepared to give some time to the task, there is generally a lack of voluntary resource to carry out the total activity. Currently, the security sub-group is considering making a bid to the Esprit programme for funding under 'awareness', so that the work can be carried out. Even if this approach is feasible, it is envisaged that the work would extend well into 1998.

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## **Annex**

### **Progress of ISO 9735, Version 4 (Status: 11<sup>th</sup> June 1997)**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>UN/ECE WP.4 Process</b>			<b>ISO</b>	
		Approved by WP.4/CEFACT	Finalized by UN/SDG	R.-Document	Ballot start date	Ballot end date
<b>1</b>	Syntax rules common to all parts, together with syntax service directories for each of the parts	March 96	July 96	R.1241 (plus Corr.1)	28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 96	31 <sup>st</sup> May 97*)
<b>2</b>	Syntax rules specific for batch EDI	March 96	July 96	R.1242	28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 96	31 <sup>st</sup> May 97*)
<b>3</b>	Syntax rules specific for interactive EDI	March 96	July 96	R.1243 (plus Corr.1)	28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 96	31 <sup>st</sup> May 97*)
<b>4</b>	Syntax and service report message for batch EDI (message type – CONTRL)	will be submitted for approval in September 97	expected at 15 <sup>th</sup> June 97	R.1244	---	---
<b>5</b>	Security rules for batch EDI (authenticity, integrity and non-repudiation of origin)	September 96	January 97	R.1245/Rev.1	1 <sup>st</sup> May 97	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 97
<b>6</b>	Secure authentication and acknowledgement message (message type – AUTACK)	September 96	January 97	R.1246/Rev.1	1 <sup>st</sup> May 97	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 97
<b>7</b>	Security rules for batch EDI (confidentiality)	will be submitted for approval in September 97	expected at 15 <sup>th</sup> June 97	R.1251/Rev.1	---	---
<b>8</b>	Associated data in EDI	March 96	July 97	R.1248	28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 96	31 <sup>st</sup> May 97*)
<b>9</b>	Security key and certificate management message (message type – KEYMAN)	March 97	January 97	R.1249	19 <sup>th</sup> Jun 97	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 97
<b>10</b>	Security rules for interactive EDI	will be submitted for approval in September 97	expected at 15 <sup>th</sup> June 97	R.1284	---	---

\*) The end of the voting period was extended for 1 month on request of Canada (the original date for the voting end was the 28<sup>th</sup> April 97).

NOTE: This extension of the voting period applies to Canada only, and not to all P-members of ISO/TC154.