

Open Call for Tender

STDO009 “Postal Services”

for 6 Project Leaders to develop 6 technical specifications of the European Working Group CEN/TC 331/WG 2 “New digital postal services” within the framework of the Standardisation Request M/590 to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service in support of Directive 97/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Common criteria

Starting date: 2025-02-28

Deadline for tenders: 2025-04-04
(= publication date + 35 calendar days)

I Introduction

See Projects 1 to 6 herebelow.

II Objectives

See Projects 1 to 6 herebelow.

III Execution

III.1 General tasks of the *the European Working Group CEN/TC 331/WG 2 “New digital postal services”*

See Projects 1 to 6 herebelow.

III.2 Timeframe

Deadline for the adoption by CEN is 19 January 2027.

The vote to initiate the creation of a new work item proposal has been sent to the national standardisation authorities, Dec 8th, 2023¹. The final vote happened in Feb 28, 2024.

A call for the nomination of national experts, to be appointed by the national standardisation authorities and their mirror committees to CEN/TC331 will be initiated accordingly.

Unique identification of postal operators via party identifiers is essential for the European VAT, customs and freight and transport legislation. The work on the implementation of the freight and transport information systems will commence in 2024 until 2027. The establishment of unique party identification schemas is part of the harmonised freight and transport common data sets. However, European legislation separated the freight and transport sector from the postal and express sector, therefor the European Commission Implementing Decision on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services (M590 C(2023) 223 final) mandated that „ Digital identification of postal operators” are to be drafted and adopted by Jan 2027 accordingly.

¹ CEN/TC 331 document N 1899

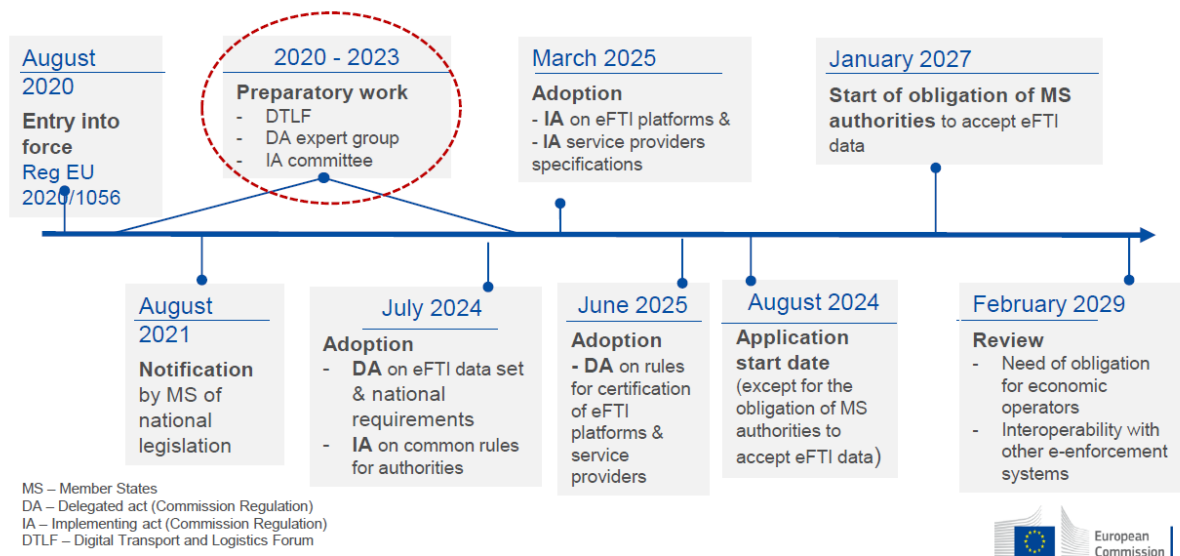


Figure 1 timeline of the eFTI Reg (EU) 2020/1056 implementation

The work on the next steps of the Import Control System² (Release 2 & 3), as well as the VAT package (VAT in the digital age³) and the EU customs package⁴ will commence in 2024 until 2028 as well.

Alignment with the Universal Postal Union (its work on the UPU / WCO Postal Data Model⁵ and the related unique identification of postal entities or wider postal sector players active within the supply chain to be identified) as well UN/CEFACT and the MMT RDM⁶ shall be supported.

Given that the activation of the new work item, the request for nomination of national standardisation mirror authorities experts to CEN/TC331, and initial starting of the project can happen in the second quarter of 2024, the funding for experts ought to be in place in third or fourth quarter 2024.

The initial setup of the project and team shall happen in 3rd quarter 2024. By then the necessary legal and regulatory framework in EAD end-to-end for the delivery of B2C supplies in Europe will be stable and endorsed by EU MS. Work shall commence in 2025, so that a first working draft standards shall be ready by 2nd quarter 2026 for adoption by the administrative process of CEN/TC331.

IV Financial support

The European Commission and EFTA have decided to provide financial support to the development of 6 standards of WG 2 "New digital postal services". The financial support from the European Commission and EFTA is based on the SMP 'Single Market Programme Regulation' (including its Financing Decision) and the MGA (Multi or mono beneficiary(ies) Grant Agreement). Unless specified otherwise, costs of external subcontractors are generally funded at 100%, with approx. 95% being borne by EC and 5% by EFTA. Costs have to qualify as eligible as defined in MGA N° 101196457 and also in compliance with [EC Financial Regulation](#), and be justified. The payment is usually divided into several instalments after completion of defined milestones and approval of the interim/final reports and the justification of costs. The subcontractors shall fulfil the conditions of the MGA N° 101196457, including those relating to liability, ownership of results, confidentiality, conflict of interests, publicity, evaluation, assignment, checks and audits.

The subcontractors' costs shall be justified with copies of the relevant invoices. All relevant evidence shall be kept in view of future payments (reports, work, drafts and deliverables, contracts & invoices, time sheets, tickets, boarding cards, hotel invoices, attendance lists with signatures, meeting agendas & reports, invoices for any consumables, purchase orders, etc...).

² https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-security/import-control-system-2-ics2-0_en

³ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/taxation-1/value-added-tax-vat/vat-digital-age_en

⁴ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/de7ab6d8-ac8c-4830-9689-35720fea2b77_en

⁵ https://www.upu.int/getmedia/9b55b5eb-96ca-456a-9d2d-064c65df815c/upuGlobalPostalModel_EN.docx

⁶ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

Costs incurred before the Grant Agreement is signed (unless, exceptionally differently agreed with the EC) and before the selection procedure is finalized, will not be considered as eligible for EU financial support.

AFNOR will be managing the contracts (subcontracting) with the selected project leader: the project leaders selected will sign an agreement with AFNOR before starting to work on the project. Payments to the project leaders are dependent on AFNOR having received the corresponding payments from CEN. Applicants should be forewarned that the elapsed time between completion of the deliverables and AFNOR being in a position to issue the payment is at least five months. This will be partly overcome by the fact that CEN and the European Commission have agreed on payment steps.

V Selection criteria

The applicants shall comply with the following requirements:

- Academic work and think level
- Proven operational and IT experience in postal / express operations for at least 3-4 years
- Proven operational and IT experience in freight and transport data handling (manifests, transport security, etc.)
- Proven understanding of data elements used for electronic advanced data for pre-lodging customs, transport security or product safety documents
- In depth understanding of the semantic data definitions of the EU Customs Data Model, as well as the Common Data Model for electronic freight and transport information systems
- Proficient in English – writing and speaking
- International experience
- The technical and social communications skills to operate in an international working group
- Some experience in writing norms is a big plus

VI Award criteria

The selection of the most suitable candidate will be made on the basis of the following criteria:

a) Documented experience (maximum 7 points *(the list below is given by way of example)*):

- number of years performing relevant activity;
- (typical) annual activity / number of relevant activities;
- experience with comparable projects on the development and validation of test methods;
- Industrial and academic background of the relevant personnel involved;
- general project management and communication skills of the relevant personnel involved;
- years of experience in European and/or International standardization work of the relevant personnel involved;
- experience in the management of task groups (working groups).

b) Organisation (demonstration of the ability to carry out the project, maximum 4 points *(the list below is given by way of example)*):

- infrastructure (equipment, description of the monitoring site, etc.);
- planning/organisation of the development and validation of test methods;
- established analytical quality system;
- ability to submit agreed deliverables at specified dates and detailed cost estimations.

VII Eligibility criteria

The following candidates will be excluded:

- Candidates who were the subject of a non-likely judgment of recourse for a professional infringement
- Candidates who are in an irregular tax situation or in an irregular special taxation situation
- Candidates who provide incomplete or erroneous information.
- Candidates who submit their application after the submission deadline.
- Candidates with any conflict of interest.

For any further information, see Annex A.

The candidate who will reach the highest score will be considered as the best value for money offer and hence should be the candidate selected to perform the expected activities (unless force majeure).

