



The European B2B Forum for the Electronics Industry

**Guide to Business and Information Modelling for the development  
of the EDIFICE Business and Information Model Guidelines**

Issue 1

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## Publication Summary

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<b>Abstract:</b>	This Guide explains the model based approach to development of EDI implementation kits which has been accepted by EDIFICE. Three phases of analysis of the inter-enterprise business process are described and the inputs and outputs of each phase are specified. The set of deliverables from each phase form an EDI implementation Kit for the inter-enterprise process.
<b>Comment:</b>	Comments and change requests should be submitted to: EDIFICE secretariat
<b>References</b>	Basic Semantic Repository Feasibility Study TEDIS II B1 Consortium, September 1992 'Design of UN/EDIFACT Messages Guidelines and Rules' TRADE/WP.4/R.840/Rev.1 93-07-02 'EDI-Model: EDI information modelling tools and requirements' Report to CEC TEDIS by Bakkenist Management Consultants, July 1993 ISO/IEC JTC1/SWG-EDI Report on the Open-EDI Conceptual Model ISO/IEC JTC1/SC14-WG4 Specification and standardization of data elements (DIS 11179) Project for the development of a prototype for the basic semantic repository. ISO BSR N12 rev 1. UN/EDIFACT Business and Information Modelling Guidelines (draft) ISO/DIS 10303-11 Industrial automation systems - Product data representation and exchange - Description methods: The EXPRESS language reference manual 'Concepts and Terminology for the Conceptual Scheme and the Information Base' ISO, Working Group TC97/SC5/WG3, Report ISO/TC97/TR9007, 1987

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

For many years it has been recognised that information systems can best be designed and built on the basis of a thorough analysis of the business processes they are to support and of the information they are to store and process. Such an analysis and design can be recorded and developed in the form of models of the processes and of the information.

EDI messages are a type of component of information systems. There is a growing realization that their analysis and design should be undertaken using models. This guide explains how this approach is adopted in the message guideline development work undertaken by EDIFICE.

### **1.1 UN/EDIFACT BIM**

UN/EDIFACT is in the process of developing a modelling approach to EDI message design. The Business & Information Modelling (BIM) group has been active at Joint Rapporteurs Team meetings (JRT) for some time.

The approach in this guide is based on the current draft of the UN/EDIFACT 'Business & Information Modelling Guidelines' which are still in development by the BIM group. However, this EDIFICE guide is based on the assumption that there are no models currently available relating to existing UN/EDIFACT messages. When the UN/EDIFACT models become a reality this approach may have to be modified because the starting point for EDIFICE will be 'UN/EDIFACT models' rather than UN/EDIFACT messages.

### **1.2 UN/EDIFACT Messages**

The intended readership of this guide are those carrying out EDIFICE message guideline development projects. The ultimate deliverable of such projects is an EDI implementation kit which includes guidelines on the use of relevant UN/EDIFACT messages.

The design approach adopted in such projects should be reasonably free and open to innovation in order to arrive at good solutions. However, the project must also take account of the fact it is constrained by the possibilities of the UN/EDIFACT messages with which it is working.

### **1.3 Structure of the document**

An overview of the EDIFICE message development approach using modelling techniques is included in Chapter 2. The three phases of the approach are described in turn in Chapter 3. The deliverables from each phase are specified in Chapter 4.

Chapter 5 indicates the main stages in the move from the current guideline approach towards the model based development of an EDI implementation kit.

This version of the guide does not include specific recommendations on modelling methods or tools but references to relevant modelling methods which are ISO standards.

## 2 OVERVIEW OF THE MODELLING APPROACH

### 2.1 Scope of the models

The scope of the models to be developed is the inter-enterprise business process for a particular business area. This is depicted in Figure 1.

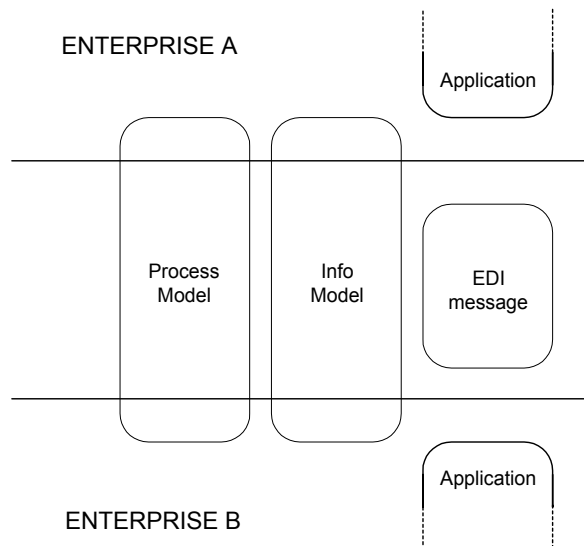


Figure 1 The scope of the inter-enterprise models

This view of the scope is intended to emphasise that the message development project is dealing with a business process which crosses enterprise boundaries. Models are developed both of the process and the information. These models form the basis of the EDI message guidelines.

The models also cover, to some extent, the processes and information dealt with by the application systems in the enterprises.

### 2.2 Definition of the inter-enterprise business process

In order to achieve its objectives an enterprise operates a number of business processes (e.g. purchasing). An individual business process is comprised of a number of business functions. A selection of these business functions regulate outgoing information flows and depend on incoming information flows. The inter-enterprise business process is comprised of those business functions and the information flows between them. This is depicted in Figure 2.

