Revision of ECE Layout Key: semantic information and codes in international trade data exchange

Recommendation No. 2
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Foreword

The World Trade Organization (WTO) estimates that full implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) could reduce trade costs by an average of 14.3 per cent and boost global trade by up to $1 trillion per year, with the biggest gains in the poorest countries. This includes developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including several member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Article 10.3 of the WTO TFA highlights the crucial role that international standards play in its implementation and encourages alignment with international standards to facilitate import and export procedures.

For over four decades, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), serviced by the ECE, has been developing international standards for electronic business exchange to facilitate trade. With the adoption of the WTO TFA, UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations have increased in relevance, building on this foundation to better guide and facilitate the implementation of WTO rules.

By underpinning effective processes and data exchange, UN/CEFACT standards help to cut red tape and reduce the cost and time of doing business. By offering solutions that are semantically aligned and harmonized with international standards, UN/CEFACT standards help to ensure interoperability. In response to the increasing digitalization of international trade, UN/CEFACT continues to serve as a semantic hub, developing instruments that enable trade actors to efficiently exchange and use information received from both within their organizations and from third parties.

One of the key instruments of UN/CEFACT is Recommendation No. 2: ECE Layout Key: semantic information and codes in international trade data exchange. In autumn 2022, ECE member States adopted a revision of the previous 1981 recommendation. In its updated form, Recommendation No. 2 supports the migration from paper to electronic data exchanges and adopts a cross-industry and multimodal perspective to trade and transport. The revised recommendation is supported by UN/CEFACT international code lists and the UNTDED semantic dictionary of key international trade terms.

I am confident that this updated recommendation, responding to key global trends, digitalization, and multi-modality, will be of great value to all relevant stakeholders and that it will serve as a useful tool in harnessing the power of international trade for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Olga Algayerova

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Note

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Simple, Transparent and Effective Processes for Global Commerce

UN/CEFACT’s mission is to improve the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and Transitional 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 contribute to the growth of global commerce.

Participation in UN/CEFACT is open to experts from United Nations Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations recognised by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Through this participation of government and business representatives from around the world, UN/CEFACT has developed a range of trade facilitation and e-business standards, recommendations and tools that are approved within a broad intergovernmental process and implemented globally.

UN/CEFACT is committed to ensuring that the gender dimension is reflected in norms, roles, procedures, and access to resources. Government and trade are encouraged to promote equal opportunities for women and men within the scope of Trade Facilitation activities. UN/CEFACT specifically encourages the collection, analysis, and monitoring of gender disaggregated data in order to better understand and support women’s engagement in international trade and transport facilitation.

This Recommendation encourages governments, business communities, development partners, international organizations, and other policymakers to follow UN/CEFACT’s commitment to ensure inclusiveness for women.
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I. **Recommendation No. 2: Revision of ECE Layout Key: semantic information and codes in international trade data exchange**

A. **Introduction**

1. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Recommendation No. 2 was originally approved at the same time as ECE Recommendation No. 1: United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents to underline the importance of unambiguous definition of the information in documents and to recommend the use of code lists to the extent possible. It was later integrated into the United Nations Layout Key for paper documents and no longer existed as a stand-alone recommendation. However, today’s digitalized environment the definition of information remains an important issue for electronic data exchanges.

2. Ensuring that all parties understand the same information in the same way is even more pertinent as multiple data exchange methods emerge. The semantic meaning—or base meaning—of each individual data element, whether it be in a paper document or within an electronic message, needs to be clearly defined to avoid errors, miscomprehension, misalignment or non-interoperability.

3. Alignment to international standards is important to ensure interoperability and effective data exchange, especially in an electronic environment. The importance of international standards is further accentuated by the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement in its article 10.3 use of international standards.

B. **Purpose and scope**

4. Semantics is at the base of every data exchange, whether paper or electronic. The sender and receiver must mutually comprehend the information in order to ensure that all the terms and conditions of the transaction or of the data exchange are clearly understood. Every word has a meaning; however, in a world where data exchange methods are multiplying, two partners can define their own definitions for each term independent of any other model. This can create confusion between data which might use a same identifier (such as “date-time of arrival”) but which may have different meanings depending on the partners who are using it (port terminal, warehouse, manufacturing factory, etc.) and the context of the exchange.

5. Although data programmers can create bridges between different data sets, in an environment of international standards, this should be harmonized and clearly defined so that that all standards development organizations, all software developers, all implementers can be assured that they are meaning the same thing when they are talking with their partners.

6. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) has been constructing base semantics since the 1970s with the United Nations Layout Key, then with the United Nations Trade Data Element Dictionary (UNTDED), then in the 1980s with the United Nations Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), since the 2000s with its Core Component Library (CCL) and since 2015 with its reference data models. Much of this work is showcased in this recommendation, is available free of charge on the UN/CEFACT websites and is proposed as a semantic base for all parties involved in exchanging data—paper or electronic.
C. Benefits

7. The use of clear, structured semantics and coded information in data exchange helps to ensure that all parties involved understand the same data in the same way. This, in turn, saves money and time as mappings between data are less time consuming. It also helps software providers and implementers to create the proper data sets from the outset, eliminating the need to make bilateral agreements and holding negotiations to define each term and each business case; instead, they only need to reference to the relevant international standard.