VIII Tenders

Tenders shall be sent to Walter Trezek, Convenor and secretary WG CEN/TC331 (walter.trezek@docex.net) as soon as possible, to be received at the latest by **[2025-04-04]**. The tender shall be in English and contain:

- Curriculum Vitae of each relevant person participating in the project, demonstrating the necessary expertise for the 'Advertised position';
- Any required accreditation certificates;
- A schedule and a description of the execution of the tasks which will be carried out in the project as such;
- Appropriate documentation to prove the economic and financial capacities;
- Any further documents to prove the qualification required in the above Clauses on Selection and Award criteria;
- A signed declaration, by which the candidate(s) certifies not to be subject to one of the exclusion criteria as described in Clause "Eligibility criteria" and the veracity of the adjoining documents.

Please note that, to ensure equal treatment of all tenders, it is not possible to modify offers after their submission in relation to the technical and financial proposals. Therefore, incompleteness in this section can only result in negative impact for the evaluation of award criteria. Please note also that proposals deviating from the technical specifications may be rejected for non-conformity.

Candidates may apply for more than one role. In case of multiple applications candidates shall state their priorities.

Tenders should be sent by legal representative, i.e. to be considered, any possible association has to be formalized according to the local legislation before submitting the tender. Working teams, partnerships and other groups of people, particularly under the aegis of an institute qualify as contractors for the service contracts awarded in the course of this CfT (Call for Tender). Partnerships or joint ventures and other legally binding co-operations regardless of their organizational form qualify as well, provided they are recognized entities under the applicable national laws. Potential candidates may come from the public sector as well as from the private industry. It is essential however that the qualifications and experience of the individual fulfilling the tasks are properly described.

It is possible to apply for a work package as a consortium. If a consortium is formed, one institute needs to be identified as the leader of the consortium and the division of labour between the consortium members should be clearly described and justified. In this case, only the leader of the consortium would sign the contract with the contractor and ensure that all tasks are fulfilled and is responsible for the justifications and expenses of the consortium members. It is essential however that all members of the consortium are properly identified within the offer.

Regarding question concerning the information provided in this call for tender or in case of need for clarification or additional information please contact

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If due to queries or other reasons supplementary information to this call for tender is required, this will be published on the website of *AFNOR and CCMC*.

Please send your application to

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1. Project 1: Digitalisation of postal operators

I Introduction

I.1 General

Mandated work item “*Digital identification of postal operators*” shall define a technical and messaging specification to uniquely digitally identify postal (including Courier-, Express- and Parcel-) operators and stakeholders along the postal supply chain provide services and interoperability, including to competent authorities in transport safety, product security and matters related to sustainability.

In its work on this standardization deliverable, CEN shall take into account conformity with Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as appropriate, and coordinate with the Universal Postal Union, where possible.

I.2 Context

The mandated work item “*Digital identification of postal operators*” has been mandated by the Commission Implementing Decision on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service in support of Directive 97/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council (M590 C(2023)223 Postal-services). This standardisation work is listed in Table 1, point 4, of Annex I.

There is a need to involve experts in the development and execution of the mandated standardisation work in WG2 of CEN/TC331 Postal Services.

II Objectives

The dual green and digital transition is encouraging B2C supply networks (ecommerce) to extend both upstream (into data even before a sale has been conducted) and downstream (beyond the delivery of items to consumers). In the postal industry, data must be exchanged in advance at item level for all items containing goods. Consequently, all the parties involved must be clearly and unambiguously identified. This is best achieved with a harmonised system of identification codes, linked to a database, containing party details, and which can be accessed by all authorised users.

While the Universal Postal Union (UPU) has established in implemented UPU Postal Party Identifiers, providing names and numbers for the UPU designated postal operators and its supply chain partners, CEN shall develop a similar, even aligned with the UPU a unique digital identification of postal, courier, express and parcel operators, as well as entities interacting within the supply chain, to:

- identify all parties involved in mail processing;
- identify equipment suppliers and customers;
- allow mail service contractors to assign their own identifiers for the above parties;
- allow for aliases, whilst minimising the number of situations in which a single party is allocated multiple identifiers;
- be compatible with open standards, ensuring identifiers are globally unique;
- have a hierarchical structure, such that, an identification code is defined can be established from the context, only that part of the identifier which is unique within the domain needs to be given;
- support the continued use of party identifiers, such as carrier codes (i.e. IATA; OTIF, et all);
- support the use of a party’s party identifier(s) as a component of identifiers for other entities;
- allow the role played by an identified party to be specified, either as part of the same data construct, or in a separate one.

III Execution

III.1 General tasks of the *the European Working Group CEN/TC 331/WG 2 “New digital postal services”*

In total 2 subcontractors shall be employed:

Subcontractor 1:

- Lead in the development of a European Norm (EN) or Technical Specification (TS);
- Technical and messaging related understanding of establishing and the use of unique identifiers of postal / express operators via a system of party identifiers;
- alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal⁷; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package⁸), as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056);
- understanding of the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM⁹, from a UPU / designated postal service, as well as from an express operators perspective.

Subcontractor 2:

- Development of a European Norm (EN) or Technical Specification (TS);
- Technical and messaging related understanding of establishing and the use of unique identification of postal / express operators via a system of party identifiers from a semantic point of view, taking into account the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM , from a multi modal transport and freight perspective
- Ensuring compliance with the UPU standards (S31¹⁰ and S35¹¹)

Taking into account the necessary expertise, experts either directly from designated postal service operators or express operators, or experts with a proven track record understanding the legislation, regulation and related data models would be the preferred subcontractors.

2. Project 2: Digitalisation of postal transport documents

I Introduction

I.1 General

Mandated work item “*Digitalisation of postal transport documents*” shall define the end-to-end harmonised data for delivering goods and merchandise in retail, starting from the collection from the sender or supplier, the hand over to the first logistic operator, the engagement of freight and transport operators, competent authorities conducting the legal and regulatory oversight, customs and import duty related management, transport safety and product security, and the final delivery from the hub of the last mile delivery operator to the collection point of the end recipient.

⁷ Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes (COM(2022) 704 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0704>

⁸ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Customs reform: Taking the Customs Union to the next level (COM(2023) 257 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0257>

⁹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

¹⁰ UPU Data definition and encoding standard S31 “UPU Issuing Agency – Assignment of issuer codes” - Several UPU standards make use of the concept of an identifier for individual postal operators/users of the standard concerned. These and any similar future standards should utilise a common identification system for these organisations. This document provides for assignment of issuer codes for use in association with the UPU issuing agency code.

¹¹ UPU Data definition and encoding standard S35 “UPU Issuing Agency – Assignment and use of party identifiers” - This document defines the allocation and use of identification codes which may be used to identify parties of interest to postal operators and other mail service contractors. The mechanism chosen supports a system of global identification for any type of party, including customers and suppliers.

In its work on this standardisation deliverable, CEN shall take into account conformity with Regulation (EU) 2020/1056, in particular the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets, as well as the Commission Delegated Act (EU) 2015/2446, in particular the EU Customs Data Model, compliant with the UPU-WCO Global Postal Model.

I.2 Context

Mandated work item “*Digitalisation of postal transport documents*” has been mandated by the Commission Implementing Decision on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service in support of Directive 97/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council (M590 C(2023)223 Postal-services). This standardisation work is listed in Table 1, point 3, of Annex I.

There is a need to involve experts in the development and execution of the mandated standardisation work in WG2 of CEN/TC331 Postal Services.

II Objectives

The exchange of electronic data in advance on postal, courier, express and parcel consignment item level is specified by different legal and regulatory authorities, resulting in different data models and data element definitions, effecting the end-to-end supply chain interoperability.

Within the network of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) the UPU Global Postal Model became mandatory 1 Jan 2021 for postal items (i.e. ecommerce; goods and merchandize contained in letter, EMS or parcel post items) exchanged within the UPU network.

Within the EU, the EU VAT ecommerce package made it mandatory for all B2C supplies imported by postal or express operators to pre-lodge electronic data prior to entry into the EU.

The EU Import Control System 2 (ICS2) requires to pre-lodge and assess electronic data in advance for transport security purposes when using air freight into the EU since 2023 and will extend such requirements onto all transport modes by 2024.

The EU electronic freight and transport information (eFTI) system requires EU member state competent authorities to provide electronic means for pre-lodging freight and transport documentation required for all transport modes, fully applicable by 2026 according to the eFTI Reg (EU)2020/1056.

The EU wider postal market and its wider postal sector players requires the harmonisation of data end-to-end, necessary to send goods or merchandise. What has been specified for the EU import scheme for B2C supplies, as well as for transport security and product safety when importing into the EU, is proposed by the European commission to be extended to intra-community or domestic supplies at the decision of the EU member states.

Such harmonisation may be achieved through mapping the mandatory data elements, achieving a common interoperability schema and the creation of common denominators for the end-to-end delivery supply chain in retail.

The detailed objectives include to:

Define the end-to-end harmonised data for delivering goods and merchandize in retail, starting from the collection from the sender or supplier, the hand over to the first logistic operator, the engagement of freight and transport operators, competent authorities conducting the legal and regulatory oversight, customs and import duty related management, transport safety and product security, and the final delivery from the hub of the last mile delivery operator to the collection point of the end recipient.

