Subject: upu gof: dcg: exg: upires and cntatt

Please find attached the last two (belated) drafts which need to be discussed during the forthcoming meeting.

UPIRES represents the present state of the definition of the response to UPIMEX (CUSDEC / CUSRES of old). It is in the state in which it was circulated to the SAMPLE PMAG for discussion. I was not able to be present and hope that Nick will take us through the issues raised in the SAMPLE group. I understand that there are many, but that there is still a desire to get a completed draft ready to go to the SB in July.

CNTATT is an extract from UPIMEX, covering the definition of content attributes. The proposal to separate is to support the incorporation of content attribute data within item data (cf ITMATT) as well as within UPIMEX. There remain some issues about it (again Nick can hopefully inform us about discussions on UPIMEX in the SAMPLE PMAG).

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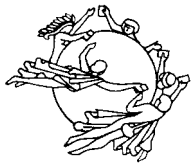

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Electronic exchange standards

UPIRES V1.0 - Customs Response

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Foreword

Postal services form part of the daily life of people all over the world. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is the specialized institution of the United Nations that regulates the universal postal service. The postal services of its 189 member countries form the largest physical distribution network in the world. Some 6.2 million postal employees working in over 700 000 post offices all over the world handle an annual total of 430 billion letters, printed matter and parcels in the domestic service and almost 10 billion letters, printed matter and parcels in the international service.

Keeping pace with the changing communications market, Posts are increasingly using new communication and information technologies to move beyond what is traditionally regarded as their core postal business. They are meeting higher customer expectations with an expanded range of products and value-added services.

Standards are important prerequisites for effective postal operations and for interconnecting the global network. The UPU's Standards Board develops and maintains a growing number of technical standards to improve the exchange of postal-related information between posts, and promotes the compatibility of UPU and international postal initiatives. It works closely with posts, customers, suppliers and other partners, including various international organizations. The Standards Board ensures that coherent standards are developed in areas such as electronic data interchange (EDI), mail encoding, postal forms and meters.

UPU Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in Part V of the "General information on UPU standards" [1] and are published by the UPU International Bureau in accordance with Part VII of that publication.

This specification defines the first version of the UPIRES message, UPIRES V1.0. This is designed to provide a mechanism for a customs authority to report, to an importing postal operator, on the customs processing of incoming items, whether or not these were declared electronically using a UPIMEX message.

Since this represents the first published version, there are no change marks.

Introduction

The UPIRES message provides a mechanism for a customs authority to report customs processing information and decisions, about identified items, to the postal operator which submitted import declarations for the items concerned. It is assumed, but not required, that such declarations were submitted electronically using UPIMEX messages.

NOTE: The specification is written around the assumption that the declaration for an item was submitted using UPIMEX. However, UPIRES may also be used to report on customs processing for uniquely identified items which were declared using other mechanisms.

Items to which customs clearance requirements apply are declared, in advance of their arrival in the delivery country, using the UPIMEX customs declaration message. This groups the declarations of all items in either:

- a single despatch;
- a group of despatches, from a single origin processing centre, which are expected to arrive in the delivery country within a single processing time window (normally one day);
- a group of receptacles, from one or more despatches from a single origin processing centre, which are transported within a particular consignment.

Assuming that the declaration as a whole is valid (it may be rejected using an APERAK message if not), the customs authorities concerned process the incoming declaration and decide on the action to be taken in respect of each item. The initial decision may be:

1. to clear the item without inspection or the need for additional documentation (though possibly subject to payment of customs dues);
2. to require the supply of appropriate documentation (with the item being held in the meantime);
3. to require the item to be submitted for customs inspection;

   NOTE: This is assumed, in what follows, to be the default case (i.e. the case which applies to a declared item for which no UPIRES response has yet been received by the postal operator). However, other defaults may be agreed, on a local basis, between individual customs authorities and the recognised postal operators in their country. For example, it may be agreed that items should be regarded as cleared if no UPIRES response is provided within a specified interval.
4. to retain the item, relieving the postal operator from the obligation to deliver it;
5. to require a full customs declaration, outside the scope of the UPIMEX / UPIRES mechanism.

However, a retention decision is not communicated to the post until the item concerned is under customs control[1]. This means that the initial UPIRES response to an item declaration may have only one of four possible statuses: cleared; supply documentation; hand-over for inspection or submit full customs declaration.

To avoid delays, the initial response needs to be communicated to the postal operator prior to its commencing processing of the item concerned. However, the timing of its communication, in a UPIRES message, is subject to bilateral agreement, depending on how and when the recipient postal system makes the information available to postal staff and on the customs authority's confidence in the security of the system.

NOTE 1: In principle, the decision to clear or require inspection of an item or its documentation may be released by the customs authority only after the item has entered the legal jurisdiction of the customs authority – i.e. when it has become available for inspection if that is required. In an extreme case, this might be interpreted as meaning that the initial UPIRES response for an item my be sent only after the postal operator has confirmed the presence of the item, e.g. by scanning it. However, since item scanning occurs only when the item is processed, this would result in operational problems and delays unless the item scan information was communicated to the customs authority and a response obtained in real-time. To avoid the

[1] Rather, an initial decision for retention would be communicated as "submit for inspection", with the retention decision only being communicated after the item had been handed over for inspection.

resulting need for on-line scanners and real-time interface, the UPIRES response may be sent earlier[2], provided that the customs authority is satisfied by the measures taken, by the postal operator, to avoid disclosure of the information prior to physical arrival of the item on the postal operator's premises.

NOTE 2: Depending on the arrangements made, release of the initial decision in respect of an item may require some trigger event (such as an item or receptacle scan, or a transport arrival report) to be communicated to the customs authority. The communication of such events has not (yet) been the subject of explicit standardisation work, but it is anticipated that item level event report (EVTRPT) messages[3] may be used for this purpose.

