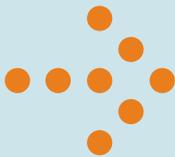


# EPCSA

European Port  
Community Systems  
Association



## Message Standards in the EU **Reference Guide Summary**

January 2013

# Introduction

This Reference Guide is to support current and future Port Community System Operators in identifying what Electronic Messages and Standards are currently in use within the European Union.

The Guide has been collated from information supplied by all Members of EPCSA and will be updated on an annual basis. For more information on EPCSA and its Members, please go to [www.epcsa.eu](http://www.epcsa.eu)

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The European Port Community Systems Association (EPCSA) was formed to “influence public policy at the European Union level in order to achieve e-logistics throughout all European Ports, operating as a key element of the EU maritime, shipping and logistics industry.”



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## Introduction to Port Community Systems

A Port Community System is an electronic platform which connects the multiple systems operated by a variety of organisations that make up a seaport, airport or inland port community. It is shared in the sense that it is set up, organised and used by firms in the same sector – in this case, a port community.

### A Port Community System;

- Is a neutral and open electronic platform enabling intelligent and secure exchange of information between public and private stakeholders in order to improve the efficiency and competitive position of the sea and airports' communities.
- Optimises, manages and automates smooth port and logistics processes through a single submission of data and by connecting transport and logistics chains.





## ❖ 2 Summary

Within the Transport and Logistics sector, the exchange of data between the various parties is performed by means of EDIFACT standardised messages. In some cases, mainly when the set-up of the message reflects new market developments, XML-based messages are defined.

## ❖ 3 Common Messages in use in the European Union

The following pages provide a guide to the most important and commonly used messages, which fall into two distinct groups:

### Messages related to business to government processes (B2G)

- Customs
- Port Authorities

### Messages related to business to business processes (B2B)

- Mainly related to container handling only
- Also partly available for use in the dry and liquid bulk sector

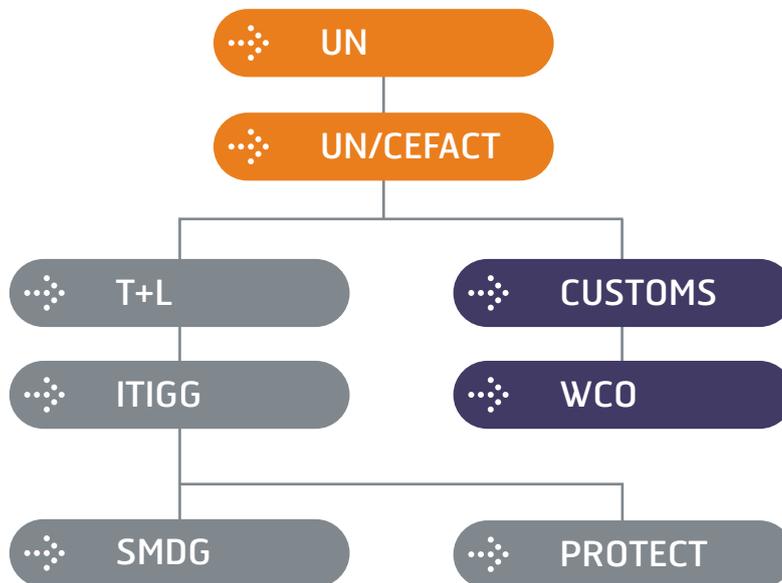
Where the message can be used for bulk cargo as well as containerised cargo, the indication **C/B** is added. Where the message is only available for containerised transport, the indication **C** is added.



## 4 Accepted Standards

The messages in use are all based on internationally accepted standards. These standards are supervised by the UN.

The maintenance and updating of the messages is covered by subgroups. Below is an explanation of the governance structure.



### UN/CEFACT

**UN/CEFACT** is an official intergovernmental organisation within the UN.

The purpose of the UN/CEFACT Applied Technologies Group (ATG) is to create and maintain the United Nations trade, business and administration document structures that are deployed by a specific technology or standard, such as UN/EDIFACT, UN Layout Key, UN e-docs or XML.

A huge number of experts in different work areas of projects from all over the world have been participating in the work for more than 25 years.

