

PRESS RELEASE

THIRD EDITION OF CODES FOR UNITS OF MEASURE USED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, RECOMMENDATION NO. 20, RELEASED TODAY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Geneva, Switzerland, 1 October 2004

The Information Content Management Group (ICG) of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) announces the release of the third edition of the codes for units of measure used in international trade, Recommendation No. 20, for public review. This substantive update to Recommendation No. 20 was released today, under the UN/CEFACT Open Development Process (ODP). It provides a single list of code elements to represent units of measure for length, mass (weight), volume and other quantities, including units of count.

This edition of Recommendation 20 includes a number of significant enhancements:

- New and updated units of measure
- Allowance for, and inclusion of, a description of the individual units
- Introduction of status indicator to highlight maintenance activities
- Alignment of presentation format of the three annexes
- Annex I (units of measure by quantity) designated as a normative annex that contains only units that are classified as SI or SI equivalent
- Annex II (units of measure by name) and annex III (units of measure by common code) designated as informative annexes that contain all units
- Removal of historical references (retained in UN database)
- Addressed the handling of units with a use identification of "Z" (codes included for information purposes with questionable usage)
- Marked as deleted, units that are also contained in Recommendation 21 (Codes for types of cargo, packages and packaging materials) and introduction of mechanism to allow their use as units of measure
- Notion of "units of count" introduced for level 3 (informative) codes

A full description of the enhancements and the associated annexes are available for download (in both MS Word and PDF formats) from the ICG Web Site at:

www.disa.org/cefact-groups/icg/downloads

Under the Open Development Process all parties with an interest in Recommendation No. 20 are invited to review this edition and to furnish their comments to the ICG for further consideration. Comments from the public constitute valuable input that can enable the ICG to further improve this Recommendation before it is submitted for final approval as an UN/CEFACT standard.

The three month public review period ends on 31 December 2004.

Please submit your comments to:

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Following the conclusion of the comment period, the ICG shall address all comments received. Depending on the outcome of this review process, the ICG will issue a new draft edition for comment or will prepare the final edition for UN/CEFACT approval. This edition of Recommendation No. 20 and the comments disposition log will be made available on the ICG Web Site.

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