



**UNECE**  
UN / CEFAC

**Executive Guide**

**IMO eFAL**

## Introduction

The International Maritime Organization's Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, or "FAL Convention" dates to the 1960s. It aims to facilitate maritime traffic by providing a degree of uniformity in the number and type of declarations required by public authorities when a maritime vessel enters a port. The convention limits the number of copies that can be requested and defines seven standard documents covering ship, cargo, passengers, but also dangerous goods, postal requirements and health requirements.

***FAL is currently binding on 118 Contracting Governments to the Convention***

The information from these declarations has been sent electronically for many years through a combination of United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and

Transport (UN/EDIFACT) messages. Since 2016, the IMO has been working to integrate the notion of an electronic version of these documents into the convention and propose an electronic model to achieve this. The IMO has worked with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Standards Organization (ISO) to create a clear, semantic data set to cover the needs of the FAL Convention, which will soon be added to the convention itself.

## Application

The IMO FAL documents are required for nearly all maritime transport arriving at port and the electronic equivalent will be accepted more and more frequently in the future.

***Statistics show that countries with more efficient FAL infrastructure have better import and export figures***

UN/CEFACT has created a mapping of the IMO FAL requirements, compatible with its Multi-Modal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT-RDM). This mapping should be integrated into the IMO FAL convention for the future reference of the user community.

## Benefits

*The FAL Convention recommends that Member Governments establish a national facilitation committee to develop a national facilitation program, adopt practical measures and make recommendations*

UN/CEFACT has been developing electronic business exchange standards for over thirty years. Through this rich experience it has established a comprehensive semantic library of business terms used in international trade, which covers all aspect of the supply-chain life cycle from materials management and commercial to transport/logistics and regulatory

requirements. The MMT-RDM is a logical subset of this library as it strives to cover all possible requirements in the transport and logistics realm. It is fully integrated in the current paper-based exchanges but allows for a smooth transition towards a process-driven (or event-driven) exchange of information.

The UN/CEFACT IMO FAL mappings are available free of charge, as are the other standards with which it is fully compatible.

## More information

Link to project page

<https://uncefact.unece.org/display/uncefactpublic/IMO+FAL+electronic+compendium+mapping>

Link to MMT-RDM

[https://www.unece.org/uncefact/mainstandards.html#ui-accordion-jfmulticontent\\_c66199-panel-0](https://www.unece.org/uncefact/mainstandards.html#ui-accordion-jfmulticontent_c66199-panel-0)

Link to IMO FAL Convention page:

<http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Facilitation/ConventionsCodesGuidelines/Pages/Default.aspx>

# What is UN/CEFACT?

UN/CEFACT, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to **exchange products and relevant services effectively**. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through **the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows**, and so contributing to the growth of global commerce.

**UN/CEFACT has a global mandate. Participation in the UN/CEFACT Forum is open to all.** There are 1000 experts from every region in the world.

Within the framework of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) serves as the focal point for **trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards**, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services. In this context UN/CEFACT was established, as a subsidiary, intergovernmental body of the UNECE.

Participation in the development of UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations is free of charge.

If you are interested in joining us, you should register at <https://uncefact.unece.org/display/uncefactpublic/UNCEFACT+Expert+Registration>

All resulting deliverables are available online free of charge at <http://www.unece.org/cefact>

For more information:  
<http://www.unece.org/cefact>  
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