**The most important Task Groups for Transport and Logistics developments are:**

**T+L (Transport and Logistics)**

[www.uncefactforum.org/TBG/TBG3/tbg3.htm](http://www.uncefactforum.org/TBG/TBG3/tbg3.htm)

**Customs WCO (Customs)**

[www.uncefactforum.org/TBG/TBG4/TBG4-terms\\_of\\_reference.htm](http://www.uncefactforum.org/TBG/TBG4/TBG4-terms_of_reference.htm)



## ITIGG

**ITIGG** is an international group of experts engaged in the development and implementation of UN/EDIFACT standard messages for electronic trading in the transport industry.

ITIGG is a subgroup of T+L, the UN/EDIFACT Message Development Group for Transport. ITIGG develops recommendations which provide software developers with a series of simple, straightforward tools to assist in designing applications which can be used for trading electronically throughout the world, and to clarify the intentions of the designers of key **UN/EDIFACT** messages.



## SMDG

**SMDG** develops and promotes UN/EDIFACT EDI messages for the maritime industry and is an official Pan European User Group, recognised by the UN/EDIFACT board. Its focus is on container-related messages, i.e. stowage plan, load, discharge and inland transport.

[www.smdg.org](http://www.smdg.org) (navigate to submenu SMDG).



## PROTECT

In support of the electronic reporting required by authorities for vessels entering or leaving a port or port area, the **PROTECT** Group has established a harmonised, globally recognised EDI standard.

The group's main focus is the messages relating to laws and regulations relating to Port Authority matters, such as vessel notification, dangerous cargo and waste disposal.

[www.protect-group.org](http://www.protect-group.org) (navigate to submenu Documents).



## 5 Message frameworks

For all kinds of purposes within the Transport and Logistics market, message frameworks are established by the Task Groups.

The frameworks can be found at:

[www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/untdid/d12a/trmd/trmdi2.htm](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/untdid/d12a/trmd/trmdi2.htm)

## 6 Message Implementation Guides (MIG)

The aforementioned UN/CEFACT messages are the frameworks only. This means that each and every data element that can be important in a certain message has been defined.

What information must be exchanged and between which partners will be agreed between the parties concerned.

Organisations using the UN/CEFACT messages have defined their Message Implementation Guides, which stipulate exactly what information must be exchanged.

The Port Community Systems united in EPCSA make use of these MIGs.

## UN recommendations

Apart from the message frameworks, the UN has set up a list of recommendations related to general rules and coding to be used in the messages. By following these recommendations, the market benefits from harmonised coding of information.

You will find the recommendations at:

[www.unece.org/cefact/recommendations/rec\\_index.html](http://www.unece.org/cefact/recommendations/rec_index.html)





## 7 Messages related to business to government processes (B2G)

### Customs related

MESSAGE	EDIFACT/XML	USAGE	REMARKS
<b>Vessel notification</b>			
CUSREP	EDIFACT	Pre-arrival, arrival, departure	MIG according to local Customs standard
<b>Summary declaration</b>			
CUSCAR	EDIFACT	Entry summary declaration (ENS) summary declaration, manifest	MIG according to local Customs standard
<b>NCTS / Transit / Customs Declarations</b>			
CUSDEC	EDIFACT	Transit documentation	MIG according to local Customs standard
<b>Customs response</b>			
CUSRES	EDIFACT	Response message from Customs	MIG according to local Customs standard

NOTE: Some countries use XML-based messages for the purposes above or even both XML and EDIFACT.  
Please refer to your national Customs authority to obtain the relevant MIG.

#### New definition, not yet in use:

GOVCRB EDIFACT/XML

This is a new message related to the Single Window concept which will be in operation from July 2015. The message is defined by the World Customs Organization as a component of WCO data model 3.

Each national Customs authority will indicate when they will change from the above messages to the GOVCRB message. This means that eventually only this message will be used and gradually the message starting with 'CUS' in the naming convention will disappear.

