

SMDG Recommendation #7:

Usage of Code Lists in EDIFACT Messages maintained by SMDG

About this document

This document provides general guidelines for the usage of standard code lists in EDIFACT message interchanges in the maritime community. Statements in this recommendation shall be considered as complementing specifications to Message Implementation Guidelines (MIGs), but do not overrule other specifications in the respective MIG.

SMDG recommends for always using codes from the latest published version of a code list, irrespective whether the code list is published as part of UN/EDIFACT Directories or any other Code List Responsible Agency.

This recommendation implies that a reference of a Message Implementation Guideline to a UN/CEFACT Directory shall only be binding for the syntactical elements of the message, i.e. its message structure, definition of segments, composite data elements and data elements, as well as the representation of data elements with regard to its size and type. For any coded data transmitted in the message the latest published version of the corresponding code list shall be referred to.

Codes in EDIFACT Messages

EDIFACT directories define message types, message structures, segments, composite and basic data elements. Composite data elements are identified by "C" followed by a 3-digit number (e.g. C082), while plain data elements are identified by a 4-digit number (e.g. 3039).

In case a plain data element specifies a function or qualifier, a list of allowed codes is published as directory code list. Directory code lists are continuously enhanced by UN/CEFACT. Message implementors shall always refer to the code list published in the latest UN/EDIFACT directory.

In case a plain data element is used for transmission of an identification, a property, an instruction, or other status information in coded form, EDIFACT allows the use of **external code lists**.

Codes from external code lists are usually transmitted by *composite data elements*. Composite C082 for specification of party identification details may be taken as an example:

C082	Party identification details
3039	Party identifier
1131	Code list identification code
3055	Code list responsible agency code

C082 identifies the composite. 3039 identifies the data element used for transmission of the party's code identifier and 1131 and 3055 are used to identify the code list and the agency responsible for definition and maintenance of the external code list.

3055 – Code list responsible agency

The term **code list responsible agency** (CLRA) refers to the party responsible for definition and maintenance of external code lists. Data element 3055 identifies the CLRA for an external code list. The directory code list for data element 3055 defines the code for CLRAs recognized by UN/CEFACT.

Frequently used codes for 3055 are

Code	Agency	Example for use
5	ISO	Bay layout, container size types
6	UN/ECE	Code lists defined by UN recommendations
11	Lloyd's register of shipping	Vessel identification by IMO number
20	BIC (Bureau International des Containeurs)	Container owner
54	IMO (incl. IMDG)	IMDG code for dangerous goods
182	Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC)	
274	ITIGG	
296	ITU	Vessel identification by callsign
306	SMDG	
399	EXIS	Dangerous goods details

1131 – Code list identification code

Code list identification codes are assumed to be assigned by the code list responsible agency. Accordingly, the directory code list for data element 1131 is empty.¹

Not all code list responsible agencies have assigned a distinct identification code for their code lists. If there is no distinct code known, data element 1131 may be left empty, as long as the specification of the agency in 3055 gives clear indication of the code list. – Alternatively, the MIG may invent an internal code list identification in order to provide for clear code list reference by the implementers.

Example: ISO standard 6346 defines the container size type codes, although it does not define a code list proper. However, the use of 1131 = 6346 clarifies that the container size type code is transferred according to ISO 6346.

...+42G1:**6346**:5+...

Data element 1131 has a representation of an..17 and thus allows for code list identification codes of up to 17 characters. But attention, if the MIG refers to a directory earlier than D.00B, the representation of data element 1131 is restricted to an..3. In this case, the code list identification code should be shortened to the leading 3 characters (see example below).

SMDG code lists

Code list responsible agency SMDG (3055 = 306) maintains a multitude of different code lists for use in data interchange by the maritime community.

The code list identification codes for 1131 defined by SMDG include:

Code	Code list
ACCOUNTING	Accounting details
DGAGR	Aggregate states
DGATT	Dangerous goods attributes
DGHAZ	Special hazard indication
DGQTY	Special quantity
HANDLING	Handling instructions
LINES	Master liner code list
MOVCAT	Stowage instruction movement categories
STOLOC	Stowage location attributes
TERMINALS	Terminal facilities
VGM	Documentation of SOLAS verified gross mass

The codes lists maintained by SMDG are updated and maintained regularly and on users' demand.

¹In directory D.03B and earlier, UN/CEFACT provided a 3-digit alphanumeric code list for data element 1131. In directory D.04A, UN/CEFACT removed the 1131 code list and is since then leaving it up to the code list responsible agencies to provide their own external code list identification codes.

Examples

Specification of a **container operator** in composite C082 of a NAD segment with reference to SMDG's Master-LINER code list. It defines code HLC for line Hapag-Lloyd.

NAD+CF+HLC: LINES: 306'

Specification of Place/Port of Discharge Hamburg, EUROGATE Terminal. The SMDG terminal code EGH is assigned to "EUROGATE Container Terminal Hamburg".

LOC+11+DEHAM+EGH: TERMINALS: 306'

If above examples would apply in an MIG with reference to a directory **before D.00B**, they need to be transmitted

NAD+CF+HLC: LIN: 306'

respectively

LOC+11+DEHAM+EGH: TER: 306'

Independent on the directory referred to in the MIG, in both examples codes from the latest published version of the SMDG code list may be used.