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UN/CEFACT Draft Standard

Cross Industry Invoice Business Requirement Specification

Version: 1.0, Revision: R.05A

Submitted by the UN/CEFACT Forum Management, through the Bureau

**This document is submitted by the UN/CEFACT Forum Management,
through the Bureau, for APPROVAL by the UN/CEFACT Plenary**

Summary

Business Domain: Cross Industry – Supply Chain
Business Process: Invoice Process
Title: Title: Cross Industry Invoicing Process
Version: 1.0 Release: R.05A
Date of TBG approval: 2005-03-14

Owing to its large size, the full text of this specification cannot be issued as a UN/CEFACT Plenary document. However, it can be downloaded for review by delegations from the UN/CEFACT website at www.unece.org/cefact under “Technical Specifications” in the left column menu.

Executive Summary

1. The current practice of the exchange of business documents by means of telecommunications, usually defined as e-Business, presents a major opportunity to improve the competitiveness of companies, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME).
2. The commercial invoice is an important document exchanged between trading partners. In addition to its prime function as a request for payment, from the customer to the supplier, the invoice is an important accounting document and also has potential legal implications for both trading partners. In the Member States of the European Union, the invoice is the key document for VAT declaration and reclamation, for statistics declaration in respect of intra-community trade, and to support export and import declaration in respect of trade with countries outside the European Community.
3. Started as an initiative by CEN/ISSS¹ Workshop eBES, the European Expert Group 1 (EEG1 – Supply Chain & e-Procurement) developed the Cross Industry Invoice in 2004. The Cross Industry Invoice has been compiled using the EUROFER² ESIDEL³ version 1.0 as the base, with contributions and submissions from: EUROFER², EAN/UCC⁴, CIDX⁵, EDIFICE⁶, AIAG/ODETTE⁷, GHX⁸, UK⁹ e-Government, UK HM Customs & Excise, and EDS¹⁰. The first draft of the Business Requirements Specification (BRS) was presented at the September 2004 UN/CEFACT Forum to the TBG1¹¹ members for review and comments from the other regions. Based on comments received TBG1 has drafted the final version of the BRS for further processing through the UN/CEFACT Forum process with the goal of developing a UN/CEFACT ebXML standard message.
4. The purpose of this document is to define globally consistent invoicing processes for worldwide supply chains, using the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM) approach and Unified Modelling Language to describe and detail the business processes and transactions involved.
5. The structure of this document is based on the structure of the UN/CEFACT Business Requirements Specification (BRS) document reference CEFACT/ICG/005.

¹ European Committee for Standardization / Information Society Standardization System.

² European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries.

³ European Steel Industry Data Exchange Language.

⁴ International Article Numbering Association / Uniform Code Council.

⁵ Chemical Industry Data Exchange.

⁶ The European B2B Forum for the Electronics Industry.

⁷ Automotive Industry Action Group / Odette International.

⁸ Stands for Global Healthcare Exchange.

⁹ United Kingdom.

¹⁰ Company offering business and technology solutions.

¹¹ International Trade and Business Processes Group – Supply Chain Domain (TBG1)

Table of Contents¹²

1. PREAMBLE
2. REFERENCES
3. OBJECTIVE
4. SCOPE
5. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS
 - 5.1. Business requirements views
 - 5.2. Business process elaboration - Traditional or suppliers' initiated invoice
 - 5.2.1. Use case: Traditional or suppliers' initiated invoice process
 - 5.2.2. Use case: Traditional invoice
 - 5.2.3. Use case: Incorrect invoice
 - 5.3. Business process elaboration – Self-billing invoice
 - 5.3.1. Use case: Self-billing invoice process
 - 5.3.2. Use case: Self-billing invoice
 - 5.3.3. Use case: Incorrect self-billing invoice
 - 5.3.4. Use case: List of open items
 - 5.4. Information flow definition - Traditional or suppliers' initiated invoice
 - 5.4.1. Activity diagram: Traditional invoice
 - 5.4.2. Activity diagram: Incorrect invoice
 - 5.4.3. Business collaboration diagram: Traditional invoice
 - 5.4.3. Business collaboration diagram: Incorrect invoice
 - 5.5. Information flow definition – Self-billing invoice
 - 5.5.1. Activity diagram: Self-billing invoice
 - 5.5.2. Activity diagram: Incorrect self-billing invoice
 - 5.5.3. Activity diagram: List of open items
 - 5.5.4. Business collaboration diagram: Self-billing invoice
 - 5.5.5. Business collaboration diagram: Incorrect self-billing invoice
 - 5.5.6. Business collaboration diagram: List of open items
 - 5.6. Information model definition – Invoice (Class diagram)
 - 5.7. Business rules
 - 5.8. Definition of terms
 - 5.8.1 Parties and party roles

¹² The full text of the specification can be downloaded from the UN/CEFACT website at www.unece.org/cefact