When the operator processes a particular item, this is scanned. The operator's processing system retrieves the initial UPIRES response, if available, and uses this to report one of five conditions:

– the item is duty-free and clear, i.e. may be delivered without customs intervention and without duty collection;

– the item is clear, subject to the collection of duty, i.e. may be delivered without customs intervention, subject to the postal operator paying (and collecting from the recipient) duty on it;

– the item is to be provided to the customs authorities for inspection;

– the item is to be held pending supply of documentation;

– no UPIRES response has been communicated, implying either that the item is to be submitted for inspection or held pending receipt of further instructions.

Where the initial decision requires an item to be submitted for inspection, the item is handed over to the customs authority. Subsequently, it may be the subject of further interim processing reports or decisions (the item being held by customs in the meantime).

Ultimately the item will either be:

– returned[4] as cleared, whether or not subject to payment of duty;

NOTE: In some countries, it is permitted for the addressee (or his agent) to personally collect items, relieving the postal operator of further delivery responsibility. However, it is presumed that this is treated as clearance by the customs authorities followed by postal operator delivery to the addressee at the point of exit from customs authority control. There is thus no specific status response to cover this case.

– reported as retained, with the postal operator being relieved of delivery responsibility;

– reported, by means of a 'declaration rejected' response, as requiring manual processing.

NOTE: This covers the case in which the customs authority decides to process the item outside the electronic reporting system. The item remains (for the time being) under customs authority control, with subsequent processing then occurring outside of the UPIMEX/UPIRES mechanism.

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2 For example, when:

- the receptacle containing the item is scanned prior to opening;
- the receptacle containing the item is scanned at reception in the air mail unit;
- the transport conveying the receptacle concerned is confirmed as having arrived;
- the transport conveying the receptacle concerned is scheduled to arrive.

These are progressively earlier, reducing the timing constraints for operations, but may involve increased risk of security breaches, or of an item selected for inspection being found to be not available – e.g. if, through processing error, the item is not in the receptacle which was declared as containing it.

3 Under development.

4 This **should**, but in practice may not, be confirmed by a message containing a clearance decision for the item. Procedures for this case are subject to bilateral agreement.

Where an item has to be held pending supply of documentation, or for some other reason, there may again be interim reports[5] or decisions (the item being held by the post in the meantime), with such holding being terminated either by:

– clearance, whether or not subject to payment of duty;

– a decision to require hand-over for inspection[6] (see above).

The above implies that:

– a single item may be the subject of an initial decision; one or more interim decisions or status reports and/or a final decision;

– these decisions/reports may be spread over a considerable elapsed time, requiring them to be communicated separately;

– the decisions/reports relating to the set of items declared in a single UPIMEX message may need to be communicated separately from one another.

In consequence, the UPIRES message provides an envelope for reporting decisions/status information which are made available to the postal operator within a particular time window and does not bear any relationship to a specific UPIMEX message.

This specification defines the first version of the UPIRES message, UPIRES V1.0. It is structured into four main sections:

5. *Message description*: provides an outline description of the message, its purpose and usage;

6. *Logical data content*: defines the business data content of the message;

7. *Message usage*: specifies how the message is used – when it is generated, to whom it is sent and when, how corrections are made and what action is required of recipients;

8. *EDIFACT implementation*: defines the EDIFACT implementation of the message.

Annex A provides one or more example messages.

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5 For example, to request supply of additional documentation.

6 In fact, the internal customs decision may be that the item should be retained but, as discussed earlier, this would be communicated as a request to supply the item for inspection followed, after supply of the item, by the retention decision.

Electronic exchange standards – UPIRES V1.0 - Customs Response

1 Scope

This specification defines the UPIRES version 1 *Customs Response* message. This message contains customs clearance and retention information about individual mail items for which an electronic customs declaration has been submitted (normally using UPIMEX). It may also be used for reporting customs decisions concerning identified items which have been declared using other mechanisms.

The present issue of the specification is intended for test use within well-defined user communities only. It should only be used for the sending of customs clearance information to postal handling organisations which have agreed to accept it.

Use of the message is subject to the understanding that, until the message has been tested and accorded UPU standards status 1, the specification is subject to change.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. For references which mention specific version numbers or dates, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For references without date or version number, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies.

ISO/IEC 15459-2, <<

UPU S35, <<

3 Terms and definitions

A number of common terms used in this document are defined in documents referred to in Normative References and in the Bibliography. Definition of frequently used or particularly important terms as well as other terms introduced in this document are given below.

3.1 consignment

collection of mail, contained in receptacles, which is to be transported as a whole from a specific place of loading to a specific place of final destination (see UPU standard S32)

NOTE: An induction unit is a form of consignment.

3.2 date

characteristic of an event which defines, to an appropriate level of accuracy, the point in time at which it occurred or is or was forecast to occur

NOTE 1: Dates may be expressed in either UTC or as local time with defined offset from UTC.

NOTE 2: Date may be expressed to any required level of accuracy. Whatever the level, the associated event is specified as occurring within the time interval starting with the specified value and ending one unit of accuracy later. Thus 20020507T12:44 would specify that the associated event occurred (or was forecast to occur) on 7 May 2002 between 12:44:00.000 and 12:45:00.000.

3.3 EDIFACT converter
computer system / software which verifies the syntax of incoming EDIFACT messages and translates them between EDIFACT format and the format required for internal processing (and vice versa for outgoing messages)

3.4 licence plate
unique identifier for a transport unit, assigned in accordance with ISO/IEC 15459-1 and 15459-2

3.5 organisation identifier
globally unique identifier for an organisation, allocated in accordance with UPU standard S35 and / or in accordance with the specification of data identifier 18V

NOTE: Data identifiers are specified in ISO/IEC 15418 and associated standard ANSI MH10.8.2.

