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Second edition
2002-07-01

Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4, Syntax release number: 1) —

Part 1:
Syntax rules common to all parts

Échange de données informatisé pour l'administration, le commerce et le transport (EDIFACT) — Règles de syntaxe au niveau de l'application (numéro de version de syntaxe: 4, numéro d'édition de syntaxe: 1) —

Partie 1: Règles de syntaxe communes à l'ensemble des parties

Reference number
ISO 9735-1:2002(E)

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO 9735 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 9735-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 154, *Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration* in collaboration with UN/CEFACT through the Joint Syntax Working Group (JSWG).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 9735-1:1998) to which one new feature to the EDIFACT syntax, version 4 has been added: Syntax release identification. However ISO 9735:1988 and its Amendment 1:1992 are provisionally retained for the reasons given in clause 2.

Furthermore, for maintenance reasons the Syntax service directories have been removed from this and all other parts of ISO 9735. They are now consolidated in a new part, ISO 9735-10.

At the time of publication of ISO 9735-1:1998, ISO 9735-10 had been allocated as a part for “Security rules for interactive EDI”. This was subsequently withdrawn because of lack of user support, and as a result, all relevant references to the title “Security rules for interactive EDI” have been removed in this second edition of ISO 9735-1.

Definitions from all parts of the ISO 9735 series have been consolidated and included in this part of ISO 9735.

The Introduction has also been updated to summarize the new feature and all other changes.

Together with ISO 9735-2, this part of ISO 9735 is an enhancement of ISO 9735:1988 and its Amendment 1:1992.

ISO 9735 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4, Syntax release number: 1)*:

— *Part 1: Syntax rules common to all parts*

— *Part 2: Syntax rules specific to batch EDI*

— *Part 3: Syntax rules specific to interactive EDI*

— *Part 4: Syntax and service report message for batch EDI (message type — CONTRL)*

— *Part 5: Security rules for batch EDI (authenticity, integrity and non-repudiation of origin)*

— *Part 6: Secure authentication and acknowledgement message (message type — AUTACK)*

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— *Part 7: Security rules for batch EDI (confidentiality)*

— *Part 8: Associated data in EDI*

— *Part 9: Security key and certificate management message (message type — KEYMAN)*

— *Part 10: Syntax service directories*

Further parts may be added in the future.

Annex A forms a normative part of this part of ISO 9735. Annexes B, C and D are for information only.

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Introduction

This part of ISO 9735 includes the rules at the application level for the structuring of data in the interchange of electronic messages in an open environment, based on the requirements of either batch or interactive processing. These rules have been agreed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) as syntax rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) and are part of the United Nations Trade Data Interchange Directory (UNTDID) which also includes both batch and interactive Message Design Guidelines.

This part of ISO 9735 may be used in any application, but messages using these rules may only be referred to as EDIFACT messages if they comply with other guidelines, rules and directories in the UNTDID. For UN/EDIFACT messages, the message design rules for batch or interactive usage apply, as appropriate. These rules are maintained in the UNTDID.

Communications specifications and protocols are outside the scope of this part of ISO 9735.

A previous version of ISO 9735 was published in 1988 as a single part. The current version of ISO 9735 consists of multiple parts and incorporates enhancements to extend its application.

This part of ISO 9735 is a re-draft of corresponding sections in the previous version of ISO 9735. It consists of the rules common to all parts of ISO 9735, and includes the definitions for all parts.

The basic syntax rules specified in this part remain unchanged from the previous version, with the exception that the coverage of character repertoires has been extended, and two new techniques have been introduced (the provision for “dependency notes” and the introduction of a service repetition character, to support the capability of permitting multiple occurrences (repeats) of stand-alone and/or composite data elements). Both of these techniques are used in other parts of the current version of ISO 9735, and are available for specification in EDIFACT messages which utilize this International Standard.

In addition, enhancements have been made to the batch interchange; group; and message header segments (UNB; UNG; and UNH).

Character repertoires: Because of the widening use of ISO 9735, it has become necessary to extend its coverage to include all character repertoires covered by ISO 8859, parts 1-9; the code extension techniques covered by ISO 2022 (with certain restrictions on its use within an interchange); and partial use of the techniques covered by ISO/IEC 10646-1.

Dependency notes: These provide a formal notation to express relationships in EDIFACT message, segment and composite data element specifications.

Repeating data elements: The specification of multiple occurrences of a message within a group or within an interchange; a group within an interchange; and a segment group and/or a segment within a message, which existed in the previous version of ISO 9735, has been extended in the current version. The additional capability for the specification of multiple occurrences of a stand-alone data element and/or of a composite data element within a segment has been introduced.

UNB - Interchange header segment: This segment has been enhanced to permit the identification of the service code list directory version number; identification of the character encoding scheme; and internal sub-identification of the sender and recipient. In addition, to conform to year 2000 requirements, the date format in this segment has been extended.

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UNG - Group header segment: This segment has been renamed and its function changed to permit one or more message types and/or packages to be contained in the group. As a result, certain data elements, which are now redundant, have been marked for deletion. In addition, to conform to year 2000 requirements, the date format in this segment has been extended.

UNH - Message header segment: This segment has been enhanced to permit the identification of a message subset; of a related message implementation guideline; and of a related scenario.

Segment collision prevention: An addition has been made to permit the prevention of collision, by use of the UGH/UGT segment group. This technique shall be used in a message specification when it is not otherwise possible to ensure unambiguous identification of each message segment upon receipt.

Syntax release identification: An addition has been made to permit the identification of specific releases related to the syntax version number. This will facilitate the publication of minor changes to the standard (if required in the future).

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