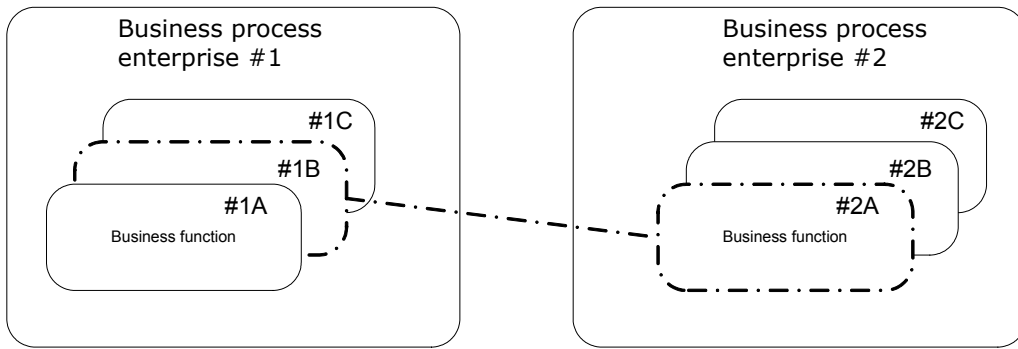


Figure 2 The inter-enterprise business process

### 2.3 Stages in the modelling process

The approach envisages interrelated models of both the activities and information for a particular business area. The models are developed in two stages leading to specification of the required EDI messages for the business area as shown in Figure 3.

In the first stage an inter-enterprise business process analysis is undertaken of the activities and information. Deliverables from this stage are business function flow diagrams and entity association diagrams. From this general analysis of the business area, the flows and functions which could usefully be supported by EDI messages are identified and further analysed in the second stage, the inter-enterprise requirements analysis. Deliverables from this stage are scenario specifications and data requirements.

In the final stage the EDI user guidelines are prepared, comprised of instructions on how to use the message in the business process and the message structure guidelines derived from the formal statement of the data requirements and the UN/EDIFACT directories.

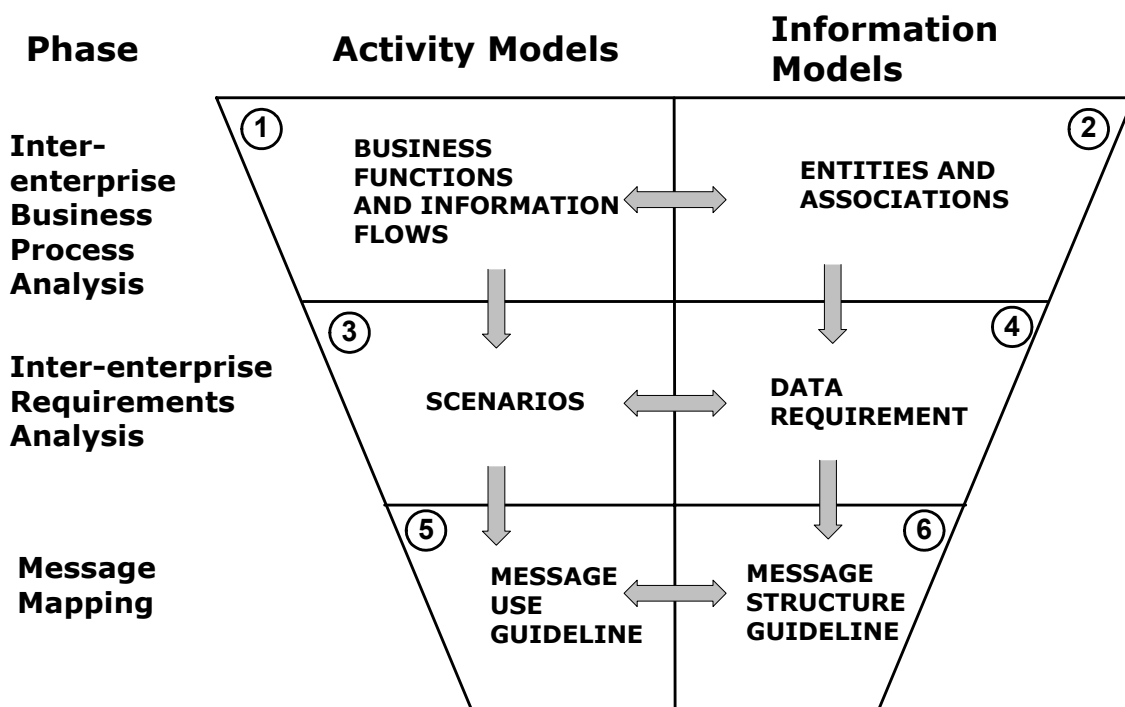


Figure 3 Overview of the modelling approach showing the analysis phases and deliverables

### 3 PROJECT PHASES

This chapter provides an outline of the phases in an EDI implementation kit development project and indicates the types of deliverable to be produced at each phase. In practice, EDI kit developers should try to reuse existing activity and information models in each phase.

#### 3.1 Setting the project scope

An EDI implementation kit development project is undertaken for a business area. The kit for the area is comprised of the set of deliverables from each phase of the project.

#### 3.2 Inter-enterprise business process analysis phase

The purpose of the inter-enterprise business process analysis is to provide models of functions and information from which the flows to be carried by EDI may be derived. The base line of the analysis is the requirement of the current inter-enterprise business process enhanced by an attainable degree of innovation.

