

SMDG Meeting at World Trade Center New York 27-10-1993

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 09:15 hrs in room 15, WTC-1, 55th floor. There were 36 people attending, including 4 as observers from TOPAS. Larry Sposi, as chairman of TOPAS, welcomes SMDG members and so does Mrs. Finkelstein, as representative of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

2. Roll Call

Individual attendees give short introduction of themselves and their company.

3. Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

4. Announcements.

The chairman announces the following:

- a. The meetingroom expenses are approx. us\$ 600,=. They must be covered by SMDG members, so each us\$ 20,=.
- b. MOVINS will get status 1 in March 1994, TANSTA and TPFREP will get status 0 in March 1994.
- c. There is now a Japanese version of the BAPLIE User manual. The people responsible for this new version promised to try and adopt the SMDG User Manual as soon as possible, in order to avoid different documents for the same message creating confusion, mistakes and errors.

5. Minutes of the SMDG-meeting at Cardiff May 6-7, 1993.

The minutes were approved.

6. Meeting with TOPAS

The joint meeting with TOPAS will take place tomorrow from 09:00 hrs in rooms 8 and 9, WTC-1 floor 55.

Simon Spoormaker will start by giving presentation about the history of SMDG.

Larry Sposi will then do the same for TOPAS.

Thereafter the different SMDG messages will be presented as follows:

BAPLIE: Gerry Endenburg
MOVINS: Anton van Doren
TPFREP: Gerry Endenburg
TANSTA: Greg Ross

John Lincoln will then give presentation about the work of the datacoms and networks sub-committee.

Joop Hoogvliet will present the results of the Interchange Agreements sub-committee.

Simon Spoormaker will give presentation of the Container Messages.

7. TEDIS Proposal

Our last proposal for funding from TEDIS has been turned down again. A letter from TEDIS explaining the reasons has been distributed.

CONFERENCES TORONTO:

Just before the lunch-break, Jean Lesperance of Canada Ports Corp. gives information about a conference with the title "Information Technology Transforms Transportation", June 8-9, 1994 in Toronto, Canada. Also taking place on June 13-14 in Toronto is the ICHCA International Biennial Conference and Exhibition with the title "2001: A Transportation Odyssey". Attendees are encouraged to visit the exhibitions or even participate as speaker. Details are available at the secretariat.

8. BAPLIE

a. Breakbulk

There are many questions about how to handle breakbulk shipments in BAPLIE. Therefore it was decided to form a sub-committee "breakbulk", who will prepare a proposal to be submitted to the secretariat by December. Members of the sub-committee are:

Maurice Winn
Dave Welsh
Ulrich Spindel
Wolf Retzko

In the meantime we have received also some suggestions in this respect from Jost Muller of Muller + Blanck software, Hamburg. The sub-committee will communicate with him.

b. Experiences

Maurice Winn expresses satisfaction of P&OCL for the quick and successful implementation of BAPLIE by the terminals HHLA, ECT, SCT, BLG and Algeciras.

c. User Manual

A document has been distributed to the attendees giving overview of amendments to the User Manual version 1.5 and a list of proposed amendments.

c.1. List of amendments:

The amendments of page 9 (DTM-segments) are to be cancelled. Members believe that the proposed wording is not better.

c.2. List of items to be discussed:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Result</u>
1.	The meeting decides to accept full bayplan messages only and no updates, changes, additions, deletions, etc.
2.	Comm. Agreement ID will be conditional. Partners to agree.
3.	Association assigned code: Simon will consult JTAG (Technical Advisory of the UN/Edifact Board).
4.	The list of "HAN" codes in FTX proposed by PSA is accepted and will now be the SMDG-recommended codes (still to be agreed between partners). Other members are invited to give their additions by 15 December. The list will be included in the new version of the User Manual.
5.	DGS: It is now clear that all dangerous goods or cargo which is otherwise of hazardous/obnoxious nature, which cannot be found in the IMDG-code books, can and will be classified under class 9. The qualifier "IMD" remains the only allowed qualifier.

6. BAPLIE User Manual Version 2.0(?)
The secretariat has received request from various parties to upgrade the BAPLIE User Manual to Edifact directory 92.1 (now 91.1).

The present user manual is based on the draft version of the 91.1 directory. Now the final version of the 92.1 directory is available and the development of a new version of the User Manual must be considered.

