

Annex A: Glossary

ANSI (American National Standards Institute)

→ North American Standards institute and representative in the ISO, responsible, among others, for ANSI X.12, New York.

ANSI X.12 → A standard approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for transmitting business data based on a standard structure and syntax. This transmission standard is mainly applied in the USA.

Clearing Center → A center in which clearing services are rendered.

Clearing Service → Offers service accesses as well as other services, eg services like the addition of data, the conversion into a receiver-dependent form/structure or central regulation services. Some Clearing Centers, that are exclusively used within an industry sector, also maintain article master files/numbers and thus can also offer article number matchings within trade messages.

Datex-P → Special package data network of Telekom AG which only transmits data.

EAN (European Article Number)

→ The European Article Number serves for quickly identifying and registering articles in the different trading steps. It is mostly shown in addition as bar code for the better machine registration. This barcode is read with the help of scanners and transmitted to a computer. The 13-digit barcode is composed as follows:

Two digit country code,
five digit company number of the producer,
five digit article number and
a check digit.

Besides the EC states, a total of 48 countries have joined this type of standard. Among them also Japan and USA.

EAN (International Article Numbering Association)

→ (before: European) Article Number; an article number system for the consumer good economy and related industry sectors that can be applied via barcode; Pan European user group(PEG), Brussels.

EANCOM (EAN-Communication) → Subsets from UN/EDIFACT of the consumer good economy.

EDIFACT → 'Electronic Data Interchange For Administration, Commerce and Transport' is an international standard promoted by the UN for the electronic exchange of commercial data in standardized formats for the usual business transactions, like orders, invoices, delivery notes, etc.

ITU (International Telecommunication Union)

Mailbox → Part of a network service (VAN), where data are buffer stored for the subsequent transmission to the receiver. The use of mail boxes in the area of the structured data exchange (EDI) is rather common in relation with not time-critical contents

MHS-System (Message Handling Service)

→ Service at X.400; consists acc to X.400 usually of several components of the type MTA and UA.

Message type

→ A defined, structured set of segments that cover the requirements of a certain business transaction (eg: invoice) [ISO 9735].

Description of message type

→ The textual description of an EDIFACT message type including the tabular segment overview according to the stipulated layout standards

ODETTE → 'Organisation for Data Exchange through Teletransmission in Europe' is a message type provided for EDI in the European automotive industry and their suppliers based on the EDIFACT syntax.

Source: Deutsche EC/EDI Gesellschaft e.V.

OSI (Open Systems Interconnection)

→ Standard for the communication of open systems.

PGP → Pretty Good Privacy; Software for coding data with a symmetrical coding procedure. PGP was developed as freeware, but in the meantime was taken over by Network Associates, besides Symantec one of the two large suppliers of cryptographic software

Separator sign → A sign for the syntactic separation of data[ISO 9735].

Standard separator (Service string advice)→

A string at the beginning of a transmission data file that defines the separators and other signs with special function described in the syntax [ISO 9735]. The standard separator either stands explicitly at the beginning of a transmission data file (UNA) or follows implicitly from the set of signs indicated (in UNB).

UN/EDIFACT→ The regulations of the UN for the electronic data exchange in administration, economy and transportation. It comprises a series of internationally agreed standards, registrations and guidelines regarding the electronic data exchange of structured data between independent information systems, mainly for the trade of goods and services.

The regulations that are recommended within the UN are approved by the UN/ECE and published in the manual of the trade message exchange of the United Nations (UNTDID) and maintained according to the agreed procedure.

VAN (Value Added Network Service)

→ Works first like a letter box; VAN's provide additional services, eg information services

VDA (Association of Automotive Industry)

→ The VDA creates own message types for the Germany automotive industry that are especially tailored towards the user. An international communication like eg with EDIFACT is not possible.

Coding → Coding is a technology with which a normal text (uncoded text) is brought into a form that differs strongly from the normal text by using a cryptographic algorithm, so that it cannot be converted back into an uncoded text just like that. For decoding, the same algorithm is needed. With coding, we can differentiate between a symmetrical and asymmetrical procedure. They are mostly used in combination to safeguard a safe and fast data exchange. Decisive for the quality are coding algorithm and key length.

WAN → Wide Area Network: Connects computers and data processors of a company or organisation that lie apart geographically; is often replaced by Intranet technology.

X.25→ Protocol standardized by ITU for the levels 1 to 3 according to the OSI reference model for data exchange on data networks that transmit packages. (DATEX-P).

X.400→ Standard of ITU for Message Handling Service Systems (see MHS system); transmission protocol adequate for EDI.

X.435→ Recommendation for covering EDI specific requirements in the further development of X.400.

X.500→ Standard of ITU for Directory Services for users of a X.400 network.

X12 → US ANSI (ASC) Standard for EDI.

XML (eXtensible Markup Language)

→ is a subset from SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) and allows the transmission of structured documents and their further processing

ZVEI → Zentralverband Elektrotechnik- und Elektronikindustrie e. V., Frankfurt; Develops own format (ZVEI format) for transmitting article master data between the electro industry and electrical equipment wholesale trade

Source: Deutsche EC/EDI Gesellschaft e.V.