**Inputs** to this phase are knowledge and experience of current business practice, the information requirements of each function in the process and a vision of future possibilities and requirements.

##### 3.2.1. Process analysis

In this analysis the types of party involved in the process are identified and the functions carried out by, or on behalf of, each type are identified. Functions are initially identified at a high level. These may then be detailed by identification of the component functions to a limited depth.

The **outputs** of this process analysis are an inventory of the types of party, the information flows between them and function specifications for each function in the process.

##### 3.2.2. Information analysis

Information flows between the parties are identified at each level for which functions have been identified. At the lower levels the information flows are identified as components of the higher level flows.

Information models are developed for each information flow and integrated to form a consistent model for the inter-enterprise business process. The information models describe the entities, their attributes and associations which are of significance to that process.

The information models form the **output** from this analysis.

#### 3.3 Inter-enterprise requirements phase

The purpose of this phase is to derive scenario specifications and data models from the function specifications and information models.

**Inputs** to this phase are the party/information flow diagrams, the function specifications and information models from the business analysis phase.

### 3.3.1. Scenario specification

A scenario specification is prepared for each combination of functions and flows involved in a business process.

A scenario specification formalises the decomposition of functions and information flows. It includes roles, message sequences, states/transitions, error handling and time constraints.

The scenario specifications form the **output** from this analysis.

### 3.3.2. Data requirement specification

Based on the information model for the selected flows a logical data structure is specified by reference to the entities and attributes in the model.

The **output** is in the form of a specific definition of the information model attributes in terms of structure, meaning, format and code systems.

## 3.4 Message mapping phase

From the inter-enterprise flows identified and analysed, those appropriate to support by EDI are selected and the appropriate UN/EDIFACT message types are selected. In the situation where no appropriate UN/EDIFACT message type is available for the selected data flows this phase of the project generates a message design for a new message.

The purpose of this phase is to develop guidelines on the use of UN/EDIFACT messages in respect of the selected flows. These guidelines are made up of instructions on how to use the message in the business process and a specification of the message structure annotated with instructions on the use of each message component.

### 3.4.1. Message use guideline

**Input** to this phase is comprised of the scenario specifications. For each function and flow where an EDI message is used instructions are given on the use of the message in the context of the business process described in the scenario.

### 3.4.2. Message structure guideline

**Input** to this analysis is comprised of the data flow requirement specifications from the previous phase, the current UN/EDIFACT directories and the operational requirements from the scenarios.

For each flow the data structure is mapped onto the message components (segment groups, segments, composite data elements, data elements and code sets).

The **output** of this process is a guideline to the use of the components of the selected UN/EDIFACT message to support communication for the selected flows in the manner required by the scenarios and in accordance with the message use guideline.

## **4 SPECIFICATION OF DELIVERABLES**

This chapter provides more details of the content of the deliverables from each of the project phases described in Chapter 3. The project is undertaken for a business area. A description of the business area must be available in sufficient detail to provide clear boundaries for the project.

A series of examples is used throughout this chapter. It should be noted that, although they are based on an actual project, they have been simplified for the purposes of this guide and their content is not necessarily complete or consistent.

### **4.1 Inter-enterprise business process analysis**

#### **4.1.1. Business functions and information flows**

The types of party engaged in the business area are identified in terms of their main contribution. Where a general business area is being described general types of party, such as 'supplier' and 'customer', may be adequate. However where a more specific business area is being dealt with more specific types of party may be encountered, such as: 'manufacturer of components', 'manufacturer of systems', 'distributor', 'forwarder', 'customs authority', etc.