Obviously the release of a new version of the User Manual means that all sites, where BAPLIE is implemented, must be upgraded. At this moment it is estimated that BAPLIE User Manual 1.4 and 1.5 is implemented on approx. 500 locations worldwide.

If a new User Manual must be developed then stability for 5 years must be negotiated. Obviously such a new manual will benefit from the experiences of the past 2 years with versions 1.4 and 1.5. If we can get the support and cooperation of the members of TOPAS, then we can also benefit from their experience with the ANSI X.12 bayplan message.

Actual users of BAPLIE argued that upgrading implementations worldwide, without a real business need, should be avoided.

The general feeling among the attendees, however, was that, if we can get the support worldwide (meaning active participation in the development process) by the groups in USA (ISA/TOPAS) and Far East (Japan-Singapore and Australia-New Zealand), and provided we can negotiate stability for this version of the User Manual for a period of 5 years, then we should continue with this new version. We shall propose this to TOPAS members tomorrow.

7. Cell-location format codes: JOCO has asked terminals to use different format qualifier "JCS" for certain abnormal cell location numbering. The User Manual allows only two qualifiers "5" (ISO) and "ZZZ" (not ISO). In this case "ZZZ" should be used. TCS suggested 7 new qualifiers. However, during the meeting more than 15 non-ISO cell numbering formats were brought up by attendees. Members decided not to include a new format qualifier, viz the qualifier "ZZZ" should be used, as before.

c3. Other items.

Senator proposes to add certain elements to DGS-segment in order to bring this in conformity with the new "SOLAS" regulations. Attendees, however, were of the opinion that such detailed DG-information does not belong in the bayplan. Instead the special "Protect" DG-message should be used. This message was specially designed to cater for detailed DG-information.

The only item to be considered is the "Reference Number". This number will be allocated by the central planner for DG-container(s) and, if included in BAPLIE, will allow the line to link this to their internal system. Gerry agrees to allocate a data element for this purpose in the DGS-group GRP4, FTX-segment, c108.e4440(3). This is the third free text line. The use of this item is not mandatory and should be agreed between partners.

UNA-segment: Senator also asks information about the UNA segment. This segment is not described in the User Manual, but some commercial translators generate such segments. The UNA-segment is transmitted as the very first segment, before the UNB. UNA has the following specifications:

UNA SERVICE STRING ADVICE

Function: To define the characters selected for use as delimiters and indicators in the rest of the interchange that fol-

lows. The Specifications in the Service string advice take precedence over the specifications for delimiters etc. in segment UNB. When transmitted, the Service string advice must appear immediately before the Interchange Header (UNB) segment and begin with the upper case characters UNA immediately followed by the six characters selected by the sender to indicate, in sequence, the following functions:

Component Data Element Separator:	anl	
Data element separator:	anl	
Decimal notation	anl	comma or full stop
Release indicator	anl	space if not used
Reserved for future use	anl	space
Segment terminator	anl	

N.B. SMDG recommends to use the regular (default) characters only and UNA should not be transmitted, to avoid confusion.

See ISO 9735.

We have a request from the Australian Chamber of Shipping (copy of letter distributed to attendees) regarding repeat of group 2 with the same cell location number. ACS proposes to add a letter (A, B, C, etc.) to the cell number for each repeat. Members are requested to discuss this with their software technicians. We must try to reach a decision during next meeting.

9. MOVINS

Anton van Doren gives presentation about this message.

Now that we have a message structure and a complete User Manual we need practical experience.

TSA, ECT and Unitcenter express their intentions to test the message within the next 6 months. If possible, results of their attempts will be reported to members at the next meeting.

PSA proposes to bring the FTX-segment in line with the FTX-segment in the BAPLIE, i.e. with the handling codes proposed by PSA. PSA will also prepare a list of coded handling instructions for use with the FTX-segment in MOVINS.

A discussion follows about how to handle amendments, like change of destination, etc. No definite conclusion was reached. We all agreed that MOVINS as transmitted by the central planner to the terminal does not have to be 100% correct or complete. Certainly at the initial testing phase 75 to 80 percent should be sufficient to start. The remainder of the stowage instructions (discharge, load, shift, restow) can then be given by phone, fax, telex, letter, or any other way. The terminal must then process the EDI-MOVINS automatically in the computerized planning system and the additional instructions should then be handled by the shipplanner manually.