3.6 postal operator
organisation licensed to provide postal services to the general public

NOTE: Postal administrations are a special case of postal operator.

3.7 receptacle
physical housing which may be used to contain mail so as to assist in its handling or transportation as a unit

EXAMPLE: A tray or a roller-cage, or a support device, such as a pallet,

3.8 time
interval between two dates

3.9 transport unit
package, intended for transportation, comprising one or more articles, wrapped or unwrapped, and when multiple articles constrained to form a unit (EN1572 definition)

NOTE: Individual mail items, bundles and the content of postal receptacles can all be regarded as transport units; despatches and consignments are not, because the receptacles within them are not constrained to form a unit.

4 Symbols and abbreviations

APERAK: application error and acknowledgement (message)

ANSI: American National Standards Institute

EDI: Electronic Data Interchange – covers the general concept of electronically exchanging data used for computer processing purposes

EDIFACT: Electronic Data Interchange For Administration Commerce and Transport – refers to a specific method of achieving EDI based on ISO standard 9735

ID: abbreviation for identification or identifier

IEC: International Electrotechnical Commission

ISO: International Standards Organisation

NEN: Dutch standards institute

PREDES: Pre-advice of despatch; name of the message used to communicate despatch make-up (see M<<).

SAMPLE: acronym for <<, an electronic commerce project, involving both posts and customs authorities, which was part-funded by the European Commission under contract << and which led to the development of this specification

UPIMEX: UPU import/export message< <<

UPU: Universal Postal Union

UTC Universal Coordinated Time

NOTE: UTC corresponds to what used to be called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). It is normally expressed in the form ccyymmddThh:mm:ss.fff where ccyy represents the four digit year, mmdd the two digit month and day within the month, T is the letter 'T', hh, mm, ss and fff represent hours, minutes, seconds and decimal parts of seconds elapsed since the start of the (UTC) day concerned. If lower precision is required, components may be truncated from the right. Thus ccyy represents the date expressed to an accuracy of one year; ccyymmddThh represents it expressed to an accuracy of one hour.

5 Message description

The customs response message provides a mechanism for the communication, from a customs authority to a postal operator, of customs clearance and retention information pertaining to individual postal items for which customs declarations have been submitted (normally in UPIMEX messages) by the postal operator concerned. Inter-alia, it supports the following status reports / decisions:

– declaration rejected: the declaration for the item concerned is unacceptable to the customs authority and will not be further processed. If the item concerned still requires clearance, a new declaration is needed;

– documentation supply: to permit (further) processing of the declaration, the customs authority requires the supply of (additional) documentation; the item remains in its existing holding status (held by the postal operator or by customs) pending supply of this documentation and the communication of further instructions;

– hand-over for inspection: the item (and any associated documentation) is to be handed over to the customs authority for inspection;

– clearance: customs processing is complete and the item may be delivered. This may be subject to payment of duty[7];

– declaration closed: though no decision has been taken on the item, no further status reports or decisions will be supplied as the customs consider the declaration to have been withdrawn. If clearance is still needed, a new declaration is required;

NOTE 1: This may be used in cases in which further processing is not possible. For example, if the customs authority requested an item for inspection, but the item was not provided within a reasonable timeframe (e.g. because the receptacle in which the item was shipped failed to arrive, or if the item was lost or damaged).

NOTE 2: This may also be used to report that no further UPIRES status reports will be provided in cases in which further processing will take place outside the UPIMEX/UPIRES mechanism.

– retained: the item has been retained by customs and will not be returned for delivery. The postal operator is hereby relieved of any responsibility for such delivery and should, if appropriate, advise the mail service contractor that delivery has been unsuccessful due to retention of the item by customs;

NOTE: The above status values constitute an initial set, defined for use in association with the SAMPLE project. Other status values may be added in future versions of the message. Identified possibilities (not used in SAMPLE and therefore not covered within the present message definition) include:

– *hold, pending decision: no final decision has yet been taken regarding admissibility of the item or on the duties and taxes to be charged; the item is to be held by the postal operator pending further instructions;*

– *item returned: the item has been inspected and is being returned to the safekeeping of the postal authority, but is to be held by the postal operator pending further instructions and may not yet be released for delivery;*

[7] Duty is normally collected from the postal operator. It is the operator's responsibility to ensure that any sums paid are collected from the addressee or from the sender of the item.

- *delivery approval: the item may be delivered, but customs processing, including duty assessment, is not yet complete. Further information will be supplied in a subsequent message;*
- *declaration corrected by customs: the customs authority has detected errors or anomalies in the declaration but these are not such as to require its rejection. Details of the corrections applied are provided. The item status remains unchanged; further information / instructions will be provided in a subsequent message;*
- *held by customs: the item has been handed-over for customs inspection and is being held for this purpose, pending supply of additional documentation or information (the nature of which has been separately communicated) or the payment of duty;*
- *manual or exception processing: no decision has been taken on the item, but the customs authority has decided to continue processing outside of the electronic system: no further electronic reports of status will be provided;*
- *delivered by customs: the addressee of the item (or his authorised agent) has collected the item directly from the customs authority; the postal operator is relieved of delivery responsibility and may report clearance and successful delivery to the mail service contractor. This may occur, in some countries, if the addressee (or his agent) call at the customs office pursuant to a request for additional documentation or information[8].*

Each possible status report / decision has an associated set of attribute data.

NOTE: A given item declaration need not pass through all possible statuses; indeed, many declarations are expected to result in only a single response: "clearance".

6 Logical data content

The following table defines the logical data content of the UPIRES message.