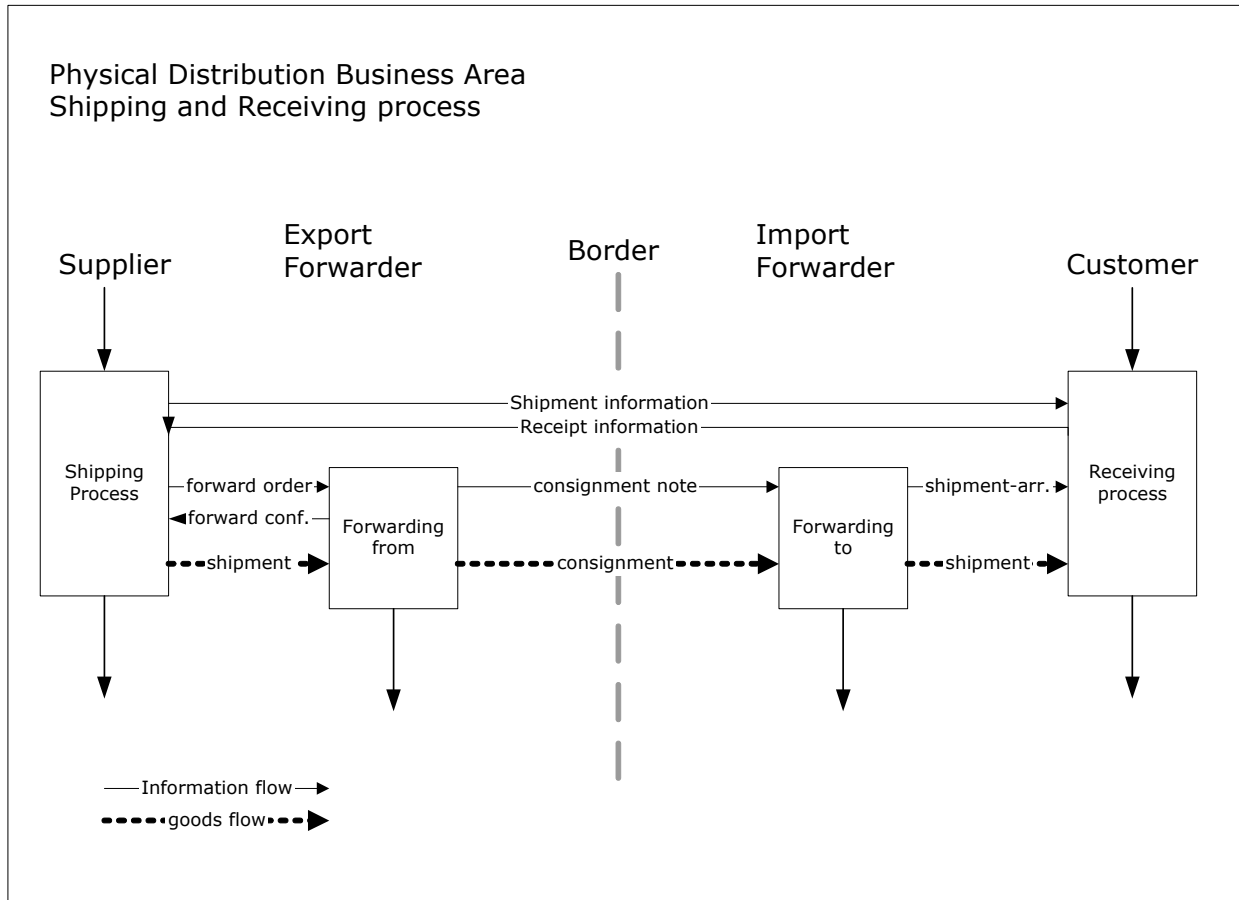


Figure 4 Example business function and information flow diagram

Figure 4 shows an example of a business function and flow diagram for a process in the physical distribution area.

For each type of party the main relevant functions are named and briefly described. In particular those functions which engage in inter-enterprise information flows are identified and the information flows are named. If appropriate to proper identification of the information flows, the functions may be broken down to component functions. Functions within the enterprise which are not directly engaged in inter-enterprise information flows are not analysed.

Figure 5 shows the example description of the receiving process and Figure 6 shows example definitions of the parties, their functions and the information flows.

### Receiving Process

Receiving is the official transaction in which a designated person takes possession of material, goods or services. This may take place at any number of authorised locations, including an agents warehouse (acting on behalf of the Buyer.)

The Receiving Process covers the following steps:

- Receive and check all documentation.
- Check seal. If a truck shipment, the receiving group should check the existence and conditions of any seals.

- Complete the Goods Received Note (GRN).
- Count boxes/pallets. As the consignment is being unloaded, the total number of boxes/pallets should be counted, and checks made for any visible damage. The quantities counted should be noted on the GRN, and compared to the manifest. Any discrepancies should be reviewed with the carrier, and reported to the shipping source. After the physical check the carrier can be released.
- Do customs clearance. Imported products may go through customs clearance.
- Verify the detailed shipment. Once material is released, a second, more detailed check of the shipment should be performed by matching incoming documentation against the shipment. Any quantity discrepancies should be noted and reported to the shipping source within an agreed time span.
- Confirm the shipment. All receipts should be confirmed to the shipping site.

Figure 5 Example description of the Receiving Process

**Definitions applicable to the Shipping and Receiving Process**

consignment	A separately identifiable collection of one or more shipments (available to be) transported together by one means of transport, as specified on one consignment note.
customer	A party which acquires, by way of trade, goods and/or services.
export	The process of transferring goods outside the jurisdiction of national customs.
forwarder	A party responsible for assembling, disassembling, despatching and receiving consignments.
receipt information	The information from a customer to his supplier about a shipment confirming its receipt.
receiving process	The process of receiving goods items in a shipment and processing those goods items to stock booking.
shipping process	The process of combining goods items into shipments and having those shipments transported.
shipment	A separately identifiable collection of one or more goods-items (available to be) transported together from one supplier to one customer.
shipment information	The information from a supplier to his customer about a shipment, including shipment date, shipment method, related document references etc.
supplier	A party which provides, by way of trade, goods and/or services.

Figure 6 Definitions of parties, functions and information flows in the Shipping and Receiving Process

**4.1.2. Entities, attributes and associations**

The inter-enterprise information flows are broken down into component flows to an appropriate level. Information models are developed of the entities referred to in these flows. Depending on the complexity, one model may be sufficient for the whole area, or it may be found necessary to build separate, but related, models for each flow.

Each entity in the model is named and defined. The significant attributes of the entities are named and defined. The identifying attributes are indicated. The significant associations between entities are identified and named. The cardinality of the associations is specified. Significant dependencies and conditions among attributes and associations are specified.

As far as possible, all terminology is based on terms and definitions from the Basic Semantic Repository.

Figure 7 shows an example of an entity association diagram, the specification of the entity association rules are included in Figure 8 and definitions of the entities are shown in Figure 9. Figure 10 shows the list of attributes of each entity and Figure lists the definitions of each attribute.