10. TPFREP

The sub-committee, headed by Peter D'Arcy, compiled a list with qualifiers and definitions. This list was distributed during this meeting. No new message structure has been proposed yet.

A new sub-committee will be formed by the following members:

ANZECS
TSA
SAECS
LSCT
ECT

The aim is to develop a new user manual, incorporating the list of definitions, by mid december to be distributed before the next meeting and to be discussed during the next meeting.

11. TANSTA

Greg Ross believes this message is now ready for use.

Proper Edifact documentation must be prepared for submission to MD2 of the Edifact Board. Greg will prepare this documentation, with assistance of Gerry. Simon will arrange formalities with the Edifact Board.

12. Datacom and networks

The sub-committee have submitted their report, which was distributed during the meeting. This report covers topics like networks, X.25, X.400, compression techniques and "things to avoid". No further comments from the attendees.

A discussion follows about a proposal to setup a SMDG Bulletin Board System (BBS). Such a SMDG-BBS could be organized on Compuserv, which has worldwide access points. Most attendees know this network and some of them are already members.

The SMDG-BBS could have the following 'features':

- a. One uniform and always accessible source for information and documentation about SMDG and the SMDG-supported messages. Think about User Manuals, minutes of meetings, reports from sub-committees and other text files. Formats supported: ASCII, WP5.1/5.2, Zipped.
- d. One reliable source for code-lists: ISO-codes, UN-locodes, segment directories, damage codes, size/type codes, etc.etc.etc.
- c. A forum for discussions about specific topics, questions, problems, warnings, etc.
- d. An electronic mailbox for all SMDG-members (for use by members only?).

This SMDG-BBS should be accessible for all: members, observers and other interested parties. Downloading documentation can be done for a small fee (collected by Compuserv).

The SMDG secretariat will no longer have to print and bind documentation, nor will we have to mail documentation to members, observers and other interested parties, worldwide. Simply placing (uploading) documentation files to SMDG-BBS and it will be available immediately to everybody.

All attendees were enthusiastic about this proposal and the sub-committee was requested to prepare a proposal to be distributed before and to be discussed during the next meeting. John Lincoln volunteered to negotiate with Compuserv and to set up the SMDG-BBS if so decided in the next meeting. If the decision is made to setup the SMDG-BBS then membership of Compuserve will be the only way to obtain SMDG-documentation.

13. Intracon

Simon Spoormaker gives presentation about the messages. At this moment there is worldwide consensus about the messages. The message documentation is now being prepared and will be available march 1994. Further information available from the secretariat.

14. Interchange Agreements

The sub-committee has presented a first draft of the proposed SMDG Interchange Agreement. Mr. Fr.Fr. Schwarz, chairman of the sub-committee has compiled this document, for which we thank him. Unfortunately Mr. Schwarz was unable to attend to this meeting. Therefore Joop Hoogvliet gave a presentation of the proposed Interchange Agreement.

All members should study this proposal and give their comments to the members of the sub-committee (or to the secretariat). This subject will be again on the agenda for next meeting.

15. FEPORT

During last meeting (Cardiff) we asked Jeff Maguire, Ron Robinson and Simon Spoormaker to negotiate with Feport about SMDG involvement. Although one meeting (june) has taken place, there is no further news to be reported.

The next meeting will take place on october 29. They will probably decide to ask SMDG to work on EDI-matters for them.

16. Any other business

There are no additional items.

17. Next meeting

We are invited by Southampton Container Terminals Ltd., Southampton, Derek Smith. The dates will be: March 9-10, 1994.

Members are requested to inform the secretariat of their attendance as soon as possible. Derek may be in a position to negotiate a good price from the hotel (rooms and meetingroom).

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4. MOVINS

Anton van Doren gives presentation about the Stowage Instructions Message, MOVINS. This message is now being developed by SMDG and is ready for testing.

ISA/TOPAS expressed their interest to participate in the development work for this message with the same sub-committee.

5. Other messages

- a. TANSTA : Greg Ross gives presentation.
- b. TPFREP : Gerry Endenburg gives presentation.

