



Structure of an EDIFACT Interchange

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Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

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Table of contents

1. Introduction	2
2. General principles	3
2.1. Character sets	3
2.1.1 UNOA character set type A	3
2.1.2 UNOB character set type B	4
2.1.3 UNOC character set type C	4
2.1.4 UNOD character set type D.....	5
2.1.5 UNOW character set type W.....	6
2.2 Separators.....	7
2.3 Interchange structure	8
2.4 Data segments	9
2.5 Data elements and data element groups	10
3. Use of service segments of syntax version 3	11
4. Usage of service segments of syntax version 4	18

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

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1. INTRODUCTION

EDIFACT messages are constructed according to the EDIFACT syntax rules as defined in the ISO 9735 standard.

This recommendation has been drawn up to clarify the basics of the EDIFACT syntax and to provide instructions for the application of these rules in EDI messages.

For the exchange of data within the automotive industry, we recommend the use of UN Standard Messages (UNSM). These standard message types have been developed by UN/CEFACT (United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business), and are regularly updated and published in the UN/EDIFACT directories.

Given the broad scope of UNSMs, it has proven useful to devise separate recommendations for specific applications, for instance in the form of separate implementation guidelines (subsets) for specific industries. For use in the automotive industry, we recommend the use of message guidelines developed and published by Odette and the Joint Automotive Industry Forum (JAIF), made up of Odette, JAMA/JAPIA and AIAG.

The following chapters provide a general overview of the structure of messages and interchange files.

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1. CHARACTER SETS

In this case, the service segments need to be configured according to version 3 (see chapter 3).

Syntax version 3 supports the UNOA..UNOG character sets.

Odette has limited the supported character set to UNOA..UNOD.

Exception

If text that cannot be transmitted with the above character sets needs to be included for a business process, the parties must bilaterally agree that character set UNOW may be used.

UNOW however requires syntax version 4, which means that the service segments also need to be configured according to syntax version 4 (see chapter 4).

This Odette Recommendation supports the following character sets:

2.1.1 UNOA CHARACTER SET TYPE A

Upper case A to Z

Numerals 0 to 9

Space

Full stop .

Comma ,

Hyphen/minus sign -

Opening bracket (

Closing bracket)

Slash /

Equals sign =

Reserved separators and service characters:

Apostrophe ' Segment terminator

Plus sign + Segment tag and data element separator

Colon : Component data element separator

Question mark ? Release character

? immediately preceding one of the characters ' + : ? restores their normal meaning. Example:
10?+10=20 means 10+10=20. A question mark is represented by ??

Exclamation mark !

Quotation mark "

Percentage sign %

Ampersand &

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Asterisk *
Semicolon ;
Smaller-than sign <
Greater-than sign >

2.1.2 UNOB CHARACTER SET TYPE B

Upper case A to Z
Lower case a to z
Numerals 0 to 9
Space
Full stop .
Comma ,
Hyphen/minus -
Opening bracket (
Closing bracket)
Slash /
Apostrophe '
Plus sign +
Colon :
Equals sign =
Question mark ?
Exclamation mark !
Quotation mark "
Percentage sign %
Ampersand &
Asterisk *
Semicolon ;
Smaller-than sign <
Greater-than sign >

2.1.3 UNOC CHARACTER SET TYPE C

ISO 8859-1:1987 Information processing – 8-bit single byte coded graphic character sets –

Part 1: Latin alphabet No. 1

This standard supports the following languages: Danish, Dutch, English, Faroese, Finnish, French, German, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish.