D. International standards

8. The main recommendation in this document is to use international standards for e-business data exchange. Stakeholders are encouraged to use UN/CEFACT semantic standards relevant to their operations for several reasons. These principles and definitions are the fruit of over fifty years of collaboration and research, ensuring the robustness of the main principles. As an organization, UN/CEFACT provides an open forum for all experts from the private and public sectors to collaborate and is not dominated by any single government agency or private interest group; all have an equal voice in the development process. United Nations Member States from every region of the world have the final decisional power in the UN/CEFACT Plenary and all deliverables of UN/CEFACT are published on public United Nations webpages free of charge for the benefit of all—including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, least developed countries, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) economies and large enterprises. What’s more, UN/CEFACT ensures harmonization of all business processes along the international supply chain, which means that each “document” which is dematerialized is aligned with all related documents and the results are completely interoperable by design.

9. The UN/CEFACT strategy aims to create a single semantic hub for all internal developments, and the work of other standards setting bodies and organizations. The data needs from other organizations have been integrated into the UN/CEFACT semantic libraries over the years and harmonized with the business needs of all other data in these libraries. Over the past two decades, such collaborations have taken place with the World Customs Organization, the International Air Cargo Association, and Open Applications Group Inc. (the OAGi), among others. This is also in the spirit of ECE Recommendation No. 33 on single windows.

E. Recommendation

10. In light of the above, UN/CEFACT recommends the following:

- All public and private sector supply chain actors should prioritize codified data instead of textual inputs and reference, whenever possible, freely available code lists like those maintained by UN/CEFACT.

- All public and private sector supply chain actors should carefully consider the semantic meaning of data when establishing electronic data exchange, taking into consideration the guidelines accompanying this recommendation, and keep a transparent record of these.

- All electronic business data dematerialization efforts should be harmonized using a wholistic view of the international supply chain.
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- All public and private sector supply chain actors should consider using UN/CEFACT semantic standards, either as the base of their electronic exchanges, as a reference in the message structures, or as a mapping to facilitate interoperability.
- Should it be discovered that any semantic needs or code lists are not defined within UN/CEFACT, the stakeholders who identified this are encouraged to bring this to the attention of UN/CEFACT to be addressed in an existing or new project.
II. Guidelines to Recommendation No. 2: Revision of ECE Layout Key: semantic information and codes in international trade data exchange

A. Introduction

11. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) published an article in a 2018 newsletter about the transition one company made between extensible markup language (XML) messages and UN/EDIFACT messages. As the name indicates, XML is rather flexible and easy to construct; for this reason, many companies that implement electronic data exchange are attracted to XML. The result is that there are nearly as many XML messaging formats as there are companies implementing data exchange. Each company is able to create a message which is fully fit to purpose for their particular needs. The service provider who wrote the aforementioned article acted as a link between freight forwarders, agents, handlers and shipping lines and the information often needed to be shared among each of these professions. To complicate things, the provider was rather successful and had hundreds of clients/partners, each with their own XML. The base information contained in each of these electronic messages was similar, but the terms were not harmonized, nor was the structure of the data. The service provider needed to employ several people just to implement bridges from one electronic message to another (e.g. information X from company123 is equivalent to information B from company 987...).

12. The service provider suggested to its clients/partners that they implement a standard, but each one proclaimed that their electronic message was the best and that it should be used as the standard. Not wanting to upset its clients, but wanting to streamline this process, the service provider suggested using UN/EDIFACT as the common language. As it is centrally maintained by ECE, it does not favour any individual company's internal solution. It is also widely used in transport and maritime trade, so many of the clients/partners had already implemented it for some of their communication with other actors in the supply chain. As the clients/partners started to use the UN/EDIFACT standard, they were even able to find new commercial outlets with partners that also used this standard. In the end, the service provider was able to reduce the support team for implementing bridges to a single employee, freeing up the rest of his team to work on more interesting development tasks.

13. This true story is not to say that everyone should move to the UN/EDIFACT standard. This forty-year-old standard (at time of print) has stood the test of time and still provides benefits today. It has been adapted to many different uses, but it is a very structured method of exchanging information which has limited flexibility. Standard XML schemes exist as well, but unlike UN/EDIFACT, which is centrally developed, maintained, and published by a neutral agency (the United Nations), there are many organizations claiming to develop standard XML. These often concentrate on a specific segment of an international trade transaction and almost never consider upstream or downstream uses of the same data. UN/CEFACT has produced a comprehensive data library and corresponding XML scheme, which will be explained below.
B. **Definition of some key concepts**

1. **Semantics**

14. Semantics is the meaning of words and phrases. This is particularly important in electronic data exchange where it is important to ensure that the same information is understood the same way. If the billing process depends on the date the goods arrive in the warehouse, then it is very important to define and understand what “date of arrival” means so that all the stakeholders involved in the exchange understand it the same way. It would not be the date of arrival in the country or date of arrival in the transport hub, each of which could logically be called “date of arrival”. The semantic meaning behind this term is more important than the term itself.

2. **Ontologies**

15. Ontologies is the relationship of words and phrases to each other. UN/CEFACT provides the semantic definitions which are the necessary foundation for standardized electronic exchange of information. Machine learning and big data allow computers to understand the similarities between terms and to execute the automated mapping of terms in an electronic message.