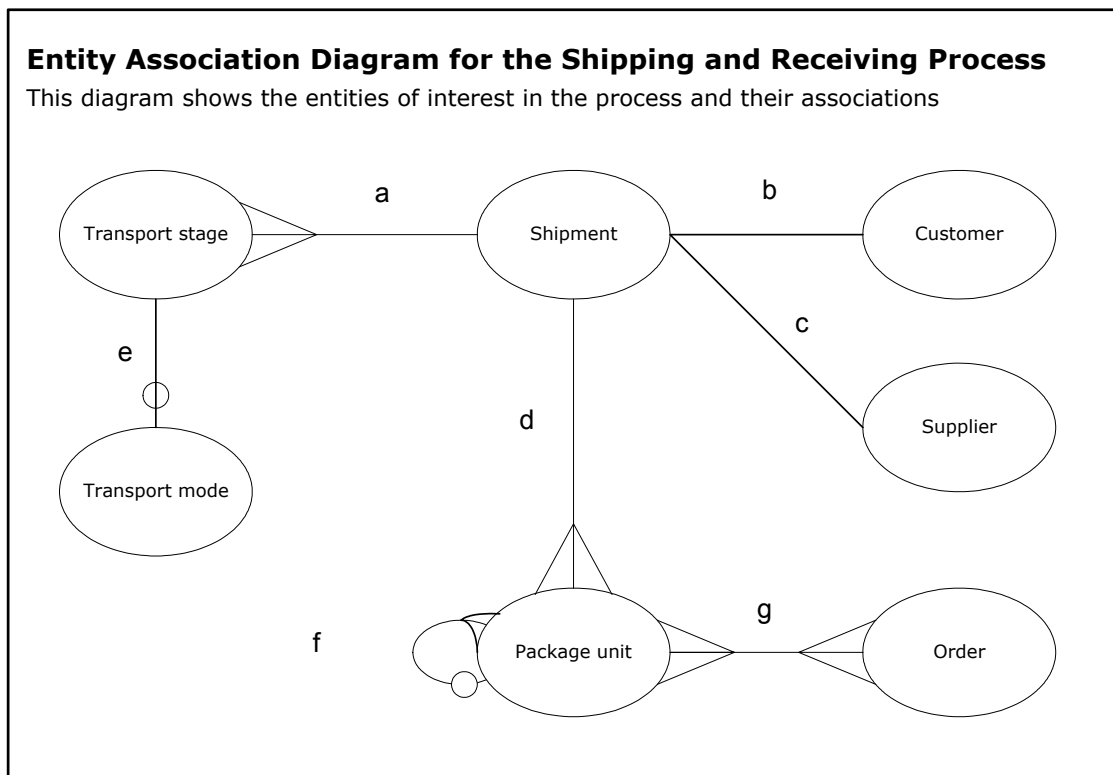


Figure 7 Example entity association diagram

### **Entity Association Rules**

- a** Shipment/Transport Stage  
A Shipment may be transported via one or more Transport Stages.  
A Transport Stage pertains to one and only one Shipment.
- b** Shipment/Customer  
A Shipment is delivered to one and only one Customer.  
A Customer receives one and only one Shipment.
- c** Shipment/Supplier  
A Shipment is supplied by one and only one Supplier.  
A Supplier supplies one and only one Shipment.
- d** Shipment/Package Unit  
A Shipment contains one or many Package Units.  
A Package Unit pertains to one and only one Shipment
- e** Transport Stage/Transport Mode  
A Transport Stage can have one and only one Transport Mode.  
A Transport Mode can relate to zero or one Transport Stage.
- f** Package Unit/Package Unit  
A Package Unit contains none, one or many Package Units.  
A Package Unit is contained in one and only one Package Unit.  
Note: A Package Unit contains none, one or many levels of packaging
- g** Package Unit/Order  
A Package Unit can relate to one or many Orders  
An Order can relate to one or many Package Units

*Figure 8 Rules applying to the example entity association diagram*

### Entity Definitions

<b>customer</b>	A party which acquires, by way of trade, goods and/or services.
<b>order</b>	A request from one organisation to another to deliver specified quantities of goods or to render specified services, under specific terms of delivery.
<b>package unit</b>	The final product of the packaging operation consisting of the packing and its contents.
<b>shipment</b>	A separately identifiable collection of one or more goods-items (available to be) transported together from one supplier to one customer.
<b>supplier</b>	A party which provides, by way of trade, goods and/or services.
<b>transport stage</b>	A section of a transport route between transshipment points.
<b>transport mode</b>	Type of method of transport used for carriage of goods and/or persons.

*Figure 9 Definitions of the entities in the example entity association diagram*

<b>Attributes of the Entities</b>	
<b>customer</b>	party identification party name address contact name contact number
<b>order</b>	order number order line number order date
<b>package unit</b>	parent package unit package unit type handling instruction volume quantity dimensions weight weight type
	package unit identification
<b>shipment</b>	shipment number equipment type equipment seal number estimated departure date estimated delivery date packing list document number
<b>supplier</b>	party identification party name address contact name contact number
<b>transport stage</b>	transport stage identification transport identification carrier identification
<b>transport mode</b>	mode of transport code transport bill document number

Figure 10 Example list of attributes of the entities

### Definitions of the Attributes

**address** The geographic designation of a location according to the rules of the appropriate national postal authority.