Level	Data Element	LDM Attribute	Description	Conditions
1	message-function		Message function expressed using EDIFACT code list 1225. Only the following values are supported: 7 Duplicate 9 Original 31 Copy 35 Retransmission	C: Only required in case of message repetition (values 7, 31 or 35)
1	**Party identifiers**			**M**
2	customs-authority	ORGANISATION.ID	S35 organisation identifier of the customs authority reporting the events in the message	M
2	destination-organisation	ORGANISATION.ID	S35 organisation identifier of the postal operator to which the report is addressed	M
1	**Document reference information**			**M**
2	customs-decision-number		Customs reference number for the decisions communicated in the current message	M

8 Support for this would require agreement on the fulfilment of the postal operator's obligations regarding proof of delivery, collection of payment on delivery, etc. The SAMPLE project does not to support this. Instead, either the item is cleared, with the customer being instructed to collect it from the postal operator, or reported as being taken out of the system.

Level	Data Element	LDM Attribute	Description	Conditions
2	document-date	DATE	Date of issue of the document (i.e. message)	C
1	**Item information** (repeating up to <<<< times, once per item declaration reported on)			**M**
2	**Item and declaration identification**			M
3	item-id	LICENCE_PLATE	Item identifier, specified in licence plate form. See section 6.1.1 for information on the representation of other forms of identifier.	M
3	customs-declaration-reference	<<<<	Customs reference number associated with customs processing of the item declaration	C: Supplied if a reference number, other than the item-id, is needed in communications about the declaration
2	term-date	DATE	Date by when the requested/next action of the postal operator should be performed	C: Supplied if relevant
2	next-customs-action-date	DATE	Date by when it is anticipated that a decision will be taken or further instructions supplied	C: Supplied if relevant and known
2	**Contact information**			C: Supplied if relevant
3	contact-person		Customs official dealing with the item	M
3	contact-number		Telephone or other contact data for the customs official dealing with the item	M
2	**Customs status information**			M
3	customs-status		Specification of the customs status of the item, expressed as an EDIFACT code list 7365 code value. See 6.1.2 for supported values.	M
3	**Duty information**			**C**: Present if customs-status is 4 and duty is (to be) paid
4	Content-piece duty information [may be provided once (covering the whole item) or repeated up to <<<< times, once for each content-piece for which duty is (to be) paid]			M: at least one instance is required
5	content-piece-number		Number of the content-piece, within the item, to which this instance of duty information applies; 0 if the duty	M

Level	Data Element	LDM Attribute	Description	Conditions
			information applies to the item as a whole.	
5	tariff-heading		Customs tariff heading of the content-piece, expressed as the code number of the content-piece in accordance with the tariff nomenclature system of classification in use by the reporting customs authority	<<<<????
5	Tax details (repeated for each type of tax)			M: at least one instance is required
6	type-of-tax		Identification of the type of tax, duty or fee, expressed as an EDIFACT 5153 code list value or in free text form	M
6	tax-rate		Specification of the applicable tax or duty rate	M
6	tax-amount		Amount of tax or duty	M
6	tax-base-unit		Specification of the item or content piece attribute on which the tax or duty has been assessed (e.g. volume, weight in kg, …)	M
6	tax-base-value		Specification of the value of the associated item or content piece attribute	M
3	**Hand-over location**			**C**: Present if customs-status is 5 and the location for presentation of the item differs from the default for the processing centre concerned
4	presentation-location		Location to which the item is to be delivered	M
3	**Documentation specification**			**C**: Present if customs-status is 6 and either specific additional documentation or information is being requested or the presentation location differs from the default for the processing centre concerned.
4	documents-		Specification of the additional documents or information to be	C: Required if specific documentation (as opposed to 'all available')

Level	Data Element	LDM Attribute	Description	Conditions
	required		provided	is being requested
4	presentation-location		Address to which the additional information is to be supplied	C: Required if not the default for the processing centre concerned
3	**Retained by customs**			**C**: present if customs-status is 7 or 25
4	reason-for-retention	CUSTOMS-RETENTION-CODE	The reason why the item is held by customs. See 6.1.3 for supported values.	M
4	retention-explanation		Associated textual explanation	C: present if further explanation is considered necessary
3	**Declaration closure reason**			**C**: may be used to provide additional information if customs-status is 10 or 38.
4	reason-for-closure		The reason why the declaration has been closed by customs	M
3	**Declaration rejected**			**C**: Required if customs-status is 33
4	rejection-reason-code		Coded reason for rejection of the declaration, expressed as <<<< (maybe an EDIFACT code list 9013 value?)>>	M
4	rejection-explanation		Associated textual explanation	C: present if further explanation is considered necessary

6.1 Notes on data element usage

6.1.1 Item identifiers

Item identifiers are expressed in licence plate form. Identifiers which comply with ISO/IEC 15459-2 may be expressed as they are. Identifiers which follow other standards, such as UPU standard S10 shall be converted to licence plate form in accordance with UPU standard S25

NOTE: S25 provides for a variety of prefixes which provide for converting other item identification values into ISO/IEC 15459-2 compliant form. In particular:

- *J10A may be used, as specified in UPU standard S26, to prefix a postal item identifier constructed in accordance with UPU standard S10;*
- *J12a and J13a provide a series of prefixes for item identifiers constructed from a combination of batch identifier and item number;*
- *J18a provides a series of prefixes for the message representation of id-tags, as defined in UPU standard S18.*

6.1.2 Customs status

Customs status is expressed as an EDIFACT code list 7365 value. Only the following values are supported:

– initial and intermediate status values, subject to further reporting:

  5 goods required for examination, used to indicate that the item is to be physically presented, with all available documentation, for inspection by customs;

  6 all or specified documents to be produced, used to indicate that documentation is to be supplied. The request may be for all available documentation, or for something which is explicitly specified;

– final status values, not subject to further reporting:

  4 goods released, used to report that customs processing is complete and that the item has been cleared. This may be associated with specification of duty to be charged.