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Code	...0	...1	...2	...3	...4	...5	...6	...7	...8	...9	...A	...B	...C	...D	...E	...F
0...	<i>not assigned</i>															
1...																
2...	SP	!	"	#	\$	%	&	'	()	*	+	,	-	.	/
3...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	:	;	<	=	>	?
4...	@	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
5...	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	[\]	^	_
6...	`	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
7...	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	{		}	~	
8...	<i>not assigned</i>															
9...																
A...	NBSP	ı	ø	£	¤	¥	¦	§	¨	©	ª	«	¬	SHY	®	¯
B...	°	±	²	³	´	µ	¶	·	¸	¹	º	»	¼	½	¾	¿
C...	À	Á	Â	Ã	Ä	Å	Æ	Ç	È	É	Ê	Ë	Ì	Í	Î	Ï
D...	Ð	Ñ	Ò	Ó	Ô	Õ	Ö	×	Ø	Ù	Ú	Û	Ü	Ý	Þ	ß
E...	à	á	â	ã	ä	å	æ	ç	è	é	ê	ë	ì	í	î	ï
F...	ø	ñ	ò	ó	ô	õ	ö	÷	ø	ù	ú	û	ü	ý	þ	ÿ

2.1.4 UNOD CHARACTER SET TYPE D

ISO 8859-2:1987 Information processing – 8-bit single byte coded graphic character sets –

Part 2: Latin alphabet No. 2

This standard supports the following languages: Albanian, Czech, English, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovakian, Slovenian.

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Code	...0	...1	...2	...3	...4	...5	...6	...7	...8	...9	...A	...B	...C	...D	...E	...F
0...	<i>not assigned</i>															
1...	<i>not assigned</i>															
2...	SP	!	"	#	\$	%	&	'	()	*	+	,	-	.	/
3...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	:	;	<	=	>	?
4...	@	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
5...	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	[\]	^	_
6...	`	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
7...	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	{		}	~	
8...	<i>not assigned</i>															
9...	<i>not assigned</i>															
A...	NBSP	À	Á	Â	Ã	Ä	Å	Æ	Ç	È	É	Ê	Ë	Ï	Ì	Í
B...	°	à	á	â	ã	ä	å	æ	ç	è	é	ê	ë	ï	ì	í
C...	Ò	Ó	Ô	Õ	Ö	×	Ù	Ú	Û	Ü	Ý	Þ	ß			
D...	ƒ	á	â	ă	ã	í	ć	ç	č	é	ę	ë	ě	í	î	ď
E...	đ	ń	ñ	ó	ô	õ	÷	ř	ů	ú	ů	ű	ü	ý	ț	·
F...																

Exception

2.1.5 UNOW CHARACTER SET TYPE W

UNOW - ISO 10646-1 octet with code extension for UTF-8.

This character set **can only be used with syntax version 4**.

To use UTF-8, DE 0133 in the UNB segment of syntax version 4 must contain code value 7 = UTF-8.

The UNOW character set must always be used where the transaction requires message texts that **cannot** be written with character sets UNOA to UNOD (e.g. Chinese, Russian, etc.).

In these cases, the agreement regarding the exchange of data by EDI must include a clause to this effect.

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Note: Carriage returns and line feeds are **not** included in character sets and must therefore **not** be used in data interchange files.

2.2 SEPARATORS

ISO 9735 specifies the default separators for messages as follows:

UNOA character set:

Table 1 - Separator character encoding for character set UNOA

Separator	Name	Graphical representation	Decimal value	Hex value
Group data element separator	Colon	:	58	3A
Data element separator	Plus sign	+	43	2B
Decimal sign	Point or comma	. or ,	44 or 46	2C or 2E
Release character	Question mark	?	63	3F
Reserved for future use	Space	SP	32	20
Segment terminator	Apostrophe	'	39	27

All other character sets:

Table 2 - Default separator character encoding for character sets UNOB..UNOX

Separator	Name	Graphical representation	Decimal value	Hex value
Group data element separator	IS1	not printable	31	1F
Data element separator	IS3	not printable	29	1D
Decimal sign	Point or comma	. or ,	44 or 46	2C or 2E
Release character	Question mark	?	63	3F
Reserved for future use (syntax 2 and syntax 3)	Space	SP	32	20
Repetition character (syntax 4)	Asterisk	*	42	2A
Segment terminator	IS4	not printable	28	1C

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

For character sets UNOB..UNOW, it has however proven useful to use separators that are printable characters, such as those shown in Table 1. We do not recommend using the separators listed in Table 2.

