Digitalisation of the FIATA Multimodal Transport Bill of Lading (FBL)

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Transport & Logistics Domain
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FIATA – International Federation of Freight-Forwarders Associations

Representing Freight Forwarders in some 150 countries

• FIATA is composed of:
  • 109 Association Members
  • 5,500 Individual Members

• Overall representing an industry of 40,000 freight forwarding and logistics firms

• FIATA advocates trade facilitation and actively contributes to the well-functioning of the supply chain through close collaboration with relevant stakeholders
**Digitalisation of the FIATA Bill of Lading – summary of the work done so far**

- Negotiable FIATA Multimodal Transport Bill of Lading (FBL) *created more than 30 years ago* for FIATA members acting as Multimodal Transport Operators (MTO).

- The FBL is a recognized and trustworthy transport document thanks to its **alignment with the UNCTAD/ICC rules**

- FIATA members have been asking for a **digital version** of the document, easily **accessible through their everyday tools**

- Technical solution tested through a 7 months **Proof of Concept** last year, involving 7 software providers and 19 freight-forwarders
• eFBL data standard, based on UN/CEFACT semantic to ensure the data exchanged can be understood in the same way by all actors of the supply chain

• Officially launched together with UNECE on March 10 2022 – [Press release](#)

• FIATA expects its standard to become the main global standard for all House Bill of Ladings, noting the compatibility with other BLs

* eFBL data standard available as open source on Git Hub: [https://github.com/FIATA/eFBL](https://github.com/FIATA/eFBL)
API service to issue secured Paperless FIATA BLs

- API service open to all software providers (TMS, eBL providers and other software) interested
- Allows to connect with FIATA to generate secured Paperless FIATA BLs, based on data generated in alignment with the eFBL data standard
- Pragmatic solution allowing to move from paper documents to secured paperless PDFs, allowing freight-forwarders to still print the document at anytime if needed.

How does it work?

1. FBL data entered through dedicated software
2. FBL data sent to FIATA through API service, together with unique identifier of document issuer
3. Through an automated process, FIATA checks if the document issuer fulfills all conditions to issue FBLs (valid membership + valid liability insurance)
4. Paperless FIATA BL is issued and registered on an immutable ledger. PDF is made available to the document issuer who can decide in which format (s)he shares the document with its stakeholders
Bringing trust and security through digitalisation

• All documents registered on an *immutable ledger*, protecting them against fraud risks

• All stakeholders can **verify the document at anytime**, by scanning the QR code or by uploading the document on FIATA’s verification page, giving them access to the document audit trail

• Document audit trail certifies:
  • The *validity* of the document
  • The *identity* of the document issuer
  • The *integrity* of its content
Current status

- **Official launch** planned for May 18 at FIATA HQ meeting
- Already 6 providers have signed an agreement to implement the solution – expecting to have much more joining
Next steps

- Promotion to software providers
- Promotion to National associations and Individual members
- Better understand the key needs of very complex global workflows by focusing on specific areas of the supply chain (ports, warehouse, customs and banks)
- Working with various stakeholders initiatives (FIT alliance, ICC DSI, ICAO, ISO, UNECE, UNCITRAL) to identify pain points to the digitalisation of the supply chain and the adoption of electronic documents.
Q&A
Thank you