CEN
WORKSHOP
AGREEMENT

ICS 35.240.60

Product and Business Data Harmonisation (PBDH)

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Foreword

The CEN/ISSS Electronic Commerce Workshop was established on 24/25 February 1998 and initiated the Product and Business Data Harmonisation (PBDH) project in the CEN/ISSS environment.

The PBDH project deals with standards harmonisation as part of a general goal of eliminating barriers which restrict the flow of information by providing a basis out of which the interoperability of standards can be improved.

In this project, the term "Harmonisation" implies the creation of a Common Object Repository, which is basically capable of incorporating concepts from a number of different framework specifications. Two of these were used for filling the repository: STEP and UN/EDIFACT.

PBDH has a limited potential to solve the short problems of industry, and may be meaningful only if seen as a long-term proactive measure to further convergence of standards and specifications.

The present CWA (CEN Workshop Agreement) outlines the project and raises a number of issues and recommendations. It has received support from members of the CEN/ISSS Electronic Commerce Workshop. The list of supporting organisations of the workshop may be obtained from the CEN/ISSS Secretariat (http://www.cenorm.be/iss).

The final review/endorsement round for this CWA was started on 16/01/99 and was successfully completed on 24/03/99. The final text for this CWA was submitted to CEN for publication on April 26, 1999.
Product and Business Data Harmonisation (PBDH)

1. Summary of the CWA

The following three terms are of central importance for this Project.

- **STEP**  A standard for the exchange of Product Model Data, which is intended to cover the entire life cycle of a product.
- **UN/EDIFACT**  The United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
- **BSR** (Basic Semantics Register) - ISO's central register for standardized data

The PBDH Project had as its goal the harmonisation of industry-implemented standards. Since harmonisation has practical significance only where these standards overlap, STEP and UN/EDIFACT were used, and the areas of overlap of these two standards had to be determined.

The BSR, developed by ISO TC 154 provided the basic support tool for the harmonisation work.

The PBDH Repository was set up in Microsoft Access in order to show equivalent entries as they appear in STEP, the BSR, and UN/EDIFACT. The entries cover about 15% of the potential overlap between the two standards.

**Section 2** lists the documents, which served as the sources from which the specifications were transferred, adapted and aligned in the PBDH Repository. In addition to documents about STEP, UN/EDIFACT, and the BSR, reference is made to other standards-related documents, which provide background information. Web sites are included in the references.

The results of the project consist of the Access database and a number of textual documents, which are listed together with a summary of their contents.

**Section 3** provides an outline of the PBDH Project, listing the goals, the sources of information, the form of the PBDH Repository, the course of the Project, the difficulties encountered, and the results obtained. A proposal on how the PBDH Repository should be completed, questions and answers on the funding of this work, and a proposal on how to disseminate the information complete the information in this section.

**Section 4** stresses the importance of the results. It shows where benefits of the PBDH Repository may be obtained in the short term and long term.

**Section 5** references two issues, which have a relation to this project.
2. References

This section lists all the documents which served as sources for the work, and which are referenced in the database as well as in the textual documents. Furthermore, the documents, which form the final deliverables of this Project and the web site appear at the end.

2.1 STEP Documentation

The following STEP documentation, to which MANDATE, the standard for Manufacturing Management Data is added, forms the basis from which the overlapping entries of UN/EDIFACT and STEP were determined:

- ISO 10303-41: Fundamentals of product description and support
- ISO 10303-44: Product structure configuration
- ISO 10303-49: Process structure configuration
- ISO 10303-203: Configuration controlled design
- ISO 10303-208: Life cycle support
- ISO 10303-214: Automotive design
- ISO 15531: MANDATE Manufacturing Management Data

2.2 UN/EDIFACT Documentation

The UN/EDIFACT information was taken from the following sources:

- UN/EDIFACT Directory D97B. The main directory data and, in particular, the PRODAT (Product Data) message and underlying structures/semantics
- Web Site: http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid. This is the master page from which all the directories and details of UN/EDIFACT can be accessed
- The EDI Simulator of the FORESIGHT Corporation was graciously made available to the PBDH Project team

2.3 BSR Documentation

For the BSR the documentation used consisted of:

- The existing BSR database (Microsoft Access)
- The “Rules, Guidelines and Methodology of the BSR”
- Web site: http://www.iso.ch/BSR/ (with BSR in upper case) This is the master page from which all the directories and details of the BSR can be accessed
2.4 Documentation of a General Nature

Documentation containing background information on STEP/EXPRESS

- ISO 10303-1 Overview and Fundamental Principles
- ISO 10303-11 Description methods: The EXPRESS language reference manual
- ISO 10303-21 Implementation Methods: Clear text encoding of the exchange structure
- Felix J. Metzger “Produktdaten-Design und Daten-Integration durch Zusammenfügen autonomer Schema Module”, Diss. Nr. 12391, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)
- D.A. Schenk, P.R. Wilson “Information Modelling: The EXPRESS Way”, Oxford University Press, 1994
- ISO 11179, Specification and Standardisation of Data Elements” (a basic standard for specifying semantic information)

From the set of standards documents of S.W.I.F.T., the following are of comparative interest:
- Standards General Information
- Standards User Guidelines
- Standards General Field Definitions

Address of S.W.I.F.T.: S.W.I.F.T. Headquarters
Standards Department
Avenue Adèle 1
B-1310 La Hulpe
Home page: http://www.swift.com/

2.5 Final Deliverables

The final deliverables of the PBDH Project, which consist of six different parts, provide background information, describe the course of the project, formats and methodology, and the possible future of the PBDH Repository. These documents are:

- Report on the Execution of the PBDH Project (WORD document, 6 pages). This contains detailed information on the execution of the Project.
- Guidelines and Methodology for the Harmonisation (WORD document, 21 pages). With the list of its contents
  1. Introduction
  2. Semantic Issues
  3. The Form of the PBDH Repository
  4. Methodology
  5. BSR Guidelines
  6. Example of a Mapping Exercise
Bestelformulier

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