**carrier identification** A unique code identifying a party who is a carrier.

**contact name** The name of a person or department appointed by a party to act on its behalf.

**contact number** Identification of a communication channel by which a contact can be reached.

**equipment type** A class of transport equipment which have one or more features in common.

**handling instruction** A directive regarding the treatment of goods.

**party name** The name of a party according to the appropriate legal register

**order date** Date on which a purchase order is authorised by the buyer.

**party identification** A unique code identifying a party.

**order number** Identification of a purchase order assigned by the buyer.

**order line number** Identification of a line within a purchase order assigned by the buyer.

**volume** Measurement of cubic size.

**Note:** Definitions are shown for a sample of the attributes only.

Figure 11 Example definitions of the attributes

## 4.2 Inter-enterprise requirements analysis

### 4.2.1. Scenarios

A scenario specification shows the parties and functions and the purpose of the information flows between them. A separate scenario is specified for each unique inter-enterprise business process within the business area. The scenario specification includes a statement of the business rule which distinguishes the process.

The rules regarding the sequence in which information flows may or must occur are specified. Time dependencies for information flows and rules for handling exceptions are specified. The trigger initiating the scenario and the circumstances required for its completion are defined.

Figure 12 includes an example of one of several possible scenarios in the Physical Distribution business area.

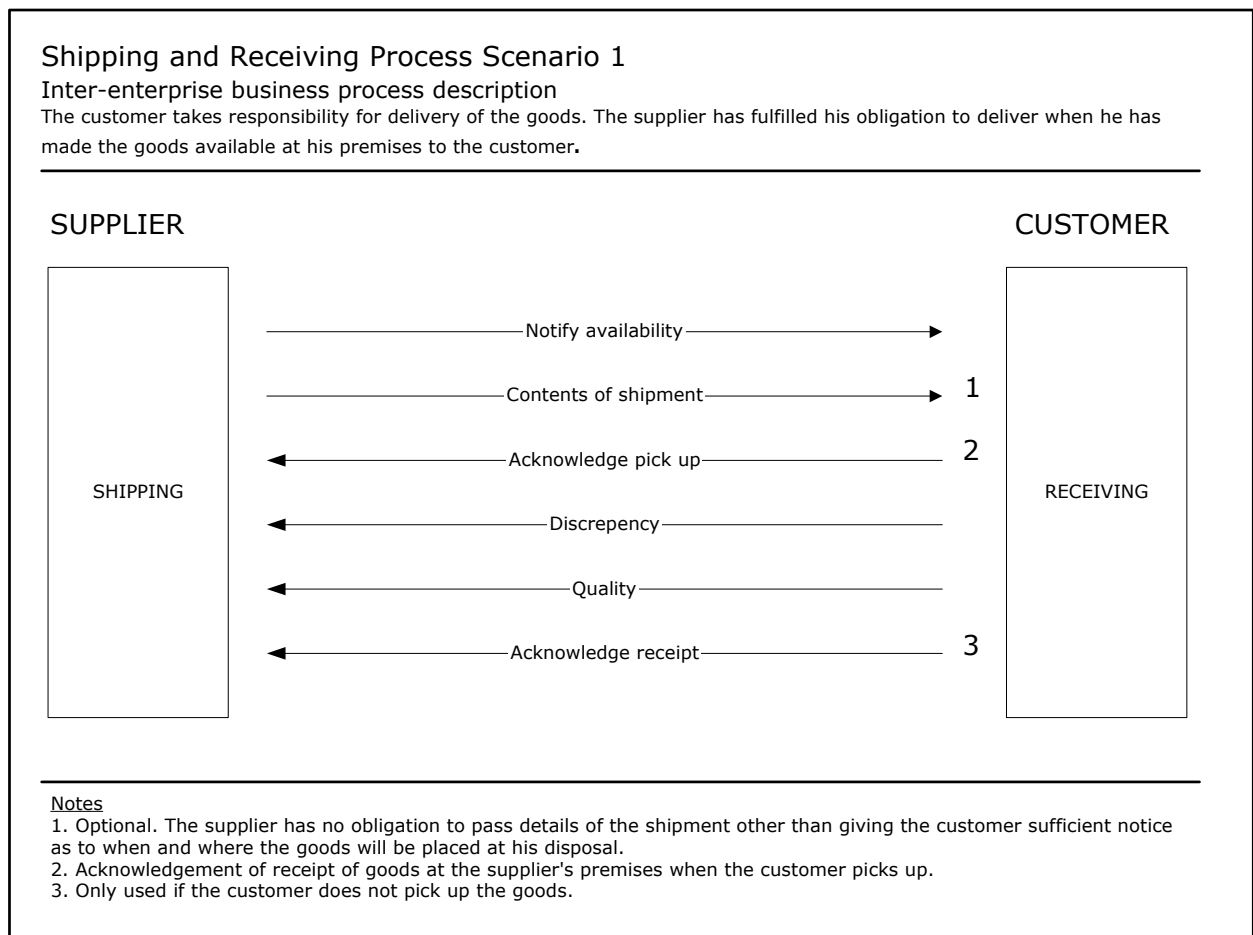


Figure 12 Example of a scenario specification

#### 4.2.2. Data requirement

Data requirement specifications are developed for the selected information flows for which EDI messages are to be designed. The data requirements are based on the information models. Each attribute is expressed in the form of the desired data element specification with data element name and format. For each entity in the information model a data group is defined comprised of the relevant data elements. Within each data group the data elements which are required in all instances of the information flow are determined. The data groups are structured to form a specification of the information flow.

Figure 13 shows example definitions of data groups and Figure 14 shows the data groups structured to form the specification of an information flow.