3. **Codes**

16. Information which is used regularly in an exchange, and which has a limited number of possible responses, should be codified. Using a code instead of natural language ensures that all parties and computer systems understand the same information in the same way. This obviously applies to situations in a multilingual environment; however, this can also apply within a same language as a term such as “pallet” can be understood in many different ways (wooden pallet, plastic pallet, stackable pallet, etc.).

4. **Code lists**

17. Codified information must be structured with a set length and format (e.g. alphabetic, numeric, or alphanumeric with a set length of three or four characters or a length of up to four characters). The possible codes that can be used should be organized into code lists which should include the name of the code list, the codes, and for each code its full name, and most importantly its definition. It is this definition which provides the semantic understanding of the code itself. The maintenance of the code list must also be defined, explaining how modifications or additions can be made. It is advisable to ensure that code lists are always backwards compatible; this implies that deprecating a code list entry may be complicated. Instead of deleting a code from the list, best practice is to “mark” the entry as “no longer in use from an effective date” or “superseded by” another entry from an effective date.

18. Annex I includes a list of code lists maintained by UN/CEFACT.

C. **Paper-centric view versus process-driven approach to exchanges**

19. Digitalizing a paper document—taking a paper document and making an electronic equivalent—is a relatively easy process. The information in the document may reference international codes and may even reference an international standard library of data. The result may function well and users may experience immediate benefits from this digitalization. This digitalization process may even consider a group of documents related to a similar purpose.
(transport, commercial ordering, banking, etc.) and the individual documents may be harmonized within that grouping of documents. This would be a paper-centric view of data exchange.

20. Dematerialization implies that the shift to electronic data exchange also considers the relevant processes and puts these into context with other related processes (this is often also called “digitalization”). The document is then considered as one part of the data exchange process instead of the desired outcome. The dematerialization of the process involves a harmonization across the entire process, as described in ECE Recommendation No. 34 on Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade.¹

21. Recommendation No. 34 outlines four steps for dematerialization:

- Capture: Prepare an inventory of information requirements/data elements (throughout the process, from multiple documents);
- Define: Clearly define each data element (name, definition, representation [text, format, code], when it is required, legal basis, etc.);
- Analyse: Check the resulting information for instances where the same information may be requested with different names or for cases where the information may not be necessary (some information may be inferred by other data or some data may not have any legal or operational reason for being requested); and
- Reconcile: Prepare a consolidated list of data elements and align these to an international standard.

D. Whole-of-supply-chain approach

22. This dematerialization process may also consider only one segment of the international supply chain, such as transportation, commercial or banking processes. If dematerialization is performed by each segment of the international supply chain separately, there is a great risk that the exchange from one segment to the next may not align and that the terms are being used with different semantic meanings. All of these segments are connected: the logistics process does not exist without the commercial process requesting the movement of goods; the banking process does not exist without the exchange of goods from the commercial and logistics processes; the regulatory process does not exist unless there is an exchange of goods or services. There may be an excellent data model to handle the regulatory processes when the goods arrive at a border, but it may be disconnected from the other processes and oblige operators to recapture information—or worse, to redefine information.

23. UN/CEFACT has taken a holistic approach to the supply chain from the outset. All data in the Core Component Library has been harmonized within the entire global exchange and the information should be reusable in each segment of the international supply chain.

E. Electronic data exchanges need to be structured

24. Information which is exchanged electronically is usually not a flat list of data; it is more often hierarchal by design. For example, on a paper document, there is often a box for the

¹ ECE, 2013 (ECE/TRADE/400).
Available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE-TRADE-400E_Rec34.pdf.
25. The individual data elements such as “country code” or “identification number” are used multiple times within an electronic data exchange; in the above example, both of these are used multiple times. The semantic definition is the same, but they are taken in the context of the hierarchy: each element inherits the properties from the data element under which it is placed. For example, the “identification number” under “tax registration” is the “tax registration identification number”. If this information was all at the same level with no hierarchy, it would be necessary to define more data in order to put it within its business context. Such a flat file may be possible within the context of the digitization of a single document; however, it would become unmanageable in the dematerialization of a process or of the entire supply chain.

F. International Supply Chain Reference Model

26. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, UN/CEFACT defined the Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model which has been used as the basis for all of its e-business standards since. It is based on a simplified model or an international supply chain transactions including processes in each stage from buying or selling, to shipping and paying for the delivery. Twenty years on, it is necessary to expand this model to take into consideration sustainability aspects which lead to additional
processes prior to the “buy” phase and after the “pay” phase. The reference mode is expanded by two stages and the name changed to Prepare-Buy-Ship-Pay-Recycle model.

1. **Prepare phase**

27. In this phase of the international supply chain, the following are examples of use cases which are necessary:
   - Establish a sustainability claim (statement about a characteristic of a product or about a process or an organization associated with that product - it may cover one or multiple sustainability dimensions, such as economic, environmental or social).

2. **Buy phase**

28. In this phase of the international supply chain, the following are examples of use cases which are necessary:
   - Identify potential partners (customer may issue a request for information or supplier may issue catalogue information);
   - Establish business agreement (customer issues a “request to quote” or supplier issues an unsolicited quote; this may also include negotiations on conditions or prices);
   - Check credit (supplier initiates query on the credit worthiness of customer);
   - Order (customer places an order under an established contract or framework agreement);
   - Manufacture (supplier places order to manufacture the product); and
   - Despatch (supplier sends the products according to the terms of trade and eventually provides information to the customer on the delivery; this could also be the realization of a service).