  7 goods detained, used to report that the item has been retained by customs and will not be released for delivery;

  10 declaration requested, used to indicate that the declaration for this item has been closed, e.g. because the item was requested for inspection but not supplied. A new declaration is required if the item is to be cleared;

  25 prohibited/restricted goods, an alternative indication that the item has been retained by customs and will not be released for delivery;

  33 transaction rejected, used to indicate that the declaration, for an item, is considered invalid or inadequate. A new declaration is required before the item can be cleared.

  38 manual procedures, used to report that further processing will take place outside of the UPIMEX/UPIRES mechanism.

6.1.3 Customs retention code

Supported values are defined in << (currently M82, item.customs-retention-code)>>

7 Message usage

7.1 Message addressing, generation and transmission

Data flow name:	Customs response for postal traffic
Data flow reference:	<<<<?>>User Requirements Document reference <<
Message name:	UPIRES
Message origin:	Customs staff of the importing country
Message recipient:	Postal operator at the receiving mail processing centre in the importing country
Generation:	Subject to local agreement, after physical arrival of the goods at the importing post
Frequency:	As required to ensure timely release, from Customs control, of all postal items declared for Customs purposes
Transmission:	May be transmitted in accordance with a bilaterally agreed schedule, and/or in response to "item arrived" or similar event reports from the postal operator to the customs authority. In the latter case, the parties should agree on the expected response period. Each message should, subject to adherence to message structure rules,

convey information on all customs decisions reached, in respect of items known to be under postal operator or customs control, which have not previously been communicated.

Intermediate (unscheduled) interchanges make take place if this is justified by volume or urgency considerations.

Shall be sent or repeated within 30 minutes on demand of the recipient.

7.2 Corrections to a previously transmitted message

UPIRES messages may not be cancelled or corrected. They may be repeated on request or in the event of doubt regarding their reception by the postal operator concerned.

NOTE: Since there is no applications level response to UPIRES, message loss may not be directly evident. It is recommended that users agree to message identification schemes which allow the recipient to detect, and request retransmission of, missing messages.

Information in a UPIRES which pertains to an individual item may be updated in a subsequent UPIRES referring to the same item. However, such updates may not reverse previously communicated decisions which may have already led to irrevocable action by the postal operator

EXAMPLE: Once clearance to deliver an item has been granted, this may not be revoked; once a duty assessment has been provided, this may not be modified.

7.3 Message reception

Invalidly structured UPIRES messages may be rejected using an application error and acknowledgement (APERAK) message. No response is provided to valid messages, it being presumed that the receiving postal operator should act in accordance with the reported customs status of the items concerned.

8 EDIFACT implementation

8.1 Mapping of business data onto segments

8.2 Branching diagram

8.3 Loop diagram

8.4 Detailed message definition

TAG	NAME	M/C	EDIFACT format	Used format	Permitted values	Description

8.5 Code usage

<<

Annex A
(informative)

EDIFACT Example

A.1 <<

<<

Bibliography

This annex provides full reference and sourcing information for all standards and other reference sources which are quoted in the above text. For references which mention specific version numbers or dates, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications may not be relevant. However, users of this standard are encouraged to investigate the existence and applicability of more recent editions. For references without date or version number, the latest edition of the document referred to applies.

It should be stressed that only referenced documents are listed here.

UPU documents

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WWW: www.upu.int or postinfo.upu.org

[1] *General information on UPU standards*

[2] S10, <<

[3] S18, <<

[4] S25, <<

[5] S26, <<

[6] S32, <<

ISO standards

NOTE: ISO standards are available from national standards institutes or from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO):

1, rue de Varembé, Case postale 56, CH-1211 Genève 20, Switzerland;
Tel: +41.22.749.0111; Fax: +41.22.733.3430; WWW: www.iso.ch

[7] ISO 9735, <<

[8] ISO/IEC 15418, <<

[9] ISO/IEC 15459-1, <<

CEN standards

NOTE: CEN standards are available from CEN member national standards institutes or from CEN central secretariat:

rue de Stassart 36, BE 1050 Brussels, Belgium;
Tel: +32.2.550.0811; Fax: +32.2.550.0819; URL: http://www.cenorm.be

[10] EN 1572, <<

ANSI standards

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11 West 42nd Street, New York, New York 10036, U.S.A.
Tel: +1.212.642.4900; Fax: +1.212.398.0023; WWW: web.ansi.org

[11] MH10.8.2, <<

Mcntatt-1 Draft F

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Electronic exchange standards

Postal item content information and its electronic communication

- UPU status: **Draft for review only - not a standard**
- Date of adoption at this status: **n.a.**
- Date of approval of this version: **n.a.**

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Contents

TOC 1 TSM contents (automatically generated)

Foreword

Postal services form part of the daily life of people all over the world. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) is the specialized institution of the United Nations that regulates the universal postal service. The postal services of its 189 member countries form the largest physical distribution network in the world. Some 6.2 million postal employees working in over 700 000 post offices all over the world handle an annual total of 430 billion letters, printed matter and parcels in the domestic service and almost 10 billion letters, printed matter and parcels in the international service.

Keeping pace with the changing communications market, Posts are increasingly using new communication and information technologies to move beyond what is traditionally regarded as their core postal business. They are meeting higher customer expectations with an expanded range of products and value-added services.

Standards are important prerequisites for effective postal operations and for interconnecting the global network. The UPU's Standards Board develops and maintains a growing number of technical standards to improve the exchange of postal-related information between posts, and promotes the compatibility of UPU and international postal initiatives. It works closely with posts, customers, suppliers and other partners, including various international organizations. The Standards Board ensures that coherent standards are developed in areas such as electronic data interchange (EDI), mail encoding, postal forms and meters.

UPU Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in Part V of the "General information on UPU standards" and are published by the UPU International Bureau in accordance with Part VII of that publication.

This document is the first version of the specification; there are no change marks.