#### For more information please refer to:

[www.logius.nl/fileadmin/logius/presentaties/20101110\\_wco\\_data\\_model/20101105%20Presentaion%20in%20Rotterdam%20\(%20Satya\).pdf](http://www.logius.nl/fileadmin/logius/presentaties/20101110_wco_data_model/20101105%20Presentaion%20in%20Rotterdam%20(%20Satya).pdf)

and [http://www.unece.org/trade/untddid/d09a/trmd/govcbr\\_c.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/untddid/d09a/trmd/govcbr_c.htm)

### Port Authority Messages support by the PROTECT group as working party within T+L – UN/CEFACT

MESSAGE	EDIFACT/XML	USAGE	REMARKS
<b>Vessel notification</b>			
BERMAN	EDIFACT*	Pre-arrival, arrival, departure	MIG according to local Port Authority demands
IFTDGN	EDIFACT	Dangerous cargo notification	MIG according to local Port Authority demands
WASDIS	EDIFACT	Waste disposal notification	MIG according to local Port Authority demands

## 8 Messages related to business to business processes (B2B)

### The messages below are supported by the SMDG group as working party within T&L – UN/CEFACT

Content-wise, the set-up of messages can differ. This depends on the contracts signed between business partners. Port Community Systems facilitate in establishing the necessary message format for exchange between the various parties.

MESSAGE	EDIFACT/XML	USAGE	REMARKS
<b>Cargo booking, bill of lading and manifest related messages</b>			
IFTMBF	EDIFACT	Booking request	Message from customer to carriers
IFTMBC	EDIFACT	Booking confirmation	Message from carriers to customer
IFTMIN	EDIFACT	Shipping and transport instruction	Message from customer to carriers / inland transporters
IFTMCS	EDIFACT	B/L information message	Message from carriers to customer
IFCSUM	EDIFACT	Import and export manifest	Message from carrier to agent
CUSCAR	EDIFACT	Import manifest	Message from carrier to agent
<b>Container handling related messages</b>			
COPRAR	EDIFACT	Container pre-arrival or pre-load information	Message from carrier to terminal
COARRI	EDIFACT	Container discharge or load confirmation	Message from terminal to carrier
COREOR	EDIFACT	Container commercial release	Message from carrier to terminal
CODECO	EDIFACT*	Container gate-in/gate-out	Message from terminal to carrier
COPARN	EDIFACT*	Container acceptance and release notice	Message from carriers and inland transport to terminals
COPINO	EDIFACT	Container pick-up notification	Sender: inland carrier Receivers: depots, terminals, ocean carriers
APERAK	EDIFACT	App error and to carriers acknowledgement message	Reply from receiver of the message to the sender

\* All the above messages are in use according to the EDIFACT structure. Meanwhile, SMDG has started to translate these messages into XML format.

At present, the following messages are available in XML format:

BERMAN  
COPARN  
CODECO

For specifications, please refer to: [www.smdg.org](http://www.smdg.org)

- > Navigation SMDG
- > Documents
- > Documents information



## **9** EPCSA Membership

### The benefits of EPCSA membership are;

- Participation in Policy and Technical Committees:
  - Standards and Technologies
  - Business Applications including Single Window
  - Customs and other government agencies
  - European PCS development
- Exclusive access to the EPCSA website Members' Area, as well as receiving regular Members' updates, newsletters and press releases
- An invitation to the EPCSA Annual Conference and Regional Conferences
- Details of your organisation and contact details on the EPCSA website
- Sharing knowledge and experience with other European and international organisations
- Support and guidance on developing a Port Community System

### Members currently include;

- Portbase, Rotterdam
- SOGET, Le Havre
- dbh, Bremen
- DAKOSY, Hamburg
- Portic, Barcelona
- MCP, Felixstowe
- APCS, Antwerp
- CNS, Southampton
- Portel, Madrid
- Epuertobilbao, Bilbao
- PPL 33-35, Odessa
- Hamburg Port Authority, Hamburg
- MAINSYS, Israel
- Port of Venice, Venice
- Freeport of Riga Authority, Riga

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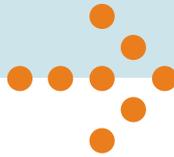
The basis of this document was developed by Hans Rook of Portbase, who is chairman of the EPCSA Standards and Technologies Committee.



For membership information  
visit: [www.epcsa.eu](http://www.epcsa.eu)

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