3. **Ship phase**

29. In this phase of the international supply chain, the following are examples of use cases which are necessary:
   - Request licences and certificates (operator requests relevant licences or certificates which are required for the traded goods);
   - Insure (logistics service provider or carrier requests insurance for the transport of the goods);
   - Prepare packing list (logistics service provider issues a packing list for the transport of the goods);
   - Book transport (logistics service provider requests transport);
   - Provide transport services and cargo tracking (logistics service provider or carrier moves the goods to the contractual destination and provides tracking information to authorised parties);
• Establish transport documents (logistics service provider or carrier issue transport documents such as the house bill of lading, the master bill of lading, the consignment security declaration); and
• Clearance (operator presents the goods to government authorities for their import, export and transit clearance).

4. Pay phase

30. In this phase of the international supply chain, the following are examples of use cases which are necessary:
• Supplier requests payment (supplier issues invoice);
• Customer requests the transfer of funds; and
• Sales order financing.

5. Recycle phase

31. In this phase of the international supply chain, the following are examples of use cases which are necessary:
• Perform waste analysis (operator requests the analysis of the waste, which may be required by regulations and may impact the movement of the waste materials);
• Return goods and packaging materials (supplier requests the return of goods or packaging materials to sender and operator organises return); and
• Recycle (operator issues request to recycle the components of the goods).

32. Note that the repurpose or reuse of second-hand goods would normally not be different from a normal buy-ship-pay process.

G. Relationship between commercial and logistics information

33. A single commercial process may result in multiple logistics processes as one order can be delivered in different shipments or multiple commercial orders destined to the same buyer may be grouped together as a basis of a single logistics process.

34. Similarly, the payment process may be organized with a single payment for multiple invoices, or a single invoice may be paid in multiple instalments.

35. The logistics process may involve multiple intermediaries. Often, an operator will call upon a logistics service provider who may contract the transport out to a colleague or to a carrier. This service may also include consolidation with the goods of other operators. The logistics service provider will typically issue a house bill of lading for the transport of the goods of their client(s). The carrier will then issue a relevant master bill of lading for the transport of the goods. Here too, there may be multiple house bills of lading grouped together in a single master bill of lading; and there could be a large volume of goods handled by a freight forwarder which requires breaking the house bill of lading into multiple master bills of lading.
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H. Single Window and other facilities for cross-border trade

36. Information from each of the processes described above will be contained in a different part of the hierarchy of data. This requires a very clear and consistent use of terms, the most important of which will be to distinguish between the commercial processes of the buy phase and the logistics processes of the ship phase. For this reason, two terms are used as anchors for all other relevant data: shipment and consignment.

1. Shipment

37. A shipment is an identifiable collection of one or more trade items (available to be) transported together from the seller (original consignor/shipper) to the buyer (final/ultimate consignee):
   - A shipment can only be destined for one buyer;
   - A shipment can be made up of some or all trade items from one or more sales orders;
   - A shipment can have only one unique customs identification schema; and
   - A shipment may form part or all of a consignment or may be transported in different consignments.

2. Consignment

38. A consignment is a separately identifiable collection of consignment items (available to be) transported from one consignor to one consignee via one or more modes of transport as specified in one single transport service contractual document:
   - A consignment can only have one transport service buyer;
   - A consignment can only have one transport service provider;
   - A consignment can only have one consignor;
   - A consignment can only have one consignee;
   - The transport service buyer can be either the consignor or the consignee;
   - A consignment is made up of one or more consignment items;
   - A consignment can be made up of some or all trade items (aggregated into consignment items) from one or more shipments;
   - A consignment is made up of one or more customs items for reporting to customs; and
   - A consignment can have one or more unique customs identification schemas.

39. A list of commonly used semantic terms and their corresponding definitions is provided in Annex II. Within UN/CEFACT these terms are used consistently in all messages and should always be used in a way which is consistent with their provided definition; UN/CEFACT strongly encourages other standards development organizations and users to do the same. For example, within the maritime transport industry, the movement of goods on the ship is sometimes referred to in the business process as a shipment. Despite this use, when dematerializing the process, it is highly recommended to use the term “consignment” in this case in order to clearly make the
distinction with the commercial process. Likewise, in many conventions, the person requesting a permit is often referred to as the “sender” (as in the “sender of the goods”); however, in an electronic environment, the term “sender” is reserved for the “entity sending the electronic message”. It is highly recommended to use the accurate term for the party being referred to as “sender” depending on the case (this may be the consignor, the exporter, the importer, the logistics service provider or other).

I. Cost benefits

40. One commonly expressed barrier in using standards for the electronic exchange of information is the cost in time and money required for their initial setup, including the need to modify existing legacy systems and the need for all parties participating in the exchange to make this investment. Some shortcuts have been observed in deployments, which have resulted in efficiency challenges on the long run:

- The development of “translation bridges” (i.e. IT interfaces) between systems to avoid modifying the data semantics used in the different legacy systems: This is a valid practice when there is a 1-to-1 interface, but it becomes a clear issue when it is a 1-to-many relationship. The IT support required to manage such independent “bridges” results in high operating costs; and

- Initiatives to develop new specific-user-group data standard: These initiatives usually happen where there is a lack of knowledge about which standards already exist and how they can be used. Again, the maintenance of such a specific standard brings inefficiency in the long term.