Introduction

For certain applications, notably that of obtaining customs clearance, a postal handling organisation may need information on the detailed content of a mail item. This specification defines attributes associated with such content, referred to as content-pieces, and specifies mechanisms for the communication of the values of such attributes between postal handling organisations.

The specification is structured into three main sections:

5. *Attribute definitions*: defines the content-piece attributes of interest, specifies their components and permitted value ranges;

6. *Message subset definition*: specifies the combination(s) of attributes which form useful groupings for communications purposes;

7. *EDIFACT implementation*: defines the EDIFACT implementation of the message subset.

Informative << provides one or more EDIFACT examples.

Electronic exchange standards – Postal item content information and its electronic communication

1 Scope

This specification defines:

– a set of attributes of content-pieces which may be electronically exchanged between postal handling organisations;

– a message sub-set, providing for the practical communication of these attributes for the content-pieces within a single item (or group of items with identical content), which may be incorporated in messages which support the communication of item-level data;

EXAMPLE: ITMATT and PREDES (V3.0 onwards) provide mechanisms for the communication of item-level data; the message subset defined herein may be embedded within these messages.

– an implementation of this message sub-set for use in EDIFACT message implementations.

NOTE: Other implementations, such as XML, may be added in due course.

The present issue of the specification is intended for test use within well-defined user communities only. It should only be used for the sending of content-piece attribute data to postal handling organisations which have agreed to accept the messages which support it.

Use of the specification on an intra-organisational (domestic) basis is encouraged, subject to the understanding that, until it has been tested and accorded UPU standards status 1, the specification is subject to change.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. For references which mention specific version numbers or dates, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For references without date or version number, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies.

<<

3 Terms and definitions

A number of common terms used in this document are defined in documents referred to in Normative References and in the Bibliography. Definition of frequently used or particularly important terms as well as other terms introduced in this document are given below.

3.1 content-piece

part of the content of a postal item that has characteristics and attributes, defined in this specification, which distinguish it from other parts of such content

NOTE: A content-piece may include multiple units having identical characteristics.

EXAMPLE: A parcel may contain three dinner plates and six wine glasses. The three dinner plates would constitute one content-piece; the six wine glasses would constitute another.

3.2 mail service contractor
organisation which takes overall contractual responsibility for the acceptance, processing and delivery of a mail item in accordance with agreed or published service standards

NOTE 1: Postal administrations act as mail service contractors in respect of the mail which is entrusted to them by end customers for delivery. However, not all mail service contractors are postal administrations.

NOTE 2: A mail service contractor may subcontract some aspects of service provision to subcontractors or agents, referred to herein as postal handling organisations.

3.3 message
collection of data communicated as a single unit, between a sender and a recipient, using a single specific means of communication

NOTE: Such means of communication may be electronic, as in the case of use of a telecommunications network, or physical, as in the case of physical transfer of messages encoded on postal items or on associated documentation or storage media, such as computer disks or RFID devices.

3.4 postal administration
organisation which has been designated by a UPU member country or territory as an operator responsible for fulfilling its obligations arising from adherence to the UPU Convention and agreements

NOTE: Generally, such organisations:

- *are authorised by the UPU member concerned to provide public postal services, that is, to accept mail from any mailer in its territory and take responsibility for delivery to any addressee world-wide;*
- *organise and take direct responsibility for delivery to addressees within the geographic area covered by their operating remit;*
- *provide delivery services, within this geographic area, to other postal administrations in accordance with the UPU Convention and standards.*

3.5 postal handling organisation
organisation which may be involved, under the contractual responsibility of a mail service contractor, in the provision of postal services

NOTE: Postal administrations act as postal handling organisations, in particular where they provide delivery services to another postal administration for cross-border mail. In addition to postal administrations themselves, postal handling organisations may include collection agents, post offices, carriers, customs authorities and delivery agents.

4 Symbols and abbreviations

ANSI: American National Standards Institute

CEN: European Committee for Standardization

CEN/TC 331: CEN Technical Committee 331: Postal Services

EDI: Electronic Data Interchange – covers the general concept of electronically exchanging data used for computer processing purposes

EDIFACT: Electronic Data Interchange For Administration Commerce and Transport – refers to a specific method of achieving EDI based on ISO standard 9735

EXG: Electronic Exchange Group, a permanent sub-group of the UPU Standards Board

HS: Harmonised commodity description and coding System – a commodity classification system maintained by the World Customs Organisation

NOTE: only the first six digits of HS classification codes are defined by the World Customs Organisation and, thus, common to all countries. Individual countries or trading communities, such as the European Union, assign different meanings to the last two digits.

HTSUS: Harmonised Tariff Schedule of the United States – the customs tariffication code system of the United States Customs Service

IEC: International Electrotechnical Commission

ISO: International Standards Organisation

PREDES: Pre-advice of despatch; name of the message used to communicate despatch make-up (see M<<).

SB: (UPU) Standards Board

TC 331: CEN Technical Committee 331 Postal Services

TSM: (UPU) Technical Standards Manual

UPU: Universal Postal Union

WG3: Working Group 3 Mail Processing of CEN/TC 331

5 Attribute definitions

The following table defines the attributes covered by this specification. For each, it provides the attribute name, a precise definition, with appropriate notes on usage, and either:

– a list of lower-level component attributes which together comprise the attribute concerned, and/or

– a specification of the value range and/or code list which applies to the attribute.

All attributes defined in this section relate to an individual content-piece, referred to as "the piece", within an individual postal item, referred to as "the item".

5.1 content-piece-declared-value

monetary value, declared for customs purposes, of the content-piece

Components: numeric value, together with the ISO 4217 code of the currency concerned.

Values: n..<< + an3. The numeric value shall not contain an explicit decimal indicator; ISO 4217 currency rules shall be followed regarding the number of decimal parts (e. g. 2 decimal places for EUR, GBP, USD; 3 for BHD; none for JPY).