In its work on this standardisation deliverable, CEN shall take into account conformity with Regulation (EU) 2020/1056, in particular the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets¹², as well as the

¹² COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by establishing the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets (National Legal Provision Part 1/2); COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) /... of XXX on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by establishing the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets (National Legal Provision Part 2/2); ANNEX to the Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by amending its Annex I Part B (The relevant

Commission Delegated Act (EU) 2015/2446, in particular the EU Customs Data Model, compliant with the UPU-WCO Global Postal Model.

III Execution

III.1 General tasks of the ‘Digitalisation of postal transport documents’

In total 2 subcontractors shall be employed:

Subcontractor 1:

- Development of an European Norm (EN) or Technical Specification (TS);
- alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal¹³; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package¹⁴);
- as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056);
- the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM¹⁵;
- from a UPU / designated postal service, as well as from an express operator’s perspective.

Taking into account the necessary expertise, experts either directly from designated postal service operators or express operators, or experts with a proven track record understanding the legislation, regulation and related data models would be the preferred subcontractors.

Subcontractor 2:

- Development of an European Norm (EN) or Technical Specification (TS);
- alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal ; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package);
- as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056);
- the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM, from a multi modal transport and freight perspective

Taking into account the necessary expertise, an in depth understanding of the semantic data definitions, familiarity with the with the EU Customs Data Model, and the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets would be the preferred for these subcontractors.

3. Project 3: Digitization of postal information

I Introduction

I.1 General

Mandated work item “*Digitization of postal information*” shall identify and review existing European standards that deal with digitization of postal information on item level resulting from digitalisation of the end-to-end postal delivery chain.

Harmonise and standardize electronic data on postal consignments in advance from the data source (supplier, sender), via the first logistic operator (unique identification of the consignment), the hand over

provisions of national law requiring the provision of information identical, in whole or in part, to the information specified in points (a) and (b) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/1056; as well as the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13663-Electronic-freight-transport-information-eFTI-national-provisions-in-scope-eFTI-common-data-set-data-subsets_en

¹³ Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes (COM(2022) 704 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0704>

¹⁴ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Customs reform: Taking the Customs Union to the next level (COM(2023) 257 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0257>

¹⁵ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

to freight and transport information platforms, the preparation and possible consolidation for last mile delivery (according to the preferences of end-recipients, including unattended delivery), as well as necessary event related data exchanges with competent authorities along the delivery chain.

The delivery chain event-based data shall be related to WI 00331129. The data element exchange in advance shall follow the EU customs data model (Commission Delegated Act (EU) 2015/2446) and the common transport data model (eFTI Reg. (EU) 2020/1056).

I.2 Context

Mandated work item “*Digitization of postal information*” has been mandated by the Commission Implementing Decision on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service in support of Directive 97/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council (M590 C(2023)223 Postal-services). This standardisation work is listed in Table 2, point 5, of Annex I.

There is a need to involve experts in the development and execution of the mandated standardisation work in WG2 of CEN/TC331 Postal Services.

II Objectives

Both, CEN/TR 17535 “Postal services — Requirements to connect, access, participate and further develop open global networks and systems, for postal operators and the wider postal sector players” and CEN/TR 17536 “Postal Services – Electronic advanced data (EAD) in postal operations compliant to security and customs requirements” had been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission (M548C(2016) 4876 final), supporting requirements of EU legislation, the “EU VAT Ecommerce Package”, as well as the Import Control System2.

While CEN/TR 17535 provided guidance on how to implement electronic advance data (EAD) for VAT, customs and the increased security requirements for commercial postal items, including economic operators, CEN/TR 17536 provides the semantic mapping description of information on the characteristics or attributes of Low Value Consignments (LVC) which parties in the digital commercial value chain across-borders are called upon to handle, compliant to the EU VAT Ecommerce Package as well as the UPU-WCO Global Postal Model.

The EU VAT Ecommerce Package has been a success. The EU is working to upgrade the European VAT legalisation (VAT in the digital age) in 2024.

The current proposal to COM(2023) 258 final. “Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013” (i.e. “EU Customs package”) will further harmonise data mandatory to pre-lodge electronic customs documentation for the delivery of B2C supplies (ecommerce), by abolishing the current threshold of EUR 150 for customs purposes to 0 EUR, introducing a trusted trader schema as well as applying the deemed supplies / trusted vendor model of the VAT ecommerce package to customs.

Both, the CEN/TR 17535 and the CEN/TR 17536 need to be revised and where necessary adjusted to the changes since the implementation of the EU VAT ecommerce package, July 1, 2021.

III Execution

III.1 General tasks of the ‘*Digitization of postal information*’

The work related to the development of a standard shall be funded. This will include the relevant workshops of experts, seminars to engage with experts along the postal / express, as well freight and transport related supply chain for in particular, but not limited, to B2C supplies and its supply chain stakeholder in Europe.

In total 2 subcontractors shall be employed:

Subcontractor 1 Task(s):

- Revision of CEN/TR 17535 & CEN/TR 17536 -> that is the upgrading of the data related mapping in alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT

ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal¹⁶; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package¹⁷;

- as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056), the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM¹⁸;
- from a UPU / designated postal service perspective.

Experts either from designated postal service operators, or with a proven record of understanding of the UPU Postal Data Model would be the necessary subcontractors.

- Revision of CEN/TR 17535 & CEN/TR 17536 -> alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal¹⁹; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package²⁰);
- as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056), the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM²¹;
- from a non-designated postal and express operator perspective.

Experts from express services, or semantic data definition specialists familiar with the EU Customs Data Model, and the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets²² would be the necessary subcontractors.

4. Project 4: Revision CEN/TS 15121-1 Secured electronic Postal Services (SePS) interface specification - Concepts, schemas and operations

I Introduction

I.1 General

Mandated work item “*Revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 Secured electronic Postal Services (SePS) interface specification - Concepts, schemas and operations*” shall review the existing European standardisation deliverables in the field of secure electronic postal services to adapt them, as appropriate, to Regulation (EU) 910/2014 (its revised version: eIDAS Reg 2.0²³), while taking into account the relevant standards developed, or being under development,

¹⁶ Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes (COM(2022) 704 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0704>

¹⁷ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Customs reform: Taking the Customs Union to the next level (COM(2023) 257 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0257>

¹⁸ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

¹⁹ Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes (COM(2022) 704 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0704>

²⁰ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Customs reform: Taking the Customs Union to the next level (COM(2023) 257 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0257>

²¹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

²² COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by establishing the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets (National Legal Provision Part 1/2); COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) /... of XXX on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by establishing the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets (National Legal Provision Part 2/2); ANNEX to the Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by amending its Annex I Part B (The relevant provisions of national law requiring the provision of information identical, in whole or in part, to the information specified in points (a) and (b) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/1056); as well as the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13663-Electronic-freight-transport-information-eFTI-national-provisions-in-scope-eFTI-common-data-set-data-subsets_en

²³ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 as regards establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0281>

according to the “Electronic identification and trust services” chapter of the Commission Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation of 2022.

CEN shall coordinate its work on these standardisation deliverables with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)²⁴, where possible.

I.2 Context

Mandated work item “*Revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 Secured electronic Postal Services (SePS) interface specification - Concepts, schemas and operations*” has been mandated by the Commission Implementing Decision on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service in support of Directive 97/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council (M590 C(2023)223 Postal-services) accepted by the CEN technical board February 7th 2023, includes in Annex I, table 2, point 1 – “CEN/TS 15121-1, Postal services. Hybrid mail – Secured electronic Postal Services (SePS) interface specification. Concepts, schemas and operations.”

There is a need to involve experts in the development and execution of the mandated standardisation work in WG2 of CEN/TC331 Postal Services.

II Objectives

CEN/TS 15121-1, is an interface specification, describing a standardized way for a postal operation or its system development teams to build a secured electronic postal services (SePS) capability which can be offered to the administration’s customers as part of an electronic service inventory. A SePS is a postal service which is accessed electronically through the use of an interface based on an appropriate subset of the operations (verbs) specified in this document.

CEN/TS 15121-1 has been the result of a conversion of the UPU Electronic exchange standard S43-a²⁵ “Secure electronic postal services (SEPS) interface specification Part A: Concepts, schemas and operations” into CEN format.

III Execution

III.1 General tasks of the ‘Advertised position’

The work related to the revision of the existing technical specification shall be funded. This will include the relevant workshops of experts, seminars to engage with experts along the postal / express, as well freight and transport related supply chain to secure the secure exchange of electronic documents via secured electronic postal service aligned to, or where necessary revised specifications of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), under the existing MoU between CEN and the UPU, as well as compliant to the eIDAS Reg 2.0, in particular, but not limited to, B2C supplies in Europe. The first part of the CEN/TS 15121 describes the Concepts, schemas and operations of such a secured electronic postal service.

The work to align secured electronic postal service (SePS) with the eIDAS Reg 2.0 for the specific postal / express delivery purpose will be done in close collaboration with ETSI, its STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation. The necessary MoU between ETSI²⁶ and CEN (level 4 collaboration) will be revised accordingly in the coming months.

