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Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

**Electronic data interchange for
administration, commerce and
transport (EDIFACT)—Application
level syntax rules**

AS/NZS 3801:1995

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee IT/11, Electronic Commerce. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 3 August 1995 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 23 October 1995. It was published on 5 December 1995.

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transport (EDIFACT)—Application
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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
1 The Crescent,
Homebush NSW 2140 Australia

STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND
Level 10, Standards House,
155 The Terrace,
Wellington 6001 New Zealand

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee IT/11 on Electronic Commerce. It is identical with and has been reproduced from, ISO 9735:1988 *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT)—Application level syntax rules*, (amended reprint 1990 and attaching Amendment 1:1992).

This International Standard includes, in a condensed form, the rules on application level for the structuring of the user data and of the associated service data in the interchange of messages in an open environment. These rules have been agreed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) as syntax rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) and are part of the ECE Trade Data Interchange Directory which also includes Message Design Guidelines. The Guidelines should be used in conjunction with this International Standard.

Marginal bars at segments UNG, S008, and UNH, S009 indicated two ambiguities changed from the original text. The convention for assigning message version number and message release number includes the last two digits of the year. In order to avoid compression of leading zeroes in these fields, which is a normal procedure in many computer programs when the data type is specified to be numeric and which would consequently distort the data, the data types for message version number and message release number have been changed from numeric (n) to alphanumeric (an). Additionally, experience has shown that the footnote which appeared on page 17 of the 1988 edition has been misunderstood and in order to provide clarification, the footnote has now been deleted and the status of the message release number (0054) and controlling agency (0051) has been changed from conditional to mandatory.

Also marginal bars at Clauses 2 and 4 indicate a reference to Annex D which is attached as Amendment 1 to this document.

Under arrangements made between Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand and the international Standards bodies, ISO and IEC, as well as certain other Standards organizations, users of this Joint Standard are advised that the number of this Standard is not reproduced on each page; its identity is shown only on the cover and title pages.

For the purpose of this Joint Standard, the ISO text should be modified as follows:

- (a) *Terminology* The words 'Australian Standard', 'New Zealand Standard' or 'Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard' should replace the words 'International Standard' wherever they appear.
- (b) *References* The references to International Standards should be replaced by references to the following Australian/New Zealand Standards:

<i>Reference to International Standard or other Publication</i>		<i>Australian/New Zealand Standard</i>	
ISO		AS	
31-0	General principles concerning quantities, units and symbols	2900.0	General principles concerning quantities, units and symbols
646	Information processing—ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange	1776	Information processing—7-bit coded character set for information interchange
2382	Data processing—Vocabulary	1189	Data processing—Vocabulary
2382-1	Part 01: Fundamental terms	1189.1	Part 1: Fundamental terms
2382-4	Part 04: Organization of data	1189.4	Part 4: Organization of data
6523	Data interchange—Structures for the identification of organizations	—	

ISO		AS	
6937	Information processing—Coded character sets for text communication	2793	Information processing—Coded character sets for text communication
6937-2	Part 2: Latin alphabetic and non-alphabetic graphic characters	2793.2	Part 2: Latin alphabetic and non-alphabetic graphic characters
7372	Trade data interchange—Trade Data Elements Directory	—	
7498	Information processing systems—Open Systems Interconnection—Basic Reference Model	2777	Information processing systems—Open Systems Interconnection—Basic reference model
8859	Information processing—8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets		
8859-1	Part 1: Latin alphabet No. 1	—	
8859-2	Part 2: Latin alphabet No. 2	—	

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AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules

1 Scope

This International Standard gives syntax rules for the preparation of messages to be interchanged between partners in the fields of administration, commerce and transport.

NOTE - Users of this International Standard should note that the syntax rules specified herein are part of the United Nations Trade Data Interchange Directory (UNIDID). They may be used in any application, but messages using these syntax rules may only be referred to as EDIFACT messages if they comply with other rules and directories in UNTDID and if they have been approved by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE).

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 31-0 : 1981, *General principles concerning quantities, units and symbols*.

ISO 646 : 1983, *Information processing — ISO 7-bit coded character set for information interchange*.

ISO 2382-1 : 1984, *Data processing — Vocabulary — Part 01 : Fundamental terms*.

ISO 2382-4 : 1987, *Data processing — Vocabulary — Part 04 : Organization of data*.

ISO 6523 : 1984, *Data interchange — Structures for the identification of organizations*.

ISO 6937-2 : 1983, *Information processing — Coded character sets for text communication — Part 2 : Latin alphabetic and non-alphabetic graphic characters*.

ISO 7372 : 1986, *Trade data interchange — Trade Data Elements Directory*.

ISO 7498 : 1984, *Information processing systems — Open Systems Interconnection — Basic Reference Model*.

ISO 8859 : 1987, *Information processing — 8 bit single-byte coded graphic character sets —*

Part 1: Latin alphabet No.1.

Part 2: Latin alphabet No.2.

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this International Standard, the definitions in annex A apply.

4 Syntax levels

This International Standard specifies syntax levels A and B which are identical in all respects except for the character sets used. As requirements for additional syntactical features appear, further levels may be added.

Unless interchange partners agree to use other or additional characters, level A shall use only the character set specified in 5.1, and level B only the character set specified in 5.2.

The conditional Service String Advice, UNA, (see annex B) provides the capability to specify the separator and other service characters used in the interchange in case they differ from those in clause 5.

5 Character sets

For the characters in the sets below, the 7-bit codes in the basic code table in ISO 646 shall be used, unless the corresponding 8-bit codes in ISO 6937 and ISO 8859 or other bit codes are specifically agreed between the interchanging partners. See clause 4.

5.1 Level A character set

Letters, upper case	A to Z
Numerals	0 to 9
Space character	
Full stop	.
Comma	,
Hyphen/minus sign	-
Opening parenthesis	(
Closing parenthesis	)
Oblique stroke (slash)	/
Equals sign	=
Apostrophe	' Reserved for use as segment terminator
Plus sign	+ Reserved for use as segment tag and data element separator
Colon	: Reserved for use as component data element separator
Question mark	? Reserved for use as release character

? immediately preceding one of the characters ' + : ? restores their normal meaning. For example, 10? + 10 = 20 means 10 + 10 = 20. Question mark is represented by ??.

The following characters are part of the level A character set but cannot be used internationally in telex transmissions.

Exclamation mark	!
Quotation mark	"
Percentage sign	%
Ampersand	&
Asterisk	*
Semi-colon	;
Less-than sign	<
Greater-than sign	>