Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Trade
Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
Seventeenth session
Geneva, 7 and 8 July 2011
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
New and revised recommendations and standards

Recommendation No. 23: Freight Cost Code – FCC
Harmonization of the Description of Freight Costs and Other Charges

Submitted by the Information Content Management Group (ICG)

Summary

At its fifth session, in 1999, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) approved the recommendation of its Steering Group to delegate the authority for maintenance of the code lists associated with UN/CEFACT Recommendations to the Code Working Group. This authorization was transferred to the Information Content Management Group (ICG) in the reorganisation of UN/CEFACT’s structure in 2003.

The ICG approved the latest code list (Revision 8) in March 2011 and is submitting this updated list to the Plenary for information¹.

¹ This information can be downloaded from the UN/CEFACT website at http://www.unece.org/cefact/recommendations/rec_index.htm.
I. Preamble

1. UN/CEFACT, a subsidiary intergovernmental body of the UNECE Committee on Trade, is mandated to develop a programme of work of global relevance to achieve improved worldwide coordination and cooperation in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services. It encourages close collaboration between governments and private business to secure the interoperability for the exchange of information between the public and private sector².

2. The UN/CEFACT work programme emphasizes the need for developing recommendations which simplify and harmonize the current practices and procedures used in international transactions. The role of the UN/CEFACT Information Content Management Group (ICG) is to secure the quality, relevance and availability of code sets and code structures to support the objectives of UN/CEFACT, including managing the maintenance of UN/ECE Recommendations related to codes. The ICG prepared this latest revision of the code list for Recommendation 23.

3. The revision supersedes and replaces the code list released with the seventh revision of Recommendation 23 (CEFACT/ICG/2010/IC005) approved by the ICG, in May 2010.

II. Code list presentation

4. The code list is presented with the following columns:

Change indicator (CI)

a plus sign (+) for an addition
a hash sign (#) for changes to the code description
a letter X (X) for marked for deletion in this edition (will not appear in the next edition)

Group

Level 1 code. 1 digit designation of the main cost heading category.

Subgroup

Level 2 code. 2 digit designation of the general cost description within a cost heading category.

Detail

Level 3 code. 3 digit designation of the detailed cost description within a general cost description.

Description

Cost code description.

² From the mandate and terms of reference of UN/CEFACT.
Mode/Site Indicator

2 character indication of a specific mode of transport or a type of handling site:

10 Maritime transport
11 Maritime transport deep sea
12 Maritime transport feeder service
13 Maritime transport ro/ro service
14 Maritime transport short sea
20 Rail transport
30 Road transport
40 Air transport
50 Mail
60 Multimodal/Combined transport
70 Fixed transport installations
80 Inland water transport
BB Handling Site: Terminal operation
DD Handling Site: Ship’s agent
FF Handling Site: Freight forwarder/forwarding agent

Duplicate Indicator

5. In order to uniquely identify each code entry in the code list, the following values may be combined to provide the unique key:

   • Level 1 Code
   • Level 2 Code
   • Level 3 Code
   • Duplicate Indicator

6. The Duplicate Indicator is a combination of the letter “D” and a sequence number, starting at 1 and incremented by 1 for each subsequent duplicate entry. Duplication occurs when there are multiple entries with identical Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 code values.

7. Reference should be made to the body text of Recommendation 23 (ECE/TRADE/170) for further information and examples concerning the structure and utilization of the code list.

III. Maintenance and updating

8. Recommendation 23 is maintained on behalf of UN/CEFACT by the UN/CEFACT Information Content Management Group (ICG).

9. Proposals for updating this Recommendation should be addressed to the Trade Facilitation Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland or by email to:

   cefact@unece.org.
10. Draft revisions to the body text and/or code list of this Recommendation shall be issued by the ICG when required and shall be made available on the ICG website listed at:

   www.uncefactforum.org/ICG

11. Draft revisions shall be subject to a public comment period of at least two months. UN/CEFACT heads of delegation shall be notified of the availability of a draft revision and the period for comment. Following the conclusion of the comment period, the ICG shall address all comments received. Depending on the comments received, the ICG shall issue a new draft edition for comment or shall prepare a final edition for approval.

12. Final revisions to the body text of this Recommendation shall be approved by the UN/CEFACT Plenary and shall be made available on the UN/CEFACT website:

    www.unece.org/cefact

13. Final revisions to the code lists of this Recommendation shall be approved by the ICG Plenary and notified to the UN/CEFACT Plenary. These revisions shall also be made available on the UN/CEFACT website.