

4 March 1999

CEFACT

**AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SIMPL-EDI
AND FORMS AND WEB BASED EDI (SIMAC)**

SIMAC Future Vision Statement

SOURCE: SIMAC

STATUS: Accepted

ACTION: To UN CEFACT for information

SIMAC Future Vision Statement

*To be read in conjunction with the SIMAC glossary of terms document.
(99N06)*

Goal

To facilitate Value Chain management through Simple Electronic Business.

Vision

1. Facilitate and simplify the exchange of information between businesses, including SME's (small and medium sized enterprises).
2. This is achieved through the simplification of value chain processes and standardisation of core data.
3. International and cross-sectoral simplified processes supported by a set of core message implementation guidelines using minimum data as defined by the UN/EDIFACT standard.
4. To co-ordinate existing approaches such as SIMPL-EDI and aligned electronic forms interfaces, and future developments around the internet, providing a comprehensive set of tools to support companies of all sizes.
5. The global publication of a set of core message implementation guidelines enabling businesses to exchange data in a simple, and a uniform way, supported by UN/CEFACT. These core message implementation guidelines must comply with the set of SIMAC principles set out below.
6. A UN/CEFACT process that enables timely development of core message implementation guidelines. This process needs to be transparent and efficient, with appropriate governance.
7. Simple, effective value chain management processes are fundamental to this vision.

Principles

The application of simplified business processes, using core data, and new and existing standardised techniques which support paperless and efficient operations, by means of:

- simple processes
- prior exchange and alignment of master data enabling more efficient transaction messaging
- core message implementation guidelines that are both simple to understand and to implement
- application to application processing, with nil or minimal manual intervention
- elimination of non-core data through adoption of the 80/20 rule
- the use of core data to convey the essential minimum detail for a specific transaction type
- use of uniform and unambiguous standard international codes providing the link to master data

Constraints and Opportunities

The SIMAC group recognise that there are a number of constraints and opportunities that need to be recognised in order to achieve the goal and vision. These include:

- 1 proliferation of proprietary implementation guidelines
 - 2 the current vertical UN/EDIFACT organisational structure
 - 3 lack of emphasis on master data alignment
 - 4 lack of focus on detailed business process analysis e.g. through business modelling
 - 5 lack of cross sectoral simplification and harmonisation
 - 6 lack of an effective global repository of standardised data entities
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