To use these printable separators with these character sets, however, **it is necessary** to include the respective service string advice at the start of the interchange.

.Separators are transferred in the form of a service string advice preceded by UNA code UNA:+.? ' or UNA:+,? ' - depending on the decimal separator to be used.

2.3 INTERCHANGE STRUCTURE

In EDIFACT, a data interchange file contains a data frame consisting of the segments UNB and UNZ. Depending on the character set, the data frame is preceded by a service string advice defining the separators used in the message.

A data frame can contain 1..n messages encapsulated by the segments UNH and UNT.

The following general rules apply:

1. According to ISO 9735, it is not recommended to use grouping levels UNG..UNE.
2. For character sets UNOA, UNOB, UNOC and UNOD, we recommend using the service segments of syntax version 3.
3. For character set UNOW, the use of syntax version 4 service segments **is mandatory**, as this character set is not supported by syntax version 3.
4. Even if syntax version 4 is declared for the use of UTF-8 characters in general, the message payload remains subject to the restrictions of syntax version 3, i.e. it must be generated and transmitted according to the respective Odette or JAIF message guidelines.
5. Segments UNO and UNP defined by syntax version 4 for the inclusion of binary auxiliary data in the data exchange are not supported by Odette.

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Based on the above, the following general message structure applies:

Status	Segment	Description
Dependent	UNA	Service string advice
Mandatory	UNB	Interchange header
Mandatory	UNH	1st message header:
	...	Message segments
Mandatory	UNT	1st message trailer:
	UNH	2nd message header
	...	Message segments
	UNT	2nd message trailer
	etc.	
	UNH	nth message header
	...	Message segments
	UNT	nth message trailer
Mandatory	UNZ	Interchange trailer

For better readability, service segments according to syntax version 3 (ISO 9735:1988) have been included in the individual message guidelines. Syntax version 3 is the version that is most frequently used in Europe and America.

If a transaction requires the use of UTF-8 for certain texts, you must use syntax version 4.

In this case, all service segments must conform to the syntax specified in chapter "**Service segments of syntax version 4**". All other segments (BGM...) must be used as described in the respective message guidelines.

2.4 DATA SEGMENTS

Data elements and data element groups that form a functional unit are combined into individual segments. Segments start with a 3-digit segment identifier and end with a segment terminator. In order to transmit more complex information, segments can be grouped into virtual segment groups (without separate identifiers in the message).

In UNSMs, the maximum permissible number of repetitions is defined for each segment or segment group. The segment status must be set to UNSM "Mandatory" (M) or "Conditional" (C). The system distinguishes between service segments and application segments. The application segments contain the application data to be transmitted. The service segments contain information regarding the sender and the recipient of the data, the message type and the separators used in the message. Service segments are

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

included in the header and footer and thus delimit the transmission, the message groups and the message (see also chapter 2.3 "Use data frames").

In the guidelines, the number of permissible repetitions might be reduced further, depending on the context.

In the guidelines, status "Conditional" is substituted with the following statuses:

R - required: mandatory in this context

O - optional: optional in this context

D - dependent: in this context, dependent on certain other parameters being present (or not present) in the message

N - not used: not used in this context; if there is data, it is ignored

2.5 DATA ELEMENTS AND DATA ELEMENT GROUPS

EDIFACT segments consist of standardised data elements defined in the Trade Data Elements Directory UNTDED 2005 / ISO 7372:2005.

A data element group consists of data elements that are functionally related. For each data element or data element group, a status (mandatory/conditional) must be defined.

