

## Shortsea XML Schemas - Introduction

The Shortsea XML schemas (Booking, Transport Operations: manifest and loading/discharge list) are produced to conform with the UN/CEFACT Naming and Design Rules (NDR). The structure of the information is developed in accordance with the Business Information Master (BIM) structure from UNeDOCs as endorsed by the UN/CEFACT Transport Group TBG3.

The structure of the catalogs are: *Standards* where the content is approved UN/CEFACT standards and *drafts* which are yet to be formally approved by UN/CEFACT. The XML schemas are therefore to be found under the *draft* catalog

The data in the schemas are based on the UN/CEFACT Core Components Library 06B and the submission from TBG3 to the UN/CEFACT Group TBG17. This submission has taken the transport data used within the ITIGG (International Transportation Implementation Guidelines) -subgroup of TBG3- EDIFACT guidelines for transport messages, and modeled this transport data in accordance with UN/CEFACT Core Components Methodology. Hence this data covers that may be required for a transport transaction and is derived from worldwide extensive usage of data exchange through EDIFACT messages. The schemas have been produced for the Shortsea XML project, and are in complete consistency with the schemas (they are subsets thereof) that the UN/CEFACT Transport Group TBG3 will produce as formal standards in the coming period. The schemas can be applied to shortsea shipping and are multimodal: they apply to the shortsea travel, but also to the pre- and on-carriage by road, rail, etc.

The transport functions for which these Shortsea XML schemas can be used are described in accompanying Business Requirements Specifications (BRS). The BRS cater for all possible usages of the transport functions and the information elements in the BRS are usually larger than expressed in the Shortsea XML schemas which focus on the subset for shortsea shipping. The schemas can be used for different sub-functions, for example requesting a booking, updating a booking, confirming a booking and so on and these can all be done with the same set of Booking schemas using a function code to differentiate the various usages.

The present version 1 of the schemas will be used in the Shortsea XML implementation phase. Based on implementation experience and the expected next versions of the UN/CEFACT Core Components Library that will contain fully harmonised transport data, a new version of the Shortsea XML schemas is scheduled for the third quarter of 2008. The further maintenance of the Shortsea XML schemas is guaranteed through the SMDG organisation, which is composed of main ports, shipping lines and container terminals worldwide and which is a key member of the UN/CEFACT Transport Group TBG3. Through SMDG and TBG3, schemas will be added and maintained in future for other transport functions.

The schemas for a specific function (such as booking or manifest) use a subset of the overall set of transport data that is available from the Transport Core Components.

Implementors that have additional data requirements for these functions are requested to contact the Shortsea XML project for assistance.

The schemas are produced for the exchange of the transport data between parties. Header information for the message (related to the context of the exchange and the parties and transport functions involved) are not included in the schemas as the envisaged Standard Business Document Header (SBDH) from UN/CEFACT is not available yet. It is recommended that implementing parties resolve the Header Information bilaterally, including header data such as:

- References to the business process, the specific scenario or a specific guideline used;
- References to the document, such as the identifier, type, name, issue date, status and function (Shortsea XML recommends to use the main message function codes from EDIFACT in data element 1225 (1=cancellation, 2=addition, 4=changed, 5=replace, 9=original, 11=response, 13=request, 27=not accepted, 53=test))

For a specific transport function (such as booking or manifest) a set of schemas is produced, consisting of the specific structure linked with schemas for more detailed information, such as available international code lists, for example, for currency codes, types of means of transport, types of packages and so on. When updated schemas for international code lists become available, information will be given at the Shortsea XML website.

For implementation, an Excel file is available within a specific transport function (booking, manifest, etc.), which can be requested from the Shortsea XML project, and which allows an easy documentation of the data within the schemas and the data definitions from the implementing parties. Implementation can be done through the application of the overall schemas with a number of parties, or through an individual implementation, in which further details between the parties (data fields lengths, code list restrictions, etc.) are used for purposes of validation between two systems. For such an implementation the Shortsea XML project can be contacted to obtain further assistance.

Information can be found at:

[www.shortseaxml.org](http://www.shortseaxml.org) (about the Shortsea XML project and products)

[www.smdg.org](http://www.smdg.org) (from September 2008 continue maintenance of the schema's)

[www.smdg.org/tbg3](http://www.smdg.org/tbg3) (for general information on the UN/CEFACT Transport Group TBG3)

For assistance mail: [info@shortseaxml.org](mailto:info@shortseaxml.org) or [Mariann.Sundvor@norstella.no](mailto:Mariann.Sundvor@norstella.no)