EXAMPLE: EUR 2347 *thus represents a value of 23 euro and 47 eurocents;* BHD 2347 *represents 2 Bahraini Dinars and 347 fils;* JPY 2347 *represents 2347 Japanese yen.*

NOTE 1: Both 3-alpha and 3-digit currency code representations are supported.

NOTE 2: Where a content-piece comprises multiple identical units (e.g. 6 dinner plates), the value given shall correspond with the total value of the content piece, not to a single unit.

5.2 content-piece-description

description of the nature of the content-piece, sufficient to identify it at the level required for banking, customs, statistical or transport purposes, avoiding unnecessary detail

Values: an..256; free-text description.

5.3 content-piece-measurement-data

measurable characteristics of the content-piece, including its net weight expressed in kg with 0-3 decimals, which are required for duty assessment purposes

Values: n..<<; decimal position, if applicable, shall be explicitly indicated by point (full stop) character.

*NOTE 1: Decimal point, if present, does **not** count as one of the characters for length limitation purposes.*

NOTE 2: Where a content-piece comprises multiple identical units (e.g. 6 dinner plates), the value given for net weight corresponds with the total net weight of the content piece, not to a single unit.

5.4 content-piece-net-weight
see content-piece-measurement-data

5.5 content-piece-number
sequential number differentiating between different content-pieces within the item

Values: n..4; range 1 to 9999; shall take consecutive integer values, starting with 1, for the different content pieces within the item.

NOTE: For customs purposes, defined as: sequential number differentiating each separate goods item entry of a consignment as contained in one document/declaration.

5.6 content-piece-origin-country
country of origin of the content-piece (i.e. the country in which the content-piece was produced or manufactured, according to criteria laid down for the purposes of application of the customs tariff, of quantitative restrictions, or of any other measure related to trade), expressed as an ISO 3166-1 2-alpha code

Values: a2; shall be a valid ISO 3166-1 2-alpha code value.

5.7 content-piece-tariff-heading
customs tariff heading of the content-piece, expressed as a coded value together with a coded specification of the code system used.

Values: Three code systems are supported:

Code system	Controlled by	Specification code	Tariff-heading format
CN			6n
HS			8n
HTSUS	US Customs Service		<<

<<<<how are CN, etc related to 1 = CCC, 2 = CEC, …???

NOTE: Codes are required to be valid within the selected code list.

6 Message subset definition

6.1 Subset composition

The specification is organised into 4 columns, as follows:

Col	Content	Description
1	Level	Specifies the logical level of the data, either in absolute terms expressed as a simple integer, or, expressed as plus (+) followed by an integer value, relative to the context in which the subset is used.
2	Attribute	Identifies either the attribute or, where it is necessary to distinguish between the components making up an attribute, the attribute and component name, separated by a point (.)
3	Occurrences	Specifies the number of occurrences which is supported, either as a single integer, a range or a list of values or ranges

Col	Content	Description
4	Conditions	Specifies the conditions under which presence of the attribute is required. This may be either C (conditional), D (derived from other data, not explicitly communicated) or M (mandatory), followed by optional descriptive text. In the absence of such descriptive text, values C and M are to be interpreted as follows: C: The attribute value is to be communicated if it is known to the sender of the message; M: At least one instance of the attribute value is always required; further instances should be supplied if relevant and known by the message sender.

Level	Attribute	Occurrences	Conditions
+0	**content-piece information subset**	0-9999	C: At least one occurrence is required for items requiring customs clearance
+1	content-piece-number	1	M: Shall be different for each content-piece contained within the item
+1	content-piece-description	1	M
+1	content-piece-declared-value	1	M
+2	monetary-value	1	M
+2	currency-code	1	M
+1	content-piece-measurement-data	1-15	M: at least one occurrence, for net weight, is required
+1	content-piece-origin-country	0-1	C: supplied if known
+1	content-piece-tariff-heading	0-1	C: supplied if known

6.2 Subset usage

The content-piece information message subset may be used in messages containing item level attribute information. Use of the subset outside of the context of a specific item attributes definition is not supported

Within a message, all occurrences for a particular item shall be associated with the item to which they pertain by virtue of their position within or at the end of other information (such as item attributes) pertaining to the same item.

7 EDIFACT implementation

The content-piece message subset is implemented as an EDIFACT LIN-MEA-LOC-CST-IMD-MOA group, with LOC and CST segments being conditional, the others mandatory.

7.1 Mapping of attributes onto segments

Attribute	Segment	Components used
content-piece-description	IMD	**7008**

Attribute	Segment	Components used
content-piece-declared-value	MOA	5025; **5004**; **6345**
content-piece-measurement-data	MEA	6311; 6313; 6411; **6314**
content-piece-number	LIN	**1082**
content-piece-origin-country	LOC	3227; **3225**
content-piece-tariff-heading	CST	**7361**; 1131; 3055

7.2 Branching diagram

<<

7.3 Loop diagram

<<

7.4 Detailed message subset definition

The specification is organised into 6 columns, as follows:

Col	Content	Description
1	Tag	Specifies the EDIFACT tag for the component concerned. This may be have one of four types: – group reference, indicated by SGnn, where nn is a group number; – segment code name, comprising three alphabetic characters; – composite EDIFACT data element reference, of the form Cnnn; – simple EDIFACT data element reference, of the form nnnn.
2	Name	Specifies the EDIFACT name for the group, segment or data element concerned
3	M/C	Indicates whether the component is mandatory (M) or conditional (C). Where the specification deviates from the standard use in EDIFACT, the code is followed by an asterisk (*)
4	Used format	For simple data elements, indicates the format of the element, using normal EDIFACT conventions. Where the specification deviates from the normal EDIFACT definition for the element, this is indicated by an asterisk (*)
5	Permitted values	For simple data elements, specifies any limitations on the range of values permitted. Blank entries indicate that any valid EDIFACT value for the data element may be used. Non-blank entries provide an exhaustive list of supported values for the specific instance of use of the data element being described. Other values may be used only in other instances, or subject to bilateral or project-related agreements.
6	Description	For simple data elements, specifies the nature of the content. This is normally either: – the name of the attribute (given in **bold** type); – the name of the attribute (given in **bold** type) and the name of the attribute

Col Content Description

component, separated by a point (.);

– an explanation of the interpretation to be given to the corresponding value in column 5;

– a free text description, with (non-exhaustive) examples of possible values.