In the guidelines, status "Conditional" is substituted with the following statuses:

R - required: mandatory in this context

O - optional: optional in this context

D - dependent: in this context, dependent on certain other parameters being present (or not present) in the message

N - not used: not used in this context; if there is data, it is ignored

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

3. USE OF SERVICE SEGMENTS OF SYNTAX VERSION 3

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0000	1	UNA	O	1	0	Service string advice

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St Format	Remark	
UNA					
UNA1	Component data element separator	M an1	M an1	Colon	
UNA2	Data element separator	M an1	M an1	Plus sign	
UNA3	Decimal notation	M an1	M an1	Point or comma	
UNA4	Release indicator	M an1	M an1	Question mark	
UNA5	Reserved for future use	M an1	M an1	Space	
UNA6	Segment terminator	M an1	M an1	Apostrophe	

Remark:

St = Status
EDIFACT: M=Mandatory, C=Conditional
Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
A=Advised, N=Not used

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0000	2	UNB	M	1	0	Interchange header

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St	Format	Remark
UNB					
S001	Syntax identifier	M	M		
0001	Syntax identifier	M a4	M	a4	<p>UNOA UN/ECE level A</p> <p>UNOB UN/ECE level B</p> <p>UNOC UN/ECE level C</p> <p>UNOD UN/ECE level D</p>
0002	Syntax version number	M n1	M	n1	3 Version 3
S002	Interchange sender	M	M		
0004	Sender identification	M an..35	M	an..35	Unique ID of the sender in the data transmission network or system.
0007	Partner identification code	C an..4	O	an..4	
0008	Address for reverse routing	C an..14	O	an..14	Address of an application or internal system at sender's site, which has generated the message and to which reply messages should be routed.
S003	Interchange recipient	M	M		
0010	Recipient identification	M an..35	M	an..35	Unique ID of the receiver in the data transmission network or system.
0007	Partner identification code	C an..4	O	an..4	Qualifies the code issuing agency for the station ID, e.g. 59 for an Odette ID
0014	Routing address	C an..14	O	an..14	Address of an application or an internal system at receiver's side: some partners generate delivery calls, etc. in different ERP systems. In this case, any responding message such as the despatch advice received from the supplier needs to be forwarded to the respective ERP system.

St = Status
 EDIFACT: M=Mandatory, C=Conditional
 Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
 A=Advised, N=Not used



STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

S004	Date/time of preparation	M	M	
0017	Date of preparation	M n6	M n6	Format YYMMDD
0019	Time of preparation	M n4	M n4	Format HHMM
0020	Interchange control reference	M an..14	M an..14	Unique ID of an interchange.
S005	Recipient's reference, password	C	N	
0022	Recipient's reference/password	M an..14	N	Not used
0025	Recipient's reference/password qualifier	C an2	N	Not used
0026	Application reference	C an..14	N	Not used
0029	Processing priority code	C a1	N	Not used
0031	Acknowledgement request	C n1	N	Not used
0032	Communications agreement ID	C an..35	N	Not used
0035	Test indicator	C n1	O n1	Only to be used if the interchange is for test purposes. Omit this data element for valid interchanges. 1 Interchange is a test

Remark:

St = Status
EDIFACT: M=Mandatory, C=Conditional
Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
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STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0010	3	UNH	M	1	0	Message header

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St	Format	Remark
UNH					
0062	Message reference number	M an..14	M	an..14	
S009	Message identifier	M	M		
0065	Message type	M an..6	M	an..6	
0052	Message version number	M an..3	M	an..3	DELJIT Delivery just in time message
0054	Message release number	M an..3	M	an..3	D Draft version/UN/EDIFACT Directory Release number off the EDIFACT directory, e.g. 13A for 2013 - A 13A Release 2013 - A
0051	Controlling agency	M an..2	M	an..2	
0057	Association assigned code	C an..6	R	an..6	UN UN/CEFACT Identification of the subset release assigned by the responsible organisation (Odette or Joint Automotive Industry Forum). GAVE12 VDA DELJIT (JIS) Version 1.2 (1)
0068	Common access reference	C an..35	N		Not used

St = Status
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STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