41. Common, standardized libraries of semantics (definitions) that allow the use of unambiguous, clear and defined standardized terms and codes exist; the largest and most complete library of this kind is the UN/CEFACT Core Components Library (CCL), which also ensures compatibility with other international systems and applications, documents and data models.
# Annex I: Code lists maintained by UN/CEFACT

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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4343.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4343.htm</a></td>
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<td>Product identifier code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 4347</td>
<td>Code qualifying the product identifier</td>
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<td>Bank operation code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4383</td>
<td>Code specifying a bank operation</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4383.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4383.htm</a></td>
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<td>Instruction description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4401</td>
<td>Code specifying an instruction</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4401.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4401.htm</a></td>
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<td>Instruction type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 4403</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of instruction</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4403.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4403.htm</a></td>
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<td>Status description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4405</td>
<td>Code specifying a status</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Sample process step code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4407</td>
<td>Code specifying a step in a sample process</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4407.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4407.htm</a></td>
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<td>Test method administration code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4419</td>
<td>Code specifying the method of the administration of a test</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4419.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4419.htm</a></td>
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<td>Payment guarantee means code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4431</td>
<td>Code specifying the means of payment guarantee</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4431.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4431.htm</a></td>
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<td>Payment channel code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4435</td>
<td>Code specifying the payment channel</td>
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<td>Account type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 4437</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of account</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4437.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4437.htm</a></td>
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<td>Payment conditions code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4439</td>
<td>Code specifying the payment conditions</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4439.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4439.htm</a></td>
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<td>Free text format code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4447</td>
<td>Code specifying the format of free text</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4447.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4447.htm</a></td>
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<td>Text subject code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 4451</td>
<td>Code qualifying the subject of the text</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4451.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4451.htm</a></td>
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<td>Free text function code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4453</td>
<td>Code specifying the function of free text</td>
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<td>Back order arrangement type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4455</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of back order arrangement</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4455.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4455.htm</a></td>
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<td>Substitution condition code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4457</td>
<td>Code specifying the conditions under which substitution may take place</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4457.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4457.htm</a></td>
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<td>Payment means code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4461</td>
<td>Code identifying a means of payment</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4461.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4461.htm</a></td>
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<td>Intra-company payment indicator code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4463</td>
<td>Code indicating an intra-</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4463.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4463.htm</a></td>
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<td>Adjustment reason description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4465</td>
<td>Code specifying the adjustment reason</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4465.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4465.htm</a></td>
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<td>Settlement means code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4471</td>
<td>Code specifying the means of settlement</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4471.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4471.htm</a></td>
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<td>Accounting entity type name code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4475</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of accounting entry</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4475.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4475.htm</a></td>
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<td>Financial transaction type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4487</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of financial transaction</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4487.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4487.htm</a></td>
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<td>Delivery instruction code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4493</td>
<td>Code specifying a delivery instruction</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4493.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4493.htm</a></td>
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<td>Inventory movement reason code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4499</td>
<td>Code specifying the reason for an inventory movement</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4499.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4499.htm</a></td>
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<td>Inventory movement direction code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4501</td>
<td>Code specifying the direction of an inventory movement</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4501.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4501.htm</a></td>
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<td>Inventory balance method code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4503</td>
<td>Code specifying the method used to establish an inventory balance</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4503.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4503.htm</a></td>
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<td>Credit cover request type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4505</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of request for credit cover</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4505.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4505.htm</a></td>
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<td>Credit cover response type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4507</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of response to a request for credit cover</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4507.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4507.htm</a></td>
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<td>Credit cover response reason code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4509</td>
<td>Code specifying the reason for a response to a request for credit cover</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4509.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4509.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Requested information description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4511</td>
<td>Code specifying the response information requested</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4511.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4511.htm</a></td>
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<td>Maintenance operation code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4513</td>
<td>Code specifying a maintenance operation</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4513.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred4513.htm</a></td>
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<td>Seal condition code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4517</td>
<td>Code specifying the condition of a seal affixed to a piece of transport equipment</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred4517.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred4517.htm</a></td>
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<td>Seal type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 4525</td>
<td>To specify a type of seal</td>
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<td>Monetary amount function code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5007</td>
<td>Code specifying the monetary amount function</td>
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<td>Index code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 5013</td>
<td>Code qualifying an index</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Monetary amount type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5025</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of monetary amount</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred5025.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred5025.htm</a></td>
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<td>Index type identifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 5027</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of index</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Index representation code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5039</td>
<td>Code specifying the representation of an index value</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Contribution code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 5047</td>
<td>Code qualifying a contribution</td>
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<td>Contribution type description</td>
<td>UN Code list 5049</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of contribution scheme</td>
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<td>Price code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 5125</td>
<td>Code qualifying a price</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Duty or tax or fee type name</td>
<td>UN Code list 5153</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of duty, tax or fee</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Allowance or charge identification code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5189</td>
<td>Code specifying the identification of an allowance or charge</td>
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<td>Sub-line item price change operation code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5213</td>
<td>Code specifying the price change operation for a sub-line item</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Charge category code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5237</td>
<td>Code specifying a category of charges</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rate or tariff class description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5243</td>
<td>Code specifying an applicable rate or tariff class</td>
<td>an..9</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred5243.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred5243.htm</a></td>
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<td>Percentage type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 5245</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of percentage</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5245.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5245.htm</a></td>
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<td>Percentage basis identification code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5249</td>
<td>Code specifying the basis on which a percentage is calculated</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5249.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5249.htm</a></td>
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<td>Charge unit code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5261</td>
<td>Code specifying a charge unit</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5261.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5261.htm</a></td>
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<td>Service type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5267</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of service</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5267.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5267.htm</a></td>
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<td>Duty or tax or fee rate basis code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5273</td>
<td>Code specifying the basis for a duty or tax or fee rate such as weight or value or quantity</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5273.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5273.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Duty or tax or fee function code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 5283</td>