TAG	NAME	M/C	Used format	Permitted values	Description
LIN	LINE ITEM	M			
1082	line item number	M*	n..4*	1-9999	**content-piece-number**
MEA	MEASUREMENTS	M			<<if, as suggested, we allow other measurements, is net weight mandatory? should it be treated as a special case, or just as one of the other measurements
6311	Measurement application qualifier	M	a2*	WT	Weights
C502	Measurement details	M*			
6313	Measurement dimension, coded	M*	a3	AAL	Net weight
C174	Value/range	M*			
6411	Measurement unit qualifier	M	a3	KGM GRM	kilogram gram
6314	Measurement value	M*	n..18		**content-piece-net-weight**
MEA	MEASUREMENTS	C			**content-piece-measuremment-data** other than net weight (may occur up to 14 times)
6311	Measurement application qualifier	M	an..3		any valid attribute code, e.g. ABK external dimension CH chemistry VOL volume
C502	Measurement details	C			
6313	Measurement dimension, coded	C	an..3		measured attribute code – any valid value, e.g. AAW gross volume AAX net volume
6321	Measurement significance, coded	C	an..3		any valid value, e.g. 3 approximately 7 less than<<do we also need to support 6155, 6154?
C174	Value/range	C			

6411	Measurement unit qualifier	M	a3		any valid value, e.g.: MLT millilitre MMT millimetre
6314	Measurement value	C	an..18		measurement value
6162	Range minimum	C	n..18		minimum measurement value
6152	Range maximum	C	n..18		maximum measurement value
6432	Significant digits	C	n..2		number of significant digits in the measurement value<<is this needed? what about max and min? what about surface/layer?
LOC	PLACE/LOCATION IDENTIFICATION	C			
3227	Place/location qualifier	M	n2*	27	Country of origin
C517	Location identification	M*			
3225	Place/location identification	M*	a2*	ISO 3166-1 2-alpha code	**content-piece-origin-country**
CST	CUSTOMS STATUS OF GOODS	C			
1496					(not used)
C246	Customs identity codes	M*			
7361	Customs code identification	M	an..18		**content-piece-tariff-heading**
1131	Code list qualifier	M*	n3*	122	commodity
3055	Code list responsible agency	M*	an..3		code for the relevant customs authority, e.g.: 1 CCC, customs cooperation council 109 GB, Customs and Excise 111 US, U.S. Customs service 150 HK, Hong Kong Customs 158 FI, Finnish Customs
IMD	ITEM DESCRIPTION	M			
7077					(not used)
C272					(not used)
C273	Item description	M*			
7009					(not used)
1131					(not used)
3055					(not used)
7008	Item description	M*	an..256		**content-piece-description**
MOA	MONETARY AMOUNT	M			

C516	Monetary amount	M			
5025	Monetary amount qualifier	M	n3*	203	Line item amount
5004	Monetary amount	M*	n..18		**content-piece-value**.monetary-amount
6345	Currency, coded	M*	an3	ISO 4217 code	**content-piece-value**.currency-code

<<how is CST coded if there is no 3055 value for the customs authority concerned?>>

7.5 Code usage

The following table specifies supported codes for EDIFACT data elements associated with a code list. It is arranged in four columns, indicating:

Col Title Interpretation

1 Data element — EDIFACT data element / code list number

2 Code value — Code value or range of values to which the following interpretation applies

3 EDIFACT interpretation — Interpretation of the code value according to EDIFACT

4 UPU interpretation — Interpretation to be given to the code value in the context of use in accordance with this specification.

Data element	**Code value**	**EDIFACT interpretation**	**UPU Interpretation**
1131	122	Commodity	indicates that the associated element 7361 specifies the customs tariff-heading for the content-piece
3055	Any	Code list responsible agency	Only codes corresponding with customs authorities should be used
3227	27	Country of origin	Country of origin of the content-piece
5025	203	Line item amount	indicates that the associated elements 5004 and 6345 specify the declared monetary value of the content-piece
6311	WT	Weights	idem
6313	AAL	Net weight	Indicates that the associated element 6314 represents the net weight of the content-piece
6345	Any ISO 4217 code		Implies that the associated element 5004 is expressed in the currency concerned and has the number of decimal digits defined in ISO 4217 for that currency
6411	GRM	gram	Indicates that the associated element 6314 is expressed in grams
6411	KGM	kilogram	Indicates that the associated element 6314 is expressed in kilograms (with explicit decimal point and fractional part where greater precision is necessary)

8 Text of Standard begins

A paragraph containing a requirement.

EXAMPLE Informative example. Examples may not contain requirements. If there are multiple examples after a single requirements paragraph, they should be numbered: EXAMPLE 1, EXAMPLE 2, etc.

NOTE Text note; may be used to provide informative explanation. Notes may not contain requirements. If there are multiple notes after a single requirements paragraph, they should be numbered: NOTE 1, NOTE 2, etc.

Dimensions in millimetres

PLACE FIGURE[a] HERE

NOTE 1 Figure note.

NOTE 2 Figure note.

[a] Figure footnote.

Figure 1 – Figure title

Annex A
(informative)

EDIFACT Example

8.1 <<

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Bibliography

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[2] <<

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[3] <<

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[4] <<