²⁴ ETSI / STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation

²⁵ This document specifies a standard XML interface that will enable software applications to call a secured electronic postal service (SePS), provided by a postal operator. It also describes the functionality and edit rules of the actual technical specification artifacts, which are represented by an XML Schema (XSD) and an associated Web Services Definition Language (WSDL) specification

²⁶ European Telecommunications Standards Institute, referred to as ETSI

In total 2 subcontractors shall be employed:

Subcontractor 1 Task(s):

- Lead in the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1;
- alignment with the eIDAS Reg 2.0.;
- Updating technical and messaging related specifications.
- Ensuring the legal and regulatory alignment to ETSI specifications. Alignment and revision of CEN/TS 15121-1.
- Development, or when necessary the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 / UPU S43-a to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments.
- Ensuring the alignment with postal and express delivery related specifications.
- Alignment and revision of UPU S43-a.
- Development, or when necessary the revision of UPU S43-a / CEN/TS 15121-1 to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments.

The work needs to be fully aligned to the UPU POC C1 Standardisation Board and their effort in upgrading their UPU S43-a standard.

Currently the work between the UPU and CEN is based on a MoU. Under this MoU the lead of the work on the work related to CEN/TS 15121-1 and its UPU Electronic exchange standard S43-a²⁷ “Secure electronic postal services (SEPS) interface specification Part A: Concepts, schemas and operations” is under UPU lead.

CEN/TC331 has informed the UPU, its POC C1 Standards Board at the last UPU-CEN Coordination Committee Meeting earlier this year that CEN/TC331 has agreed to revise its CEN/TS 15121-1.

A proposal to shift the lead from the UPU POC C1 Standards Board to CEN/TC 331 WG2 will be initiated. However, a close collaboration between the POC C1 Standards Board and CEN/TC331 WG2 will be established.

The initial setup of the project and project team shall happen in 3rd / 4th quarter 2024. By then the necessary legal and regulatory framework of the European eIDAS Reg 2.0 related to European Seal services (such as EPCM in the postal environment) and Concepts, schemas and operations will be stable and endorsed by EU MS. Work shall commence in mid / late 2024, so that a first working draft standards shall be ready by 1st / 2nd quarter 2026 for adoption by the administrative process of CEN/TC331.

5. Project 5: Revision CEN/TS 15121-2 Postal services - Hybrid mail - Part 2: Secured electronic postal services (SePS) interface specification - ECPM Service

I Introduction

I.1 General

Mandated work item “*Revision of CEN/TS 15121-2 Postal services - Hybrid mail - Part 2: Secured electronic postal services (SePS) interface specification - ECPM Service*” shall review the existing European standardisation deliverables in the field of secure electronic postal services to adapt them, as appropriate, to Regulation (EU) 910/2014 (as amended by eIDAS Reg 2.0), while taking into account the relevant standards developed, or being under development, according to the “Electronic identification and trust services” chapter of the

²⁷ This document specifies a standard XML interface that will enable software applications to call a secured electronic postal service (SePS), provided by a postal operator. It also describes the functionality and edit rules of the actual technical specification artifacts, which are represented by an XML Schema (XSD) and an associated Web Services Definition Language (WSDL) specification

Commission Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation of 2022. CEN shall coordinate its work on these standardisation deliverables with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, where possible.

CEN shall coordinate its work on these standardisation deliverables with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) , where possible.

I.2 Context

Mandated work item “*Revision of CEN/TS 15121-2 Postal services - Hybrid mail - Part 2: Secured electronic postal services (SePS) interface specification - ECPM Service*” has been mandated by the COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 18.1.2023 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service in support of Directive 97/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council; M590 (2023)223 final; accepted by the CEN technical board February 7th 2023, includes in Annex I, table 2, point 2 – “CEN/TS 15121-1, Postal services. Hybrid mail – Secured electronic postal services (SePS) interface specification. Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM) service.”

There is a need to involve experts in the development and execution of the mandated standardisation work in WG2 of CEN/TC331 Postal Services.

II Objectives

Specifying an Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM, or postal digital seal) service which conforms with the definition in Article 38-004 of the UPU Regulations to the Convention - Final Protocol, as well as provisions of the eIDAS Reg (EU) 910/2014. It is based on a subset of the verbs or operations defined in CEN/TS 15121-1 to which the reader is referred.

An EPCM is essentially a digital signature verification and timestamping authority which verifies, and logs as evidence, the content integrity of electronic information. The collection of technical services in an EPCM service can cryptographically verify and store electronic evidence in support of the resolution of potential disputes which challenge the authenticity of events within a cycle of one or more automated transactions involving a postal customer. An EPCM service constructed to this specification can support the capture and reproduction of evidence data attesting to the fact that a target business transaction was conducted and completed in an environment of integrity and trustworthiness.

III Execution

III.1 General tasks of the 'Advertised position'

The COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 18.1.2023 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service has requested CEN/TS 15121-2 to be revised within the given deadlines for the adoption of a revised TS.

The work related to the revision of the existing technical specification shall be funded. This will include the relevant workshops of experts, seminars to engage with experts along the postal / express, as well freight and transport related supply chain to secure the secure exchange of electronic documents via secured electronic postal service aligned to, or where necessary revised specifications of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), under the existing MoU between CEN and the UPU, as well as compliant to the eIDAS Reg 2.0, in particular, but not limited to, B2C supplies in Europe. The second part of the CEN/TS 15121 describes the Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM) service, fully aligned to the first part of the CEN/TS 15121 of secured electronic postal services and its concepts schemas and operations.

The work to align Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM) service with the eIDAS Reg 2.0 for the specific postal / express delivery purpose will be done in close collaboration with ETSI, its STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation. The necessary MoU between ETSI and CEN (level 4 collaboration) will be revised accordingly in the coming months.

In total 2 subcontractors shall be employed:

Subcontractor 1 & 2 Task(s):

- Lead in the revision of CEN/TS 15121-2;
- alignment with the eIDAS Reg 2.0.;
- Updating technical and messaging related specifications.
- Ensuring the legal and regulatory alignment to ETSI specifications. Alignment and revision of CEN/TS 15121-2.
- Development, or when necessary the revision of CEN/TS 15121-2 / UPU S43-b²⁸ to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments, in accordance with data security and privacy.
- A close alignment between the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 and CEN/TS 15121-2 has to be established due to the Concepts, schemas and operations necessary for EPCM service.
- Ensuring the alignment with postal and express delivery related specifications.
- Alignment and revision of UPU S43-b.
- Development, or when necessary, the revision of UPU S43-b / CEN/TS 15121-2 to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments, in accordance with data security and privacy.
- A close alignment between the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 and CEN/TS 15121-2 has to be established due to the Concepts, schemas and operations necessary for EPCM service.

III.2 Timeframe

The vote to initiate the creation of a new work item proposal has been sent to the national standardisation authorities, Dec 8th, 2023 . The final vote happened by Feb 28, 2024.

²⁸ UPU Electronic exchange standard: UPU S43-b: Secure electronic postal services (SEPS) interface specification - Part B: EPCM Service: This document specifies a secured electronic postal service, referred to as the Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM) service, which provides a chain of evidence, stored by an operator as a trusted third party, to prove the existence of an electronic event, for a certain content, at a certain date and time, and involving one or more identified parties.

A call for the nomination of national experts, to be appointed by the national standardisation authorities and their mirror committees to CEN/TC331 will be initiated accordingly.

The work on the adoption and implementation of the eIDAS Reg 2.0 will commence in 2024 until 2026 as well. ETSI, its STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation is directly involved in the necessary revision and where necessary the development of messaging related standardisation.

Currently the work between the UPU and CEN is based on a MoU. Under this MoU the lead of the work on the work related to CEN/TS 15121-2 and its UPU Electronic exchange standard S43-b "Secure electronic postal services (SEPS) interface specification Part B: EPCM service" is under UPU lead.

CEN/TC331 has informed the UPU, its POC C1 Standards Board at the last UPU-CEN Coordination Committee Meeting earlier this year that CEN/TC331 has agreed to revise its CEN/TS 15121-2.

A proposal to shift the lead from the UPU POC C1 Standards Board to CEN/TC 331 WG2 will be initiated. However, a close collaboration between the POC C1 Standards Board and CEN/TC331 WG2 will be established.

The work on the revision of the CEN/TS 15121-2 is closely related to the work on the revision of the CEN/TS 15121-1. The project and project team has to stay aligned with the project and project team revising CEN/TS 15121-1 and the liaison established with ETSI.

The initial setup of the project and project team shall happen in 3rd / 4th quarter 2024. By then the necessary legal and regulatory framework of the European eIDAS Reg 2.0 related to European Seal services (such as EPCM in the postal environment) and Concepts, schemas and operations will be stable and endorsed by EU MS. Work shall commence in mid / late 2024, so that a first working draft standards shall be ready by 1st / 2nd quarter 2026 for adoption by the administrative process of CEN/TC331.