<b>Information Flow Specification</b>	
<b>Information flow name: Contents of Shipment</b>	
<b>Information flow structure</b>	
<b>Data Group Name</b>	<b>Min, Max occurrences</b>
shipment	1,1
customer	1,1
supplier	1,1
Transport stage group	1,r
Transport stage	1,1
Transport mode	0,1
package unit group	1,r
package unit	1,1
order	1,r
package unit group	0,r

**Note** : 'r' indicates an unlimited number of repetitions

Figure 13 Example specification of the structure of an information flow

**Information flow name: Contents of Shipment**

**Definition of the data groups**

<b>Data Group Name</b>	<b>Data Element Name</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Required</b>
customer	party identification	X 17	X
	party legal name	X 35	
	street address line 1	X 35	
	street address line 2	X 35	
	place name	X 35	
	post code	X 9	
	contact name	X 35	
	contact number	X 17	
order	order number	X 35	X
	order line number	X 35	
	order date	N 6	
package unit	package unit identification	X 17	X
	parent package unit	X 17	
	package unit type	X 3	
	handling instruction code	X 3	
	volume	N 12	
	quantity	N 12	
	dimensions	N 12	
	weight	N 12	
	weight type code	X 3	
shipment	shipment number	X 17	X
	equipment type	X 3	
	equipment seal number	X 17	
	estimated departure date	N 6	X
	estimated delivery date	N 6	
	packing list document number	X 17	
supplier	party identification	X 17	X
	party legal name	X 35	
	street address line 1	X 35	
	street address line 2	X 35	
	place name	X 35	
	post code	X 9	
	contact name	X 35	
	contact number	X 17	
transport mode	mode of transport code	X 3	X
	transport bill document number	X 17	
transport stage	transport stage identification	X 17	X
	transport identification	X 17	X

carrier identification	X 17
------------------------	------

Figure 14 Example data group definitions

### 4.3 Message mapping

#### 4.3.1. Message use guideline

The message use guideline is comprised of instructions to the technical implementor of the related message structure guideline on the use of the EDI message within the scenario. The instructions should cover the use of the message in all circumstances expected to arise within the scenario.

The following text is an example of part of such a guide.

##### **Example of section of a message use guideline for the RECADV Receiving Advice Message**

The message relates to one consignor and one consignee and is initiated by the party who has received the goods and/or services according to the agreed conditions.

The message relates to a single despatch point and a single receiving point. It may cover a number of different items or packages.

It allows the buyer or recipient of goods to provide the seller or respective agent with:

- a confirmation of the receipt of goods;
- a notification on discrepancies between the number of items RECEIVED and ACCEPTED and the number of items despatched;
- a notification or instruction concerning the acceptance or suggested actions for the identified discrepancies;
- an instruction for corrections to be undertaken on the invoice or credit notes to be issued which are based on the despatch or advice note.

The receiver of goods may also correct internal invoices for goods which are eventually passed on to the final customer.

The Receiving Advice should always be sent by the Buyer to the Seller, or their respective agents, after the goods are physically received and inspected.

The message should be sent within a commercially agreed time period, e.g. 24 hours after receipt of goods. This makes it possible for the seller to check the data of the despatch, adjust the invoice or issue a credit note, control internal procedures, count stock, etc.

Any number of business needs and actions affecting the whole production/ordering, delivery and invoicing cycle can arise as a result of the actual delivery of goods.

Discrepancies between goods received and accepted, and goods expected at delivery might lead to adjustments of delivery schedules, order, invoices etc.

These actions may be covered by the Receiving Advice, other EDI messages or via other communications channels.

Trading partners should review their business procedures and identify those functions and actions which may be covered by the Receiving Advice message. Scenarios covered by the Receiving Advice message can range from simple to complex:

#### A. On the Shipment level

- A.1 The delivery fully matches the information transmitted in the Despatch Advice (DESADV).

Information needed: delivery number (shipment identification number)  
-date/time of delivery  
-indication: - delivery matches

- A.2 No mention of the delivery was indicated in the DESADV.

Information needed: -delivery number  
-date.time of delivery  
-indication of difference  
-carrier name  
-carrier reference number  
-accepted or not  
-instruction to seller

#### B. On the Transport level

- B.1 The delivery does not match the indicated delivery in the DESADV with regards transport details (equipment, seals, etc.)

- B.2 There are less or additional pieces of information describing the transport of the goods.

Information needed:  
-delivery number  
-date/time of delivery  
-indication of difference  
-instruction to seller

refused to accept, pickup accepted part, send back balance  
-reason for rejection  
-late ETA  
-seal condition  
-incorrect/missing/damaged documents

#### C. On the Packaging level

- C.1 The packaging in the delivery is damaged and/or it does not match the information in the DESADV message, i.e. there are too few or too many packages when compared with the message; the package identification numbers do not match.

Information needed: -delivery number  
-date/time of delivery

- line item number
- indication of difference
  - quantity variance, too few, too many
  - package type
  - serial numbers
  - country of origin
  - hazard details
  - part numbers/revision numbers
- damaged goods
- instruction to seller on difference
  - accepted
  - rejected
  - pickup accepted part
  - send back balance

#### 4.3.2. Message structure guideline

The desired data groups and data elements in the data requirement specification are mapped onto the segments and data elements in the appropriate UNSM. See the example in Figure 15. Based on the results of this mapping an annotated message structure guideline to the UNSM is produced. An example of part of such a guideline appears on page 25.