<td>Code specifying the function of a duty or tax or fee</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5283.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5283.htm</a></td>
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<td>Duty or tax or fee category code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5305</td>
<td>Code specifying a duty or tax or fee category</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5305.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5305.htm</a></td>
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<td>Tax or duty or fee payment due date code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5307</td>
<td>Code indicating when the duty, tax, or fee payment will be due.</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5307.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred5307.htm</a></td>
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<td>UN Code list 5315</td>
<td>Code specifying the name of a type of remuneration</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>UN Code list 5375</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of price</td>
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<td>Product group type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5379</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of a product group</td>
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<td>Price specification code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5387</td>
<td>Code identifying pricing specification</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>UN Code list 5393</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of price multiplier</td>
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<td>Rate type code qualifier</td>
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<td>Allowance or charge code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 5463</td>
<td>Code qualifying an allowance or charge</td>
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<td>Sub-line indicator code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5495</td>
<td>Code indicating a sub-line item</td>
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<td>Rate plan code</td>
<td>UN Code list 5501</td>
<td>Code specifying a rate plan</td>
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<td>Geographical position code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6029</td>
<td>Code identifying the type of a geographical position</td>
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<td>Quantity type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6063</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of quantity</td>
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<td>Control total type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6069</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of control of hash total</td>
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<td>Frequency code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6071</td>
<td>Code qualifying the frequency</td>
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<td>Result representation code</td>
<td>UN Code list 6077</td>
<td>Code specifying the representation of a result</td>
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<td>Result normalcy code</td>
<td>UN Code list 6079</td>
<td>Code specifying the degree of conformance to a standard</td>
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<td>Dosage administration code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6085</td>
<td>Code qualifying the administration of a dosage</td>
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<td>Result value type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6087</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of a result value</td>
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<td>Length type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 6113</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of length</td>
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<td>Dimension type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6145</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of the dimension</td>
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<td>Non-discrete measurement name code</td>
<td>UN Code list 6155</td>
<td>Code specifying the name of a non-discrete measurement</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred6155.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred6155.htm</a></td>
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<td>Range type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6167</td>
<td>Code qualifying a type of range</td>
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<td>Size type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6173</td>
<td>Code qualifying a type of size</td>
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<td>Temperature type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6245</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of a temperature</td>
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<td>Measurement purpose code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6311</td>
<td>Code qualifying the purpose</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<td>Code specifying the attribute measured</td>
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<td>Measurement significance code</td>
<td>UN Code list 6321</td>
<td>Code specifying the significance of a measurement</td>
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<td>Statistic type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6331</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of a statistic</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Exchange rate currency market identifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6341</td>
<td>To identify an exchange rate currency market</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Currency type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6343</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of currency</td>
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<td>Currency identification code</td>
<td>UN Code list 6345</td>
<td>Code specifying a monetary unit</td>
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<td>Currency usage code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6347</td>
<td>Code qualifying the usage of a currency</td>
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<td>Unit type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6353</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of unit</td>
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<td>Measurement unit code</td>
<td>UN Code list 6411</td>
<td>Code specifying the unit of measurement</td>
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<td>Clinical information type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 6415</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of clinical information</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Physical or logical state type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 7001</td>
<td>Code qualifying the type of physical or logical state of an object</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical or logical state description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7007</td>
<td>Code specifying the physical or logical state of an object</td>
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<td>Item description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7009</td>
<td>Code specifying an item</td>
<td>an..17</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred7009.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred7009.htm</a></td>
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<td>Item availability code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7011</td>
<td>Code specifying the availability of an item</td>
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<td>Sample selection method code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7039</td>
<td>Code specifying the selection method for a sample</td>
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<td>UN Code list 7041</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of power</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Sample state code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7045</td>
<td>Code specifying the state of a sample</td>
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<td>Sample direction code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7047</td>
<td>Code specifying the direction in which a sample was taken</td>
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<td>Class type code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7059</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of class</td>
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<td>Package type description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7065</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of package</td>
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<td>Packaging terms and conditions code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7073</td>
<td>Code specifying the packaging terms and conditions</td>
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<td>Packaging level code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7075</td>
<td>Code specifying a level of packaging</td>
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<td>Description format code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7077</td>
<td>Code specifying the format of a description</td>
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<td>Item characteristic code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7081</td>
<td>Code specifying the characteristic of an item</td>
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<td>Configuration operation code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7083</td>
<td>Code specifying a configuration operation</td>
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<td>Cargo type classification code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7085</td>
<td>Code identifying a type of cargo</td>
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<td>Characteristic value description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7111</td>
<td>Code specifying the value of a characteristic</td>
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<td>Product detail type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 7133</td>
<td>Code qualifying a type of product details</td>
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<td>Product characteristic identifier code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7139</td>
<td>Code specifying the identification of a product characteristic</td>
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<td>Item type identification code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7143</td>
<td>Coded identification of an item type</td>
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<td>Special service description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7161</td>
<td>Code specifying a special service</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Hierarchical structure relationship code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7171</td>
<td>Code specifying the relationship between the hierarchical object and an identified object</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7171.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7171.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hierarchy object code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 7173</td>
<td>Code qualifying an object in a hierarchy</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7173.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7173.htm</a></td>
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<td>Process type description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7187</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of process</td>
<td>an..17</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7187.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7187.htm</a></td>
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<td>Packaging related description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7233</td>
<td>Code specifying information related to packaging</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7233.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7233.htm</a></td>
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<td>Service requirement code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7273</td>
<td>Code specifying a service requirement</td>
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<td>Sector area identification code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 7293</td>
<td>Code qualifying identification of a subject area</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Set type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 7297</td>
<td>Code qualifying a type of set</td>
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<td>Requirement designator code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7299</td>
<td>Code specifying the requirement designator</td>
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<td>UN Code list 7365</td>
<td>Code specifying a processing indicator</td>
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<td>Surface or layer code</td>
<td>UN Code list 7383</td>
<td>Code specifying the surface or layer of an object</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7383.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7383.htm</a></td>
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<td>Object identification code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 7405</td>
<td>Code qualifying the identification of an object</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7405.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred7405.htm</a></td>
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<td>Indexing structure code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 7429</td>
<td>Code qualifying an indexing structure</td>
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<td>Code qualifying a stage in a process</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9421.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9421.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical intervention code</td>
<td>UN Code list 9437</td>
<td>Code specifying a clinical intervention</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9437.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9437.htm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Recommendation No. 2: Revision ECE Layout Key: semantic information and codes in international trade data exchange