6. Project 6: Revision of CEN/TS 16326 Functional Specification for postal registered electronic mail. (PReM)

I Introduction

I.1 General

Mandated work item "*Revision of CEN/TS 16326 Functional Specification for postal registered electronic mail. (PReM)*" shall review the existing European standardisation deliverables in the field of secure electronic postal services to adapt them, as appropriate, to Regulation (EU) 910/2014 (its revised version: eIDAS Reg 2.0), while taking into account the relevant standards developed, or being under development, according to the "Electronic identification and trust services" chapter of the Commission Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation of 2023.

CEN shall coordinate its work on these standardisation deliverables with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute(ETSI)²⁹, where possible.

I.2 Context

Mandated work item "*Revision of CEN/TS 16326 Functional Specification for postal registered electronic mail. (PReM)*" has been mandated by the COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 18.1.2023 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service in support

²⁹ ETSI / STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation

of Directive 97/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council; M590 (2023)223 final; accepted by the CEN technical board February 7th 2023, includes in Annex I, table 2, point 3 – “CEN/TS 16326 Postal Services - Hybrid Mail – Functional Specification for postal registered electronic mail.”

There is a need to involve experts in the development and execution of the mandated standardisation work in WG2 of CEN/TC331 Postal Services.

II Objectives

CEN/TS 16326 constitutes the functional specification of a secure electronic postal service, referred to as the Postal Registered electronic Mail or PReM service.

PReM provides a trusted and certified electronic mail exchange between mailer, postal operators and addressee / mailee. In addition, evidence of corresponding events and operations within the scope of PReM will be generated and archived for future attestation.

The PReM service is defined by reference to the concepts, schemas and operations defined in CEN/TS 15121-1 Postal Services.

Hybrid Mail – Secure electronic Postal Services (SePS) interface specification – Part 1: Concepts, schemas and operations. It utilises six SePS operational verbs (CheckIntegrity, LogEvent, Postmark, RetrieveResults, Sign and Verify) and the five additional server-side operational verbs (SendMessageToDestination, Subscribe Notification, UnsubscribeNotification, RejectMessage and ReceiveNotification) to fulfil the operational requirements of a PReM System.

Return of Investment (ROI), market potential, revenues model, business plan and pricing policy are outside the scope of this functional specification. Postal operators are advised to make the necessary marketing study and research prior to considering leasing, procuring or developing such a PReM system in accordance with this functional specification.

III Execution

III.1 General tasks of the ‘Advertised position’

The COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 18.1.2023 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service has requested CEN/TS 16326 to be revised within the given deadlines for the adoption of a revised TS.

The work related to the revision of the existing technical specification shall be funded. This will include the relevant workshops of experts, seminars to engage with experts along the postal / express, as well freight and transport related supply chain to secure the secure exchange of electronic documents via Postal registered Email (PrEM) service aligned to, or where necessary revised specifications of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), under the existing MoU between CEN and the UPU, as well as compliant to the eIDAS Reg 2.0, in particular, but not limited to, B2C supplies in Europe.

The work to align “registered Email (REM)” services with the eIDAS Reg 2.0 for the specific postal / express delivery purpose will be done in close collaboration with ETSI, its STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation. The necessary MoU between ETSI and CEN (level 4 collaboration) will be revised accordingly in the coming months.

In total 2 subcontractors shall be employed:

Subcontractor 1 & 2 Task(s):

- Lead in the revision Revision of CEN/TS 16326;

- alignment with the eIDAS Reg 2.0.
- Updating technical and messaging related specifications.
- Ensuring the legal and regulatory alignment to ETSI specifications and alignment and revision of CEN/TS 16326.
- Development, or when necessary, the revision of CEN/TS 16326 / UPU 52 to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments.
- A close alignment between the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 and CEN/TS 16326 has to be established due to the Concepts, schemas and operations necessary for EPCM service.
- Ensuring the alignment with postal and express delivery related specifications.
- Alignment and revision of UPU S52.
- Development, or when necessary, the revision of UPU S52 / CEN/TS 16326 to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services to exchange EAD related edocuments in accordance with data security and privacy.
- The work needs to be fully aligned to the UPU POC C1 Standardisation Board and their effort in upgrading their UPU S43-a standard.

III.2 Timeframe

Deadline for the adoption by CEN is 19 January 2027.

The vote to initiate the creation of a new work item proposal has been sent to the national standardisation authorities, Dec 8th, 2023 . The final vote happened by Feb 28, 2024.

A call for the nomination of national experts, to be appointed by the national standardisation authorities and their mirror committees to CEN/TC331 will be initiated accordingly.

The work on the adoption and implementation of the eIDAS Reg 2.0 will commence in 2024 until 2026 as well. ETSI, its STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation is directly involved in the necessary revision and where necessary the development of messaging related standardisation.

Currently the work between the UPU and CEN is based on a MoU. Under this MoU the lead of the work on the work related to CEN/TS 16326 and its UPU Electronic exchange standard S52 "Functional specification for postal registered electronic mail" is under CEN/TC331 WG2 lead. CEN/TC331 has informed the UPU, its POC C1 Standards Board at the last UPU-CEN Coordination Committee Meeting earlier this year that CEN/TC331 has agreed to revise its CEN/TS 16326.

However, a close collaboration between the POC C1 Standards Board and CEN/TC331 WG2 will be established.

The work on the revision of the CEN/TS 16326 is closely related to the work on the revision of the CEN/TS 15121-1. The project and project team has to stay aligned with the project and project team revising CEN/TS 15121-1 and the liaison established with ETSI.

The initial setup of the project and project team shall happen in 3rd / 4th quarter 2024. By then the necessary legal and regulatory framework of the European eIDAS Reg 2.0 related to European Seal services (such as EPCM in the postal environment) and Concepts, schemas and operations will be stable and endorsed by EU MS. Work shall commence in mid / late 2024, so that a first working draft standards shall be ready by 1st / 2nd quarter 2026 for adoption by the administrative process of CEN/TC331.

Annex A

1. Project 1: Digitalisation of postal operators

Expert profiles

Objectives

The exchange of electronic data in advance on postal, courier, express and parcel consignment item level is specified by different legal and regulatory authorities, resulting in different data models and data element definitions, effecting the end-to-end supply chain interoperability.

Within the network of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) the UPU Global Postal Model became mandatory 1 Jan 2021 for postal items (i.e. ecommerce; goods and merchandize contained in letter, EMS or parcel post items) exchanged within the UPU network.

Within the EU, the EU VAT ecommerce package made it mandatory for all B2C supplies imported by postal or express operators to pre-lodge electronic data prior to entry into the EU.

The EU Import Control System 2 (ICS2) requires to pre-lodge and assess electronic data in advance for transport security purposes when using air freight into the EU since 2023 and will extend such requirements onto all transport modes by 2024.

The EU electronic freight and transport information (eFTI) system requires EU member state competent authorities to provide electronic means for pre-lodging freight and transport documentation required for all transport modes, fully applicable by 2026 according the eFTI Reg (EU)2020/1056.

The EU wider postal market and its wider postal sector players requires the harmonisation of data end-to-end, necessary to send goods or merchandise. What has been specified for the EU import scheme for B2C supplies, as well as for transport security and product safety when importing into the EU, is proposed by the European commission to be extended to intra-community or domestic supplies at the decision of the EU member states³⁰.

Such harmonisation may be achieved through mapping the mandatory data elements, achieving a common interoperability schema and the creation of common denominators for the end-to-end delivery supply chain in retail.

NOTE: while the eFTI Reg. 2020/1056 establishes the legal and regulatory framework for the harmonisation of freight and transport mode related electronic data exchanges between economic operators and EU member state competent authorities, postal and express consignment data has not been considered in the regulation. Electronic data on postal and express individual consignment level needs to be specified for the consolidation of such individual consignments for freight and transport purposes.

Scope

Define the end-to-end harmonised data for delivering goods and merchandize in retail, starting from the collection from the sender or supplier, the hand over to the first logistic operator, the engagement of freight and transport operators, competent authorities conducting the legal and regulatory oversight, customs and import duty related management, transport safety and product security, and the final delivery from the hub of the last mile delivery operator to the collection point of the end recipient.

In its work on this standardisation deliverable, CEN shall take into account conformity with Regulation (EU) 2020/1056, in particular the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets³¹, as well as the

³⁰ Proposal for a COUNCIL DIRECTIVE amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards VAT rules for the digital age, COM/2022/701 final; Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) No 904/2010 as regards the VAT administrative cooperation arrangements needed for the digital age COM/2022/703 final; Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes, COM/2022/704 final.

³¹ COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by establishing the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets (National Legal Provision Part 1/2); COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) /... of XXX on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by establishing the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets (National Legal Provision Part 2/2); ANNEX to the Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by amending its Annex I Part B

Commission Delegated Act (EU) 2015/2446, in particular the EU Customs Data Model, compliant with the UPU-WCO Global Postal Model.

Activities of the experts

In total 2 subcontractors shall be employed:

Subcontractor 1 Task(s):

- Development of an European Norm (EN) or Technical Specification (TS);
- alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal³²; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package³³);
- as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056);
- the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM³⁴;
- from a UPU / designated postal service, as well as from an express operator's perspective.

Taking into account the necessary expertise, experts either directly from designated postal service operators or express operators, or experts with a proven track record understanding the legislation, regulation and related data models would be the preferred subcontractors.