#### Mapping Contents of Shipment information flow onto DESADV

Data Group	SG	SEG	
<u>customer</u>			
party identification	2	NAD	C082 3039 (3035='BY')
party legal name	2	NAD	C080 3036
street address line 1	2	NAD	C059 3042-1
street address line 2	2	NAD	C059 3042-2
place name	2	NAD	3164
post code	2	NAD	3251
contact name	4	CTA	C056 3412
contact number	4	COM	C076 3148
<u>order</u>			
order number	16	RFF	C506 1154 (1153='OP')
order line number	16	RFF	C506 1154 (1153='LI')
order date	16	DTM	C507 2380 (2005='4')
<u>package unit</u>			
package unit identification	14	GIN	C208 7402 (7405='ML')
parent package unit	10	CPS	7166
package unit type	11	PAC	C202 7065
handling instruction code	12	HAN	C524 4079
volume	11	MEA	C174 6314 (6311='VOL')
quantity	11	QTY	C186 6060 (6063='52')
dimensions	11	MEA	C174 6314 (6311='PD')
height			(6313='HT')
length			(6313='LN')
width			(6313='WD')
weight	11	MEA	C174 6314 (6311='WT')
weight type code	11	MEA	C502
gross			(6313='G')

net	(6313='N')
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Figure 15 Example mapping of information flow specification onto message.

## 5 Example of section of a message structure guideline for the RECADV

Refer to RECADV D.97A

## 6 MIGRATION STRATEGY

A migration strategy is needed from the present EDIFICE message guideline development approach to comprehensive use of the approach outlined in this guide. The following are possible stages in such a migration:

- publication of all message guidelines for one scenario (or one inter-enterprise business process) together with the scenario specification,
- establishment of principles for publication and distribution of EDI implementation kits,
- preparation of 'foundation models' for common entities such as product, party and location,
- preparation of standard mappings from the foundation models onto the related EDIFACT segments,
- preparation of information models relating to existing guidelines,
- adoption of the modelling approach on the information/data side in the development of new message guidelines,
- adoption of the modelling approach on the activity/scenario side in the development of new message guidelines.

At some stage a tool with some (or all) of the necessary functionality to act as development aid, repository and documentation generator should be selected and implemented.

## Appendix Glossary

<b>activities</b>	A generic term for processes, functions and operations.
<b>association</b>	An observed connection between entities.
<b>attribute</b>	A property or state of affairs of an entity, possibly involving one or more other entities.
<b>basic semantic repository (BSR)</b>	<p>A collection of Basic Semantic Units (BSUs) organised in an automated open system environment, in support of data interchange.</p> <p><b>Remark:</b> As a central reference point, the BSR will hold unique agreed names and definitions of basic semantic units (concepts) which are in use in data interchange. ISO has started a project to implement the BSR, initially with the concepts from ISO 7372 Trade Data Elements - later the universe of discourse will be extended.</p>
<b>basic semantic unit (BSU)</b>	The smallest unit of meaning which can be agreed upon at the conceptual level.
<b>BIM</b>	<p>Business &amp; Information Modelling</p> <p>The UN/EDIFACT JRT work group engaged in developing a guide to modelling for the design of EDIFACT messages.</p>
<b>business area</b>	A part of a business sector comprised of a number of functions with related purposes and their information flows, e.g. procurement - sales, shipping - receiving, accounts receivable - accounts payable.
<b>business function (enterprise function)</b>	<p>A group of business tasks which together support one aspect of the achievement of the mission of an enterprise. A business function may be decomposed into other business functions.</p> <p><b>Remark:</b> In this context, the term 'function' is not used to identify organizational units or tasks assigned to organizational units or individual people. In information system engineering, the aim is to identify and describe functions independently of organizational structures.</p>
<b>business process</b>	A combination of related business functions within an enterprise.
<b>business sector</b>	A portion of business with common characteristics, e.g. banking, electronics, chemicals, food wholesale.
<b>CASE</b>	Computer Added Software Engineering
<b>data</b>	A representation of facts, concepts or instructions in a formalized manner, suitable for communication,

interpretation or processing by human beings or by automatic means. Data is the representation of information.

<b>EDI implementation kit</b>	The set of deliverables from each phase of analysis of an inter-enterprise business process.
<b>EDI message</b>	A set of segments in the order specified in a message specification intended to convey information between one information management domain and another.
<b>EDI message specification</b>	A structured list of the segment groups, segments, composite data elements and data elements forming an EDI message for a given function.
<b>entity</b>	Any concrete or abstract thing of interest, including associations among things.
<b>foundation model</b>	A model of an entity which is common to several business areas.
<b>information</b>	Any kind of knowledge about things, facts, concepts, etc., that is exchangeable among users. Therefore, it is the meaning that can be assigned to data by means of the conventions applied to that data.
<b>information management domain</b>	An autonomous organisation with a unified conceptual database.
<b>inter-enterprise business process</b>	A combination of related business functions in more than one enterprise and the communication between them.
<b>JRT</b>	Joint Rapporteurs Team meeting The main decision making body for UN/EDIFACT at worldwide level.
<b>organization</b>	An identifiable social unit with a particular responsibility which endeavours to achieve multiple goals by co-ordinated activities and relationships between members and objects.
<b>party</b>	Organization or person acting as responsible body on one of the two sides in legal action or in establishing a contract or agreement.
<b>scenario</b>	The combination of parties, functions and flows involved in an inter-enterprise business process.
<b>tool</b>	An auxiliary means for production of products or of information. E.g. a mould; a software tool.
<b>UNSM</b>	United Nations Standard Message