There is some interest with TOPAS in TPFREP. William M. Smith, Long Beach Container Terminal, Inc. asked for more details. Gerry promised to send him documents, whilst also inviting him to work with SMDG on this message.

- c. Intracon: Simon Spoormaker gives presentation of the "Container Messages" as they are called now (originally "Intracon").

6. Speed of Edifact implementations.

A discussion starts about message specifications, testing, changing, worldwide acceptance, etc. In general the conclusion is as follows: Especially in international shipping it is important that messages have an international (worldwide) scope. It is also important that only one version is being developed and that after an initial testing period stability for 3 to 5 years can be negotiated. We all agreed that modern commercial edifact translators should be flexible enough to handle updated message specifications, for example in connection with a new Edifact segment directory. On the other hand, especially for the bayplan message BAPLIE, there are many installations on ships, making it difficult and costly to update the computers on board in a short period of time. Finally nobody likes updates without a clear business need.

It is very easy to convince a business partner to use United Nations Standard Messages, but only if there are good and stable message specifications available. We trust our joint efforts to develop BAPLIE User Manual 2.0 will result in such a good and stable message specification.

7. Datacoms and networks

(This was item 10 on the agenda).

John Lincoln gives presentation about the results of the SMDG datacoms and networks sub-committee.

The meeting concluded the following:

- a. Everybody worried about the rising network costs.
- b. We do not understand why network interconnect is no problem in the USA and why such facilities are not available in Europe. TOPAS will liaise for SMDG in this respect.
- c. The suggestion from the SMDG sub-committee to establish a joint Bulletin Board System (BBS) on Compuserv met with enthusiastic reactions. There is special interest in up-to-date code-list (f.e. UN-locodes) on this BBS. Also the e-mail and forum possibilities of such BBS are of interest. Many ISA/TOPAS members have already connection to Compuserv.

8. Interchange Agreements

(This was item 11 on the agenda).

Joop Hoogvliet gives presentation about the work of the SMDG sub-committee.

9. Gate moves Edifact v.s. X.12

Orin Rehorst (Secretary TOPAS) gives presentation about the gate moves and loading/discharging move messages. There are some fundamental differences between Edifact and X.12. Especially the fact that in Edifact separate messages have been developed, whilst X.12 has only one single message for gate moves and load/discharge moves exists.

Another important succesfactor for EDI will be the costs: Keep costs down, in order to keep EDI attractive!

A discussion follows about experiences with X.12 messages, mainly by TOPAS members.

10. Implementation guides.

Tim Huckbody gives presentation about his work to develop "Implementation Guides" (SMDG calls these documents "User Manuals"). These Implementation Guides have been printed in two books (OCEAN29 and OCEAN33) which can be ordered from EDI SUPPORT SERVICES, Chardon, OH (USA). The books also contain Edifact-versions of original X.12-messages.

Codelists are a always difficult issue. They must be made, agreed and maintained.

11. ISO Container codes.

(This was item 7 of the agenda).

Orin Rehorst gives presentation about the proposal for new ISO codes for container size/types. This is just a proposal and it is certainly NOT approved yet!

In this proposal there are 4 characters:

#	description	details
1	length	1-4: 10/20/30/40ft B=24; C=24'6; F=41; G=43; K=45; L=48
2	Height+width	0=8; 2=8'6; 4=9; 5=9'6; 6=>9'6 C=8'6 with width <= 2.5m D=9'0 with width <= 2.5m E=9'6 with width <= 2.5m F=>9'6 with width <= 2.5m L=8'6 with width > 2.5m M=>8'6 and <9'0 with width > 2.5m N=9'0 with width > 2.5m P=>9'6 with width > 2.5m

3 and 4 remain the same as they are now.

Orin reminds everybody to treat this information with utmost care: It is only a proposal and the codes must certainly not be treated as the definite new ISO codes. This will be decided shortly.

12. Closing

Larry Sposi closed the meeting at 16:45 hrs and he also expresses his feeling that we really accomplished something: There is consensus between SMDG and TOPAS, sub-committees have been formed to work jointly on BAPLIE, MOVINS and TPFREP. We have now a real possibility to work on worldwide acceptance of these messages, which are so important for our Industry.

Finally Larry invites everybody for a reception sponsored by the Port Authority of NY/NJ in the "Whitehall Club", 17 Battery Place (30th floor) from 17:30 hrs.

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