

EDI organizational principles

Framework for the development & implementation of the
EANCOM[®] Recommendation of GS1 Germany

Release 1.0, Final, December 2022



1 Objective

Together with all EANCOM® users, we pursue the goal of defining and applying uniform EDI standards for the benefit of all participants along supply chain processes. These standards are open and accessible to all.

We implement the agreed standards and recommendations without changes in order to achieve uniform standards implementation for the benefit of all market participants.

For this purpose, we use communication technologies and process solutions that correspond to the current state of the art and are based on the globally binding EANCOM® standard.

2 Implementation

Based on the corresponding business requirements and related benefits, we select the specified communication solutions based on the EANCOM® recommendations and the recommended ECR processes within the framework of the GS1 Standards.

The contents of the EANCOM® recommendations are specified accordingly.

The following basic rules were/are agreed by the users in the course of a co-organisational cooperation:

1. Use of the GS1 Identification System

Against this background, we undertake to accept the systems of the "Global Location Number" (GLN) and "Global Trade Item Number" (GTIN) and to use them in the same way.

We use this global numbering system instead of or in addition to our own numbering system in the EDI messages.

2. Information in EDI messages that is not required by ourselves is skipped at the recipient side.

3. Format requirements and field lengths are respected.

Examples:

- Leading zeros are only to be sent if they are significant.
- The application identifier is not part of the SSCC.

4. Use of the currently valid version of the EANCOM® code lists and codes.

Further basic guidance can be found in Part 1 of the current EANCOM® Recommendation.

3 Development & Maintenance

The EDI/eCommerce expert group of GS1 Germany is responsible for the German EANCOM® recommendations and provides the platform to:

1. Further develop the EANCOM® message standards and recommendations.

2. Clarify implementation questions and develop solutions for business processes requirements within the framework of the GS1 Standards.

3. Members of the EDI/eCommerce expert group actively accompany the further developments.

4. GS1 Germany coordinates the EDI/eCommerce expert group as a neutral competence centre and also supports non-members.

4 Recommendation for the general classification and use of EDI in the company

„EDI is 80% business process and only 20% IT technology“

A major challenge in EDI implementation is usually the organisational placement of EDI in the company. In most cases, the responsibility is allocated within IT or it is affiliated to the customer service or purchasing (trade) departments.

These departments have as their principal task the fulfilment of customer requirements or the formulation of demands towards their business partners from the point of view of the respective company. This is contrary to the actual EDI task of implementing and complying with standards and leads, out of misunderstood customer orientation, to the implementation of new bilateral requirements.

EDI as a responsibility in the company should be able to decide autonomously and also have the backing of the top management. EDI should at best be located in supply chain management and have the competencies to say "no" e. g. to unnecessary bilateral solutions. Sales activities and EDI implementation should be and remain strictly separated from each other.

It is important that EDI primarily maps the processes and that the technical implementation is secondary.

5 Summary

The implementing of EDI should serve to reduce transaction costs and improve the automated information flow between partners.

Necessary prerequisites for this are:

- Use of and adherence to standards.
- Avoiding bilateral agreements.
- Well-structured business processes with a high degree of digitalisation.