Subcontractor 2 Task(s):

- Development of an European Norm (EN) or Technical Specification (TS);
- alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal ; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package);
- as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056);
- the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM, from a multi modal transport and freight perspective

Taking into account the necessary expertise, an in depth understanding of the semantic data definitions, familiarity with the with the EU Customs Data Model, and the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets would be the preferred for these subcontractors.

Impact of the project

Impact of the project

The end-to-end harmonisation of electronic data in advance:

- starts at the Point of Sale when digital retail processes have been initiated by the supplier or sender;
- includes information on the product and production, safety related features, packaging;
- takes into account transport security and possible restrictions due to specific transport modes (air freight);
- supports the management of customs and import duties, including the applicable VAT and risk management assessment;

(The relevant provisions of national law requiring the provision of information identical, in whole or in part, to the information specified in points (a) and (b) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/1056); as well as the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13663-Electronic-freight-transport-information-eFTI-national-provisions-in-scope-eFTI-common-data-set-data-subsets_en

³² Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes (COM(2022) 704 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0704>

³³ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Customs reform: Taking the Customs Union to the next level (COM(2023) 257 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0257>

³⁴ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

- supports the smart management of supply chains (to consolidate and optimization of delivery supply chains, including methods supporting unattended delivery to end-consumers);
- supports the provision of specific data necessary to measure, report and allocate CO2 and greenhouse emissions (or related information) on individual item level, as well as
- supports packaging related information to support the circular economy, and resources management of re-usable material or packaging.

The Standardisation aims at harmonizing end-to-end electronic data exchanges in advance, mapping between the different legal and regulatory frameworks of the supply chain, starting at the inventory data management of warehouses, the fulfilment and hand-over to postal /express delivery services, the consolidation for freight and transport, and the last mile delivery of B2C supplies to end-recipients.

Expert profile:

The applicants shall comply with the following requirements:

- Academic work and think level
- Proven operational and IT experience in postal / express operations for at least 3-4 years
- Proven operational and IT experience in freight and transport data handling (manifests, transport security, etc.)
- Proven understanding of data elements used for electronic advanced data for pre-lodging customs, transport security or product safety documents
- In depth understanding of the semantic data definitions of the EU Customs Data Model, as well as the Common Data Model for electronic freight and transport information systems
- Proficient in English – writing and speaking
- International experience
- The technical and social communications skills to operate in an international working group
- Some experience in writing norms is a big plus

2. Project 2: Digitalisation of postal transport documents

Expert profiles

Objectives

The dual green and digital transition is encouraging B2C supply networks (ecommerce) to extend both upstream (into data even before a sale has been conducted) and downstream (beyond the delivery of items to consumers). In the postal industry, data must be exchanged in advance at item level for all items containing goods. Consequently, all the parties involved must be clearly and unambiguously identified. This is best achieved with a harmonised system of identification codes, linked to a database, containing party details, and which can be accessed by all authorised users.

While the Universal Postal Union (UPU) has established in implemented UPU Postal Party Identifiers, providing names and numbers for the UPU designated postal operators and its supply chain partners, CEN shall develop a similar, even aligned with the UPU a unique digital identification of postal, courier, express and parcel operators, as well as entities interacting within the supply chain, to:

- identify all parties involved in mail processing;
- identify equipment suppliers and customers;
- allow mail service contractors to assign their own identifiers for the above parties;
- allow for aliases, whilst minimising the number of situations in which a single party is allocated multiple identifiers;
- be compatible with open standards, ensuring identifiers are globally unique;
- have a hierarchical structure, such that, an identification code is defined can be established from the context, only that part of the identifier which is unique within the domain needs to be given;

- support the continued use of party identifiers, such as carrier codes (i.e. IATA; OTIF, et al);
- support the use of a party's party identifier(s) as a component of identifiers for other entities;
- allow the role played by an identified party to be specified, either as part of the same data construct, or in a separate one.

Scope

Define a technical and messaging specification to uniquely digitally identify postal (including Courier-, Express- and Parcel-) operators and stakeholders along the postal supply chain provide services and interoperability, including to competent authorities in transport safety, product security and matters related to sustainability.

In its work on this standardization deliverable, CEN shall take into account conformity with Regulation (EU) 2020/1056³⁵ of the European Parliament and of the Council, as appropriate, and coordinate with the Universal Postal Union³⁶, where possible.

Activities of the experts

- Lead in the development of a European Norm (EN) or Technical Specification (TS);
- Technical and messaging related understanding of establishing and the use of unique identifiers of postal / express operators via a system of party identifiers;
- alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal³⁷; the Import Control System2 Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package³⁸), as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056);
- understanding of the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM³⁹, from a UPU / designated postal service, as well as from an express operator's perspective.
- Development of a European Norm (EN) or Technical Specification (TS);
- Technical and messaging related understanding of establishing and the use of unique identification of postal / express operators via a system of party identifiers from a semantic point of view, taking into account the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM, from a multi modal transport and freight perspective
- Ensuring compliance with the UPU standards (S31⁴⁰ and S35⁴¹)

Taking into account the necessary expertise, experts either directly from designated postal service operators or express operators, or experts with a proven track record understanding the legislation, regulation and related data models would be the preferred subcontractors.

³⁵ REGULATION (EU) 2020/1056 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 15 July 2020 on electronic freight transport information; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R1056>

³⁶ UPU Data definition and encoding standard S35 "UPU Issuing Agency – Assignment and use of party identifiers". This document defines the allocation and use of identification codes which may be used to identify parties of interest to postal operators and other mail service contractors. The mechanism chosen supports a system of global identification for any type of party, including customers and suppliers.

³⁷ Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes (COM(2022) 704 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0704>

³⁸ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Customs reform: Taking the Customs Union to the next level (COM(2023) 257 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0257>

³⁹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

⁴⁰ UPU Data definition and encoding standard S31 "UPU Issuing Agency – Assignment of issuer codes" - Several UPU standards make use of the concept of an identifier for individual postal operators/users of the standard concerned. These and any similar future standards should utilise a common identification system for these organisations. This document provides for assignment of issuer codes for use in association with the UPU issuing agency code.

⁴¹ UPU Data definition and encoding standard S35 "UPU Issuing Agency – Assignment and use of party identifiers" - This document defines the allocation and use of identification codes which may be used to identify

Impact of the project

The harmonisation of electronic data exchanged along the supply chain for delivery of goods and merchandise, including the unique identification of all parties involved – mainly in the area of B2C supplies (ecommerce) – will support SMEs, merchants, manufactures, fulfilment providers, logistic operators, delivery operators, competent authorities in the fields of customs, VAT, transport security and product safety, as well as helping to achieve the goals of the green deal by adding transparency.

Party Identifiers to be technically specified by this project will be essential for the issuing of unique transport IDs on postal / express consignments. Unique transport ID (barcodes) are necessary to enable competent authorities and other entities entitled to access data linked to the consignments identifiable for supply chain related interactions.

The work on the next steps of the Import Control System 2⁴² (Release 2 & 3), as well as the VAT package (VAT in the digital age⁴³) and the EU customs package⁴⁴ will commence in 2024 until 2028 as well.

Alignment with the Universal Postal Union (its work on the UPU / WCO Postal Data Model⁴⁵) as well UN/CEFACT and the MMT RDM⁴⁶.

Given that the activation of the new work item, the request for nomination of national standardisation mirror authorities experts to CEN/TC331, and initial starting of the project can happen in the second quarter of 2024, the funding for experts ought to be in place in third or fourth quarter 2024.

The initial setup of the project and team shall happen in 3rd / 4th quarter 2024. By then the necessary legal and regulatory framework in EAD end-to-end for the delivery of B2C supplies in Europe will be stable and endorsed by EU MS. Work shall commence in 2025, so that a first working draft standards shall be ready by 2nd / 3rd quarter 2026 for adoption by the administrative process of CEN/TC331.

3. Project 3: Digitization of postal information

Expert profiles

Background

The WI “*Digitization of postal information*” has been mandated by the Commission Implementing Decision on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service in support of Directive 97/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council (M590 C(2023)223 Postal-services). This standardisation work is listed in Table 2, point 5, of Annex I.

There is a need to involve experts in the development and execution of the mandated standardisation work in WG2 of CEN/TC331 Postal Services.

Objectives

Both, CEN/TR 17535 “Postal services — Requirements to connect, access, participate and further develop open global networks and systems, for postal operators and the wider postal sector players” and CEN/TR 17536 “Postal Services – Electronic advanced data (EAD) in postal operations compliant to security and customs requirements” had been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the

parties of interest to postal operators and other mail service contractors. The mechanism chosen supports a system of global identification for any type of party, including customers and suppliers.

⁴² https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/customs-security/import-control-system-2-ics2-0_en

⁴³ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/taxation-1/value-added-tax-vat/vat-digital-age_en

⁴⁴ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/de7ab6d8-ac8c-4830-9689-35720fea2b77_en

⁴⁵ https://www.upu.int/getmedia/9b55b5eb-96ca-456a-9d2d-064c65df815c/upuGlobalPostalModel_EN.docx

⁴⁶ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

European Commission (M548C(2016) 4876 final), supporting requirements of EU legislation, the “EU VAT Ecommerce Package”, as well as the Import Control System².

