



GSMP PROCESS CHANGE NOTIFICATION

Effective 09 April 2004

UN/CEFACT Standard Business Document Header

The Information Technical Requirements Group (ITRG) has voted to adopt the United Nations Center for Facilitation of Commerce and Trade (UN/CEFACT) Standard Business Document Header (SBDH). By providing a consistent interface between applications, the SBDH enables integration of documents between internal applications, enterprise applications, and business-to-business infrastructure. Currently, because of the lack of a standard, a number of different proprietary approaches are in use to route and process documents.

With the standard header, any application can now determine the logical routing and processing requirements of a document based on information contained in the standard header. This is accomplished through the use of key data elements such as logical sender and recipient identifiers, and a 'business document type' associated with a Standard Business Document (SBD) object.

The standard header can also provide optional service and correlation information, at the business domain level, between trading partners. Regardless of the data format of the document – XML or EDI or other format, the standard header can provide the semantic information needed for the routing, processing and business domain context of documents.

This Technical Specification was developed in accordance with the UN/CEFACT/TRADE/22 Open Development Process (ODP) for Technical Specifications. The Standard Business Document Header specification is a result of a work project of the UN/CEFACT Applied Technology Group (ATG). This specification is supported by the two working groups within ATG, ATG1 (EDIFACT Syntax Structures) and ATG2 (XML Assembly Documents/Production Rules) and was approved by these teams and the Standard Business Document Header Project (SBDH) Team.

GSMP members, from ITRG and the Electronic Commerce Global Implementation Forum (ecGIF), composed a larger segment of SBDH members and were instrumental in contributing the success of the United Nations specification. Other members of the team included users, standards bodies and solution providers. The SBDH has passed Step 5 of the ODP process, which is to complete the specification, and is now in step 6, which is the prototyping of the specification. Trial pilots have already been conducted at the ATG meeting. The final prototype will be conducted at the next GSMP meeting in Paris.

ITRG has voted to incorporate the SBDH into the EAN.UCC XML Standards, and it will be integrated into Release 2.0. A user guide on how to use the SBDH with EAN.UCC XML Standards will supplement the UN/CEFACT specification.