S010	Status of the transfer	C	O	<p>The CDE S010 may be used if a message (e.g. JIS delivery instruction) has to be splitted across several EDIFACT DELJIT messages because of the limitation of the segment counter to 999999 in EDIFACT syntax version 3.</p> <p>DE 0070 contains the consecutive number of the individual message belonging to such a batched transmission. DE 0073 has to be used to indicate the first and last message of such an individual batch. The receiver can use this information to convert several EDIFACT messages into one inhouse file and process the complete set of information.</p>
0070	Sequence of transfers	M n..2	M n..2	Consecutive number of the message forming a part of a batched message.
0073	First and last transfer	C a1	D a1	Has to be used to indicate the first and last individual message of a batched message.

C Creation
F Final

Remark:

St = Status
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Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
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STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0590	31	UNT	M	1	0	Message trailer

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St	Format	Remark
UNT					
0074	Number of segments in the message	M n..6	M	n..6	Number of segments in the message
0062	Message reference number	M an..14	M	an..14	Message reference number in the interchange

Remark:

St = Status
EDIFACT: M=Mandatory, C=Conditional
Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
A=Advised, N=Not used

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0000	32	UNZ	M	1	0	Interchange trailer

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St	Format	Remark
UNZ					
0036	Interchange control count	M n..6	M	n..6	Number of messages in the interchange
0020	Interchange control reference	M an..14	M	an..14	Unique ID of the interchange.

Remark:

St = Status
EDIFACT: M=Mandatory, C=Conditional
Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
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STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

4. USAGE OF SERVICE SEGMENTS OF SYNTAX VERSION 4

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0000	1	UNA	C	1	0	Service string advice

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St Format	Remark	
UNA					
UNA1	Component data element separator	M an1	M an1	Colon	
UNA2	Data element separator	M an1	M an1	Plus sign	
UNA3	Decimal mark	M an1	M an1	Point or comma	
UNA4	Release character	M an1	M an1	Question mark	
UNA5	Repetition separator	M an1	M an1	Asterisk	
UNA6	Segment terminator	M an1	M an1	Apostrophe	

Remark:

St = Status
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Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
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STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0000	2	UNB	M	1	0	Interchange header

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St	Format	Remark
UNB					
S001	Syntax identifier	M	M		
0001	Syntax identifier	M a4	M a4		UNOW stands for ISO 10646-1 octet with code extension technique to support UTF-8 (USC Transformation Format, 8 bit) encoding. UNOW UNECE level W
0002	Syntax version number	M an1	M an1		4 Version 4
0080	Service code list directory version number	C an..6	N		Not used
0133	Character encoding, coded	C an..3	D an..3		If syntax identifier (DE 0001) is set to UNOW, this element shall specify UTF-8 encoding. 7 UTF-8
0076	Syntax release number	C an2	N		Not used
S002	Interchange sender	M	M		
0004	Interchange sender identification	M an..35	M an..35		Station ID of sender's station
0007	Identification code qualifier	C an..4	O an..4		Qualifies the code issuing agency for the station ID, e.g. 59 for an Odette ID
0008	Interchange sender internal identification	C an..35	O an..35		Address of an application or internal system at sender's site, which has generated the message and to which reply messages should be routed.
0042	Interchange sender internal sub-identification	C an..35	N		Not used
S003	Interchange recipient	M	M		
0010	Interchange recipient identification	M an..35	M an..35		Unique ID of the receiver in the data transmission network or system.
0007	Identification code qualifier	C an..4	O an..4		Qualifies the code issuing agency for the station ID, e.g. 59 for an Odette ID

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 Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent, A=Advised, N=Not used

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

0014	Interchange recipient internal identification	C an..35	O an..35	Address of an application or an internal system at receiver's side: some partners generate delivery calls, etc. in different ERP systems. In this case, any responding message such as the despatch advice received from the supplier needs to be forwarded to the respective ERP system.
0046	Interchange recipient internal sub-identification	C an..35	N	Not used
S004	Date and time of preparation	M	M	
0017	Date	M n8	M n8	Format CCYYMMDD
0019	Time	M n4	M n4	Format HHMM
0020	Interchange control reference	M an..14	M an..14	
S005	Recipient reference/password details	C	N	