While CEN/TR 17535 provided guidance on how to implement electronic advance data (EAD) for VAT, customs and the increased security requirements for commercial postal items, including economic operators, CEN/TR 17536 provides the semantic mapping description of information on the characteristics or attributes of Low Value Consignments (LVC) which parties in the digital commercial value chain across-borders are called upon to handle, compliant to the EU VAT Ecommerce Package as well as the UPU-WCO Global Postal Model.

The EU VAT Ecommerce Package has been a success. The EU is working to upgrade the European VAT legalisation (VAT in the digital age) in 2024.

The current proposal to COM(2023) 258 final. “Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013” (i.e. “EU Customs package”) will further harmonise data mandatory to pre-lodge electronic customs documentation for the delivery of B2C supplies (ecommerce), by abolishing the current threshold of EUR 150 for customs purposes to 0 EUR, introducing a trusted trader schema as well as applying the deemed supplies / trusted vendor model of the VAT ecommerce package to customs.

Both, the CEN/TR 17535 and the CEN/TR 17536 need to be revised and where necessary adjusted to the changes since the implementation of the EU VAT ecommerce package, July 1, 2021.

Scope

CEN shall identify and review existing European standards that deal with digitization of postal information on item level resulting from digitalisation of the end-to-end postal delivery chain.

Harmonise and standardize electronic data on postal consignments in advance from the data source (supplier, sender), via the first logistic operator (unique identification of the consignment), the hand over to freight and transport information platforms, the preparation and possible consolidation for last mile delivery (according to the preferences of end-recipients, including unattended delivery), as well as necessary event related data exchanges with competent authorities along the delivery chain.

The delivery chain event-based data shall be related to WI 00331129. The data element exchange in advance shall follow the EU customs data model (Commission Delegated Act (EU) 2015/2446) and the common transport data model (eFTI Reg. (EU) 2020/1056).

Activities of the experts

The work related to the development of a standard shall be funded. This will include the relevant workshops of experts, seminars to engage with experts along the postal / express, as well freight and transport related supply chain for in particular, but not limited, to B2C supplies and its supply chain stakeholder in Europe.

- Revision of CEN/TR 17535 & CEN/TR 17536 -> that is the upgrading of the data related mapping in alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal⁴⁷; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package⁴⁸);
- as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056), the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM⁴⁹;
- from a UPU / designated postal service perspective.

Experts either from designated postal service operators, or with a proven record of understanding of the UPU Postal Data Model would be the necessary subcontractors.

Subcontractor 3 & 4 Task(s):

- Revision of CEN/TR 17535 & CEN/TR 17536 -> alignment with the recent changes and amendments in the EU legislation (that is: the VAT ecommerce package; the upcoming adoption of the VAT in the digital age proposal⁵⁰; the Import Control System² Release 2 & 3; the Customs Package⁵¹);
- as well the recent developments in the development of a common data set for the harmonised digital data exchanges for all transport modes in the EU (eFTI Reg 2020/1056), the UPU-WCO postal Data Model and the UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM⁵²;
- from a non-designated postal and express operator perspective.

Experts from express services, or semantic data definition specialists familiar with the EU Customs Data Model, and the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets⁵³ would be the necessary subcontractors.

Impact of the project

The revision of CEN/TR 17535 and CEN/TR 17536 aims at the current and future infrastructure to satisfy the changing needs of citizens in the EU, granting access to wider postal stakeholders,

⁴⁷ Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes (COM(2022) 704 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0704>

⁴⁸ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Customs reform: Taking the Customs Union to the next level (COM(2023) 257 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0257>

⁴⁹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

⁵⁰ Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes (COM(2022) 704 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022PC0704>

⁵¹ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE Customs reform: Taking the Customs Union to the next level (COM(2023) 257 final); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0257>

⁵² https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/T%2BL3_MMT-RDM%20role%20in%20transport%20data%20exchange.pdf

⁵³ COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by establishing the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets (National Legal Provision Part 1/2); COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) /... of XXX on supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by establishing the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets (National Legal Provision Part 2/2); ANNEX to the Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 by amending its Annex I Part B (The relevant provisions of national law requiring the provision of information identical, in whole or in part, to the information specified in points (a) and (b) of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/1056); as well as the eFTI common data set and eFTI data subsets: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13663-Electronic-freight-transport-information-eFTI-national-provisions-in-scope-eFTI-common-data-set-data-subsets_en

including customers, postal suppliers, supply chain service providers, (i.e. customs, fiscal authorities collecting VAT and related duties, transport providers like airlines, road, rail road and other transport mode operators, non-profit organisations supporting supply chain traceability, etc.) non-designated economic postal operators (Courier-, Express-, and Parcel delivery operators) that use, or may wish to use products, services and solutions currently restricted to designated operators.

By revising CEN/TR 17535 and CEN/TR 17536 CEN support the provision of a Single Digital Market in Europe, in particular by:

- maintaining the integrity and independence of the European and worldwide delivery network;
- no unfair advantage to any group or individual player, and thereby providing a level playing field;
- clear delineation of the responsibilities and roles of all entities involved;
- transparent management, control and integration of the postal supply chain as legally described in EU legislation (EU Regulation 2018/644 on cross-border parcel delivery services);
- reciprocity of interconnection with other stakeholder networks, as applicable;
- proper security mechanisms in place to ensure data protection and privacy;

providing the necessary implementation guidance of EAD for fiscal duties (VAT et al.), customs and transport security, as well as the mapping between the UPU-WCO Global Postal Model and the EU Customs Data Model.

The current MoU between the UPU and CEN offers the foundation to convert UPU specifications only applicable to designated postal operators into open CEN specifications. The creation of a digital single market has significant implications on cross border commerce and related delivery of merchandise.

4. Project 4: Revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 Secured electronic Postal Services (SePS) interface specification - Concepts, schemas and operations

Expert profiles

Objectives

CEN/TS 15121-1, is an interface specification, describing a standardized way for a postal operation or its system development teams to build a secured electronic postal services (SePS) capability which can be offered to the administration's customers as part of an electronic service inventory. A SePS is a postal service which is accessed electronically through the use of an interface based on an appropriate subset of the operations (verbs) specified in this document.

CEN/TS 15121-1 has been the result of a conversion of the UPU Electronic exchange standard S43-a⁵⁴ "Secure electronic postal services (SEPS) interface specification Part A: Concepts, schemas and operations" into CEN format.

Scope

Review the existing European standardisation deliverables in the field of secure electronic postal services to adapt them, as appropriate, to Regulation (EU) 910/2014 (its revised version: eIDAS Reg 2.0⁵⁵), while taking into account the relevant standards developed, or being under development, according to the "Electronic identification and trust services" chapter of the Commission Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation of 2022.

⁵⁴ This document specifies a standard XML interface that will enable software applications to call a secured electronic postal service (SePS), provided by a postal operator. It also describes the functionality and edit rules of the actual technical specification artifacts, which are represented by an XML Schema (XSD) and an associated Web Services Definition Language (WSDL) specification

⁵⁵ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 as regards establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0281>

CEN shall coordinate its work on these standardisation deliverables with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)⁵⁶, where possible.

Activities of the experts

The COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 18.1.2023 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service has requested CEN/TS 15121-1 to be revised within the given deadlines for the adoption of a revised TS.

The work related to the revision of the existing technical specification shall be funded. This will include the relevant workshops of experts, seminars to engage with experts along the postal / express, as well freight and transport related supply chain to secure the secure exchange of electronic documents via secured electronic postal service aligned to, or where necessary revised specifications of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), under the existing MoU between CEN and the UPU, as well as compliant to the eIDAS Reg 2.0, in particular, but not limited to, B2C supplies in Europe. The first part of the CEN/TS 15121 describes the Concepts, schemas and operations of such a secured electronic postal service.

The work to align secured electronic postal service (SePS) with the eIDAS Reg 2.0 for the specific postal / express delivery purpose will be done in close collaboration with ETSI, its STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation. The necessary MoU between ETSI⁵⁷ and CEN (level 4 collaboration) will be revised accordingly in the coming months to:

- Lead in the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1;
- alignment with the eIDAS Reg 2.0.;
- Updating technical and messaging related specifications.
- Ensuring the legal and regulatory alignment to ETSI specifications. Alignment and revision of CEN/TS 15121-1.
- Development, or when necessary the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 / UPU S43-a to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments.
- Ensuring the alignment with postal and express delivery related specifications.
- Alignment and revision of UPU S43-a.
- Development, or when necessary the revision of UPU S43-a / CEN/TS 15121-1 to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments.

The work needs to be fully aligned to the UPU POC C1 Standardisation Board and their effort in upgrading their UPU S43-a standard.

Impact of the project

By standardising concepts, schemas and operation of secured electronic postal services offered to the administration's (operators in the postal delivery sector including couriers, express and parcel delivery operators, as part of the wider European postal sector players), customers as part of an electronic service inventory, all stakeholders applying SePS services will be deemed compliant to data protection and related data privacy requirements. Alignment as well as certification of data services facilitated for secured electronic postal service is important.

