UN/CEFACT standards on the UN website – how to use them?

Sixth Technical Cooperation Workshop for the Western Balkans

EU ELECTRONIC FREIGHT TRANSPORT INFORMATION REGULATION AND THE USE OF UN/CEFACT SEMANTIC STANDARDS AND MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT REFERENCE DATA MODEL IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Skopje, Hotel Aleksandar Palace, 8-9 February 2024

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Overview of the presentation

- What are UN/CEFACT Standards
- Where can you access and find the standards
- Types of formats available and their uses
- Importance of the Standards
- Technical implementation of the Standards
- Integrating Standards – 5 Key Tips
**What are UN/CEFACT Standards?**

**UNECE UN/CEFACT** contributes to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals and Global Standards** through its semantics, recommendations and technical specifications that are focused on digitalization and sustainability. Projects in the area of i.e. Cross-Industry Supply Track & Trace, Multimodal Transport Data and Document Exchange, IoTs – Smart Containers, and Traceability and Transparency in the Textile and Leather Sector.

Other key UN/CEFACT outputs include:

- Internationally agreed on recommendations
- Internationally agreed e-business standards (BRS, RDMs and Technical Specification)
- Semantic Libraries (UNTDED, CCL, and UN/XML)
- Common Directories (UN/EDIFACT)
- Code Lists (Rec. Code List, UN/LOCODE)
- Guidance Materials (White Papers, Executive Guides, and Briefing Notes)

The impact of UNECE UN/CEFACT Standards, Technical Specifications and Recommendations

As of December 2024, used by

- **1628+ Experts**
- **200,000 + Companies/Retailers**
- **340 + Industries/Associations**

950 + eBusiness Standards
230 + EDIFACT Message Standards
103,034 + LOCODES

49 + Trade Facilitation Recommendations
What are UN/CEFACT Standards?

- UN/CEFACT has developed 48 policy recommendations and about 950 e-business standards that can be used by governments and businesses
  - Annual release of the UN/EDIFACT directories (D.22B and D.23A), UN/LOCODE directories (2023-1 and 2023-2), the UN/CCL & RDMs (versions D22B and D23A), the XML Schema Library (versions D22B and D23A).
- The new ECE Recommendation No. 48 on Private Sector Participation in the National Trade Facilitation Bodies (NTFBs), adopted at the 29th Plenary
- Summary of ECE Trade Facilitation Recommendations (2023 Edition)
- Release of flagship e-business standards for trade and transport facilitation.
- Uptake of UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards in relevant policies and regulations, such as:
  - UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model (MMT RDM) in the two new draft European Union (EU) transport regulations on electronic freight transport information (eFTI) and the Maritime Single Window (MSW).
  - ECE Recommendation No. 46 in the EU policies and regulations on circularity and due diligence in the textiles industry.
Where can you access and find the standards?

Streamlined presentation of UN/CEFACT standards

Welcome to the UN/CEFACT Streamline Presentation of Standards. As a globally recognized body, UN/CEFACT is committed to facilitating international trade and promoting seamless business transactions through the development and implementation of harmonized standards. This page is dedicated to the presentation of the extensive range of standards, ensuring easy access and comprehension for users from diverse sectors and regions. Whether you are an industry professional, a policymaker, or a technology enthusiast, this page serves as a valuable resource to navigate the world of UN/CEFACT standards and unlock new opportunities for efficient and secure global trade.

https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/mainstandards
Welcome to the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide

A tool for simplifying cross-border trade

- Introduction to trade facilitation
- WTO TF Agreement

- Domains
- Itineraries
- Instruments
- Organizations

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Available at: tfig.unece.org
Types of formats available and their uses

Document Artifacts
- Business Requirements Specifications (BRS)
- White Papers, Green Papers and Briefing Notes
- Executive Guides
- Brochures

Technical Artifacts: UN/CEFACT Reference Data Models (RDMs)
- Buy/Ship/Pay RDM
  - Supply Chain RDM (SCRDM)
  - Multimodal Transport RDM (MMT)
  - Trade Finance RDM (TF RDM)
  - Cross-Border Management RDM
  - Sustainability & Circular Economy SDCE RDM

Represented as:
- Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet (XLS)
- Unified Modelling Language (UML)
- XML Schema Definition (XSD)
- Hypertext Markup Language (HTML Index)
Technical implementation of the standards

What can policymakers do to ensure that recognized standards are used in national applications (I.T Systems):

• Mandating the use of UN/CEFACT standardized data models and core component libraries in national application systems.
  • Ensure that contracted software developers reuse the syntax in the development of applications.

• Foster collaboration and coordination among government agencies responsible for different national application systems.

• Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating compliance with regulations and policies related to standardized data modeling practices and core component libraries reuse in applications.

• Engage in collaborations and pilots to align national standards and practices with global standards. *(This will facilitate data exchange, interoperability, and compatibility with the system in other countries.)*
Steps involved in implementing data models and standards for real-world data exchange:

- Mapping documents in the project scope against MMT RDM (i.e. CMR Document)
- Create the equivalents of electronic documents in XML format.
  - manually describe the XML document based on the structure.
- Use the software development tools or environment framework or software vendor to develop the application.
Integrating Standards into Development Processes:

1. Understand the Standards
2. Identification of Applicable Standards
3. Incorporation of the standards into the Application Development Lifecycle
4. Collaboration and Communication with UNECE on adoption
5. Participate in UN/CEFACT Activities
   - Continuous improvement of the standard via feedback or DMR update submission to the Core Component Library (UN/CCL).
Thank you for your attention!

UN/CEFACT website

Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide

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