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical intervention type code qualifier</td>
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<td>Code specifying a type of clinical intervention</td>
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<td>Attendance type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 9443</td>
<td>Code qualifying a type of attendance</td>
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<td>Discharge type description code</td>
<td>UN Code list 9447</td>
<td>Code specifying the type of discharge</td>
<td>an..3</td>
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<td>Code value source code</td>
<td>UN Code list 9453</td>
<td>Code specifying the source of a code value</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formula type code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 9501</td>
<td>Code specifying a type of formula</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9501.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9501.htm</a></td>
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<td>Formula sequence code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 9507</td>
<td>Code giving specific meaning to a formula sequence</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9507.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9507.htm</a></td>
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<td>Information category code</td>
<td>UN Code list 9601</td>
<td>Code specifying the category of the information</td>
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<td>Code specifying the type of diagnosis</td>
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<td>Related cause code</td>
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<td>Code specifying a related cause</td>
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<td>UN Code list 9635</td>
<td>Code qualifying event details</td>
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<td>Service basis code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 9641</td>
<td>Code qualifying the basis on which a service is performed</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9641.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9641.htm</a></td>
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<td>UN Code list 9645</td>
<td>Code specifying the level of responsibility of a payer</td>
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<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9645.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9645.htm</a></td>
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<td>Process information code qualifier</td>
<td>UN Code list 9649</td>
<td>Code qualifying the processing information</td>
<td>an..3</td>
<td><a href="https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9649.htm">https://service.unece.org/trade/untdid/d21a/tred/tred9649.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Code for the Representation of Names of Countries</td>
<td>ECE Rec 3</td>
<td>Codes representing the names of countries, dependencies, and other areas of special geopolitical interest</td>
<td>Code for the Representation of</td>
<td><a href="https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec03/rec03_ecetrd201.pdf">https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec03/rec03_ecetrd201.pdf</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numerical Representation of Dates, Time and Periods of Time</td>
<td>ECE Rec 7</td>
<td>Establishes a method for a standardized and unambiguous numerical designation of a given date, time of day and length of time, when presented in a numerical form</td>
<td><a href="https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec07/rec07_1988_inf108.pdf">https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec07/rec07_1988_inf108.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alphabetical Code for the Representation of Currencies</td>
<td>ECE Rec 9</td>
<td>Recommends the use of the three-letter alphabetic codes of the international standard ISO 4217 “Codes for the representation of currencies and funds” when currencies are expressed in coded or abbreviated form</td>
<td><a href="https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec09/rec09_ecetrd203.pdf">https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec09/rec09_ecetrd203.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Codes for the Identification of Ships</td>
<td>ECE Rec 10</td>
<td>Recommendations for participants in international trade, including ship owners, port authorities and other parties involved in maritime transport of goods, use the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Ship Identification Number Scheme for the unique identification of ships; and recommends using only the final seven characters of the IMO number in automated applications</td>
<td><a href="https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec10/rec10rev_1997_r1274.pdf">https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec10/rec10rev_1997_r1274.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE)</td>
<td>ECE Rec 16</td>
<td>Recommends a five-letter alphabetic code for abbreviating names of locations such as ports,</td>
<td><a href="https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/ECE-TRADE-459E.pdf">https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/ECE-TRADE-459E.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviations for terms of payment (PAYTERMS)</td>
<td>ECE Rec 17</td>
<td>Provides abbreviations for certain terms of payment (PAYTERMS) for use in international trade transactions. Establishes a one-digit numerical code for representing transport modes and provides for a second digit for subdivisions, if required</td>
<td><a href="https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec17/rec17_1982_ecetrd142.pdf">https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec17/rec17_1982_ecetrd142.pdf</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Codes for modes of transport</td>
<td>ECE Rec 19</td>
<td>airports, inland freight terminals and other locations where customs clearance of goods can take place, and whose names need to be represented unambiguously in data interchange</td>
<td><a href="https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec19/rec19_01cf19e.pdf">https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec19/rec19_01cf19e.pdf</a></td>
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</table>
## Annex II: Semantic dictionary of key international trade terms for use within UN/CEFACT work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>An authority provides authorization associated with any conventions or regulations applicable to the trading of goods within the international purchase and supply chain. The possible roles of an authority include border control authorities (e.g. customs), permit/licence issuing authorities, port authorities, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buyer</td>
<td>The buyer is the party to whom goods are sold or services as stipulated in a sales order contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrier</td>
<td>The carrier is the party which provides transport services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consignee</td>