The exchange of electronic data in advance becomes mandatory for cross-border parcel delivery (postal and express items containing good, with or without value) into the EU and intra-EU, data security and data privacy related harmonisation of concepts, schemas and operation becomes a fundamental concern. Therefore, SePS is a postal service which is accessed electronically through the use of an interface based on an appropriate subset of the operations (verbs) specified, is of crucial importance for all stakeholders end-to-end in the postal and express delivery chain.

⁵⁶ ETSI / STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation

⁵⁷ European Telecommunications Standards Institute, referred to as ETSI

5. Project 5: Revision of CEN/TS 15121-2 Postal services - Hybrid mail - Part 2: Secured electronic postal services (SePS) interface specification - ECPM Service

Expert profiles

Objectives

Specifying an Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM, or postal digital seal) service which conforms with the definition in Article 38-004 of the UPU Regulations to the Convention - Final Protocol, as well as provisions of the eIDAS Reg (EU) 910/2014. It is based on a subset of the verbs or operations defined in CEN/TS 15121-1 to which the reader is referred.

An EPCM is essentially a digital signature verification and timestamping authority which verifies, and logs as evidence, the content integrity of electronic information. The collection of technical services in an EPCM service can cryptographically verify and store electronic evidence in support of the resolution of potential disputes which challenge the authenticity of events within a cycle of one or more automated transactions involving a postal customer. An EPCM service constructed to this specification can support the capture and reproduction of evidence data attesting to the fact that a target business transaction was conducted and completed in an environment of integrity and trustworthiness.

Scope

Review the existing European standardisation deliverables in the field of secure electronic postal services to adapt them, as appropriate, to Regulation (EU) 910/2014 (as amended by eIDAS Reg 2.0), while taking into account the relevant standards developed, or being under development, according to the “Electronic identification and trust services” chapter of the Commission Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation of 2022. CEN shall coordinate its work on these standardisation deliverables with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, where possible. CEN shall coordinate its work on these standardisation deliverables with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) , where possible.

Activities of the experts

The COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 18.1.2023 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service has requested CEN/TS 15121-2 to be revised within the given deadlines for the adoption of a revised TS.

The work related to the revision of the existing technical specification shall be funded. This will include the relevant workshops of experts, seminars to engage with experts along the postal / express, as well freight and transport related supply chain to secure the secure exchange of electronic documents via secured electronic postal service aligned to, or where necessary revised specifications of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), under the existing MoU between CEN and the UPU, as well as compliant to the eIDAS Reg 2.0, in particular, but not limited to, B2C supplies in Europe. The second part of the CEN/TS 15121 describes the Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM) service, fully aligned to the first part of the CEN/TS 15121 of secured electronic postal services and its concepts schemas and operations.

The work to align Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM) service with the eIDAS Reg 2.0 for the specific postal / express delivery purpose will be done in close collaboration with ETSI, its STF 645: eDelivery Next Generation. The necessary MoU between ETSI and CEN (level 4 collaboration) will be revised accordingly in the coming months.

- Lead in the revision of CEN/TS 15121-2;
- alignment with the eIDAS Reg 2.0.;
- Updating technical and messaging related specifications.
- Ensuring the legal and regulatory alignment to ETSI specifications. Alignment and revision of CEN/TS 15121-2.
- Development, or when necessary, the revision of CEN/TS 15121-2 / UPU S43-b⁵⁸ to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments, in accordance with data security and privacy.
- A close alignment between the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 and CEN/TS 15121-2 has to be established due to the Concepts, schemas and operations necessary for EPCM service.
- Ensuring the alignment with postal and express delivery related specifications.
- Alignment and revision of UPU S43-b.
- Development, or when necessary, the revision of UPU S43-b / CEN/TS 15121-2 to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments, in accordance with data security and privacy.
- A close alignment between the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 and CEN/TS 15121-2 has to be established due to the Concepts, schemas and operations necessary for EPCM service.

Impact of the project

By standardising concepts, schemas and operation of secured electronic postal services offered to the administration's (operators in the postal delivery sector including couriers, express and parcel delivery operators, as part of the wider European postal sector players), customers as part of an electronic service inventory, all stakeholders applying SePS services will be deemed compliant to data protection and related data privacy requirements. Alignment as well as certification of data services facilitated for secured electronic postal service is important.

The exchange of electronic data in advance becomes mandatory for cross-border parcel delivery (postal and express items containing good, with or without value) into the EU and intra-EU, data security and data privacy related harmonisation of concepts, schemas and operation becomes a fundamental concern. Therefore, SePS is a postal service which is accessed electronically through the use of an interface based on an appropriate subset of the operations (verbs) specified, is of crucial importance for all stakeholders end-to-end in the postal and express delivery chain.

⁵⁸ UPU Electronic exchange standard: UPU S43-b: Secure electronic postal services (SEPS) interface specification - Part B: EPCM Service: This document specifies a secured electronic postal service, referred to as the Electronic Postal Certification Mark (EPCM) service, which provides a chain of evidence, stored by an operator as a trusted third party, to prove the existence of an electronic event, for a certain content, at a certain date and time, and involving one or more identified parties.

6. Project 6: Revision of CEN/TS 16326 Functional Specification for postal registered electronic mail. (PReM)

Expert profiles

Objectives

TS 16326 constitutes the functional specification of a secure electronic postal service, referred to as the Postal Registered electronic Mail or PReM service.

PReM provides a trusted and certified electronic mail exchange between mailer, postal operators and addressee / mailee. In addition, evidence of corresponding events and operations within the scope of PReM will be generated and archived for future attestation.

The PReM service is defined by reference to the concepts, schemas and operations defined in CEN/TS 15121-1 Postal Services.

Hybrid Mail – Secure electronic Postal Services (SePS) interface specification – Part 1: Concepts, schemas and operations. It utilises six SePS operational verbs (CheckIntegrity, LogEvent, Postmark, RetrieveResults, Sign and Verify) and the five additional server-side operational verbs (SendMessageToDestination, Subscribe Notification, UnsubscribeNotification, RejectMessage and ReceiveNotification) to fulfil the operational requirements of a PReM System.

Return of Investment (ROI), market potential, revenues model, business plan and pricing policy are outside the scope of this functional specification. Postal operators are advised to make the necessary marketing study and research prior to considering leasing, procuring or developing such a PReM system in accordance with this functional specification.

Scope

Review the existing European standardisation deliverables in the field of secure electronic postal services to adapt them, as appropriate, to Regulation (EU) 910/2014⁵⁹ (its revised version: eIDAS Reg 2.0⁶⁰), while taking into account the relevant standards developed, or being under development, according to the “Electronic identification and trust services” chapter of the Commission Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation of 2023. CEN shall coordinate its work on these standardisation deliverables with the European Telecommunications Standards institute, where possible.

Activities of the experts

The COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 18.1.2023 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation as regards postal services and the improvement of quality of service has requested CEN/TS 16326 to be revised within the given deadlines for the adoption of a revised TS.

The work related to the revision of the existing technical specification shall be funded. This will include the relevant workshops of experts, seminars to engage with experts along the postal / express, as well freight and transport related supply chain to secure the secure exchange of electronic documents via Postal registered Email (PrEM) service aligned to, or where necessary revised specifications of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), under the existing MoU between CEN and the UPU, as well as compliant to the eIDAS Reg 2.0, in particular, but not limited to, B2C supplies in Europe.

The work to align “registered Email (REM)” services with the eIDAS Reg 2.0 for the specific postal / express delivery purpose will be done in close collaboration with ETSI, its STF 645: eDelivery Next

⁵⁹ REGULATION (EU) No 910/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0910>

⁶⁰ Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 as regards establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0281>

Generation. The necessary MoU between ETSI and CEN (level 4 collaboration) will be revised accordingly in the coming months:

- Lead in the revision of CEN/TS 16326;
- alignment with the eIDAS Reg 2.0.
- Updating technical and messaging related specifications.
- Ensuring the legal and regulatory alignment to ETSI specifications and alignment and revision of CEN/TS 16326.
- Development, or when necessary, the revision of CEN/TS 16326 / UPU 52 to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services, including the exchange of EAD related edocuments.
- A close alignment between the revision of CEN/TS 15121-1 and CEN/TS 16326 has to be established due to the Concepts, schemas and operations necessary for EPCM service.
- Ensuring the alignment with postal and express delivery related specifications.
- Alignment and revision of UPU S52.
- Development, or when necessary, the revision of UPU S52 / CEN/TS 16326 to enable certification of postal / express related secured electronic postal services to exchange EAD related edocuments in accordance with data security and privacy.
- The work needs to be fully aligned to the UPU POC C1 Standardisation Board and their effort in upgrading their UPU S43-a standard.

Impact of the project

PReM provides a trusted and certified electronic mail exchange between mailer, postal operators and addressee / mailee. In addition, evidence of corresponding events and operations within the scope of PReM will be generated and archived for future attestation.