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STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

Standard			Implementation	
Tag	Name	St Format	St Format	Remark
0022	Recipient reference/password	M an..14	N	Not used
0025	Recipient reference/password qualifier	C an2	N	Not used
0026	Application reference	C an..14	N	Not used
0029	Processing priority code	C a1	N	Not used
0031	Acknowledgement request	C n1	N	Not used
0032	Interchange agreement identifier	C an..35	N	Not used
0035	Test indicator	C n1	O n1	Only to be used, if the interchange is a test. 1 Interchange is a test

Remark:

St = Status
EDIFACT: M=Mandatory, C=Conditional
Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
A=Advised, N=Not used

STRUCTURE OF AN EDIFACT INTERCHANGE

Structure of EDIFACT interchanges and configuration of service segments for electronic data exchange in the automotive industry.

DOC REF No: OS11

Version No: 1.0

Date: June 2020

Segments

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0010	3	UNH	M	1	0	Message header

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St	Format	Remark
UNH					
0062	Message reference number	M an..14	M	an..14	Message reference number (in the interchange)
S009	Message identifier	M	M		
0065	Message type	M an..6	M	an..6	Message Type (coded) e.g. DESADV or INVOIC etc.
0052	Message version number	M an..3	M	an..3	
					D Draft version/UN/EDIFACT Directory
0054	Message release number	M an..3	M	an..3	Release number off the EDIFACT directory, e.g. 16A for 2016 - A
					UN
0051	Controlling agency, coded	M an..3	M	an..3	
					UN UN/CEFACT
0057	Association assigned code	C an..6	R	an..6	Identification of the subset release, assigned by VDA or Odette.
0110	Code list directory version number	C an..6	N		Not used
0113	Message type sub-function identification	C an..6	N		Not used
0068	Common access reference	C an..35	N		Not used
S010	Status of the transfer	C	N		
0070	Sequence of transfers	M n..2	N		Not used
0073	First and last transfer	C a1	N		Not used
S016	Message subset identification	C	N		
0115	Message subset identification	M an..14	N		Not used
0116	Message subset version number	C an..3	N		Not used
0118	Message subset release number	C an..3	N		Not used
0051	Controlling agency, coded	C an..3	N		Not used
S017	Message implementation guideline identification	C	N		

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0121	Message implementation	M an..14	N	Not used
	guideline identification			
0122	Message implementation	C an..3	N	Not used
	guideline version number			
0124	Message implementation	C an..3	N	Not used
	guideline release number			
0051	Controlling agency, coded	C an..3	N	Not used
S018	Scenario identification	C	N	
0127	Scenario identification	M an..14	N	Not used
0128	Scenario version number	C an..3	N	Not used
0130	Scenario release number	C an..3	N	Not used
0051	Controlling agency, coded	C an..3	N	Not used

Remark:

St = Status
EDIFACT: M=Mandatory, C=Conditional
Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
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Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
2470	5	UNT	M	1	0	Message trailer

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St	Format	Remark
UNT					
0074	Number of segments in a message	M n..10	M	n..10	Number of segments in the message
0062	Message reference number	M an..14	M	an..14	Message reference number in the interchange

Remark:

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Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
A=Advised, N=Not used

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Segments

Counter	No.	Tag	St	MaxRep	Level	Name
0000	6	UNZ	M	1	0	Interchange trailer

Standard			Implementation		
Tag	Name	St Format	St Format	Remark	
UNZ					
0036	Interchange control count	M n..6	M n..6	Number of messages in the interchange	
0020	Interchange control reference	M an..14	M an..14	Unique ID of the interchange.	

Remark:

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EDIFACT: M=Mandatory, C=Conditional
Application: R=Required, O=Optional, D=Dependent,
A=Advised, N=Not used