<td>The consignee is the party receiving a consignment of goods as stipulated in a transport service contract. They are the party to whom goods are shipped and delivered, or the receiver of a freight shipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consignment</td>
<td>The consignment is a separately identifiable collection of consignment items, (available to be) transported from one consignor to one consignee, via one or more modes of transport, as specified in one single transport service contractual document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consignment item</td>
<td>This is a separately identifiable quantity of products, grouped together by customs tariff code or packaging for transport purposes. A consignment item is the lowest level of information within a consignment. In the case of cross-border consignments, each consignment item must have only one associated customs tariff code in order to satisfy customs requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consignor</td>
<td>The consignor is the party consigning goods, as stipulated in a transport service contract. The consignor is the party who originates a shipment of goods, the sender of a freight shipment (usually the seller).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conveyance report</td>
<td>A conveyance report permits the transfer of data from a carrier to a customs administration for the purpose of meeting customs reporting requirements in respect of the means of transport on which cargo is carried.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs cargo report</td>
<td>These are documents by which movements of goods are reported to customs, at a place of export, import or transit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs item</td>
<td>A customs item is a consignment item, a trade item or an aggregation of consignment or trade items with a distinct customs tariff code for reporting to customs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery party</td>
<td>This is the party to which goods should be delivered by the transport services provider. The operational term for this is ‘delivery location’ (or ‘place of positioning’).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Despatch party</td>
<td>The party from which goods are collected or taken over by the transport services provider. The operational term for this is ‘pick-up location’ (or ‘pick-up place’).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exporter</td>
<td>The exporter is the party who makes, or on whose behalf the export declaration is made, and who is the owner of the goods or has similar rights of disposal over them at the time when the declaration is accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final delivery party/ultimate delivery party</td>
<td>This is the party to whom goods will be, or will have been, ultimately shipped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight forwarder</td>
<td>This is the party undertaking the forwarding of goods by provision of transport, logistics, associated formalities services etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importer</td>
<td>This is the party who makes, or on whose behalf a customs clearing agent or other authorized person makes, an import declaration. This may include a person who has possession of the goods or a person to whom the goods are consigned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediary</td>
<td>Within the international purchase and supply chain, an intermediary can be any party who provides services to support either the sales order contract or the transport service contract. The possible roles of an intermediary include the transport service provider (e.g. carrier, freight forwarder), financial institution or customs agent, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoice issuer</td>
<td>This is the party who issues an invoice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoice</td>
<td>This is the party to whom an invoice is issued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original despatch party</td>
<td>This is the party from whom goods will be, or have been, originally shipped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales order</td>
<td>A sales order is a contractual document by means of which a buyer initiates a transaction with a seller, involving the supply of goods or services, as specified according to conditions which are either set out in a formal quotation or otherwise known to the buyer. The information included in the cross-border order document covers the commercial information between the buyer and the seller relating to the sales order and also the additional transport and regulatory information required by intermediaries and authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seller</td>
<td>The seller is the party selling/supplying goods or services as stipulated in a sales order contract. The primary role of the supplier, as specified in the sales order contract, is the seller. Other possible roles include the original consignor/shipper, transport services buyer, exporter, and invoice issuer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipment</td>
<td>A shipment is an identifiable collection of one or more trade items (available to be) transported together from the seller (original consignor/shipper) to the buyer (final/ultimate consignee).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade item</td>
<td>This is the lowest level of &quot;commercial&quot; information in a sales order between the buyer and the seller. Each trade item will usually be associated with a particular product and will include details such as product code, quantity and unit price. In the case of cross-border orders each product will also have an associated customs tariff code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport equipment</td>
<td>This is a piece of equipment used to hold, protect or secure cargo for logistics purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport means</td>
<td>These are the devices used to convey goods or other objects from place to place during transport movements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport movement</td>
<td>This is the conveyance (physical carriage) of goods, persons or other objects from one location to another location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport packaging</td>
<td>A self-contained wrapping or container within which goods can be contained for transport purposes, such as a box or a barrel which can be filled, partially filled, or empty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport service buyer</td>
<td>This is the party stipulated as the buyer of transport services in a transport service contract. The transport service buyer role may be performed by either the consignor or the consignee depending on the terms of delivery specified in the associated sales order contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport services buyer (consignor or consignee)</td>
<td>This is the buyer of transport services as stipulated in a transport service contract.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport services provider (carrier or freight forwarder)</td>
<td>This is the provider (i.e. seller of transport services) as stipulated in a transport service contract.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Recommendation No. 2