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Introduction

Universal Business Language (UBL) is an open library of standard electronic XML business documents for procurement and transportation such as purchase orders, invoices, transport logistics and waybills. UBL was developed by an OASIS Technical Committee with participation from a variety of industry data standards organizations.

UBL is described in an extensive overview in the article "[What is UBL?](#)" describing customizing and extending UBL, the governance of UBL, how modelled, and thoughts regarding deploying UBL.

Tradeshift uses Universal Business Language (UBL) as the preferred language for handling business documents.

This means that business documents are exchanged with Tradeshift's users in UBL format, and UBL concepts such as subsets, profiles, business objects, code lists, extensions, validation etc., are heavily used when handling business documents at Tradeshift.

Universal Business Language Basics

UBL is an open, live and valid across industry domains XML standard for business documents. In short, UBL is all about re-usage (subsets, objects, code lists etc.), and therefore helping business entities getting the most out of their investments.

UBL describes a number of well-known business documents (such as Invoice, CreditNote, WayBill etc.), but also focus on the interaction between those documents (the business processes).

Another important parameter is the UBL subset (UBL element CustomizationID). Every UBL instance must belong to a given UBL subset, else it is of no use. See more below on how Tradeshift has defined its own subset.

The Tradeshift UBL 2.0 subset (TSUBL)

As mentioned above, every UBL instance must belong to a given UBL subset, else it is of no use. The given subset is indicated in the UBL element CustomizationID, which therefore must be filled out. Examples of common subsets would be:

- The Danish OIOUBL subset
- The North European subset (NES)

- The European subset PEPOL2/BIS
- EHF – Norwegian legislation
- UBLTR – Turkish variant
- PERU Factura Electronica

The real benefit of UBL is its ability to meet special needs applicable to various business domains, while still being based on the same classes, elements and concepts.

Tradeshift has specified its own subset called TSUBL. In fact, TSUBL is a superset compared to some of the above mentioned common subsets. This is true in the sense that TSUBL contains many extensions that are important to Tradeshift and its international customers. Note however that TSUBL is still a true subset of UBL, because it uses only classes/elements defined in the UBL 2.0 standard.

The very first lines in a Tradeshift UBL document format, are showing the version of the standard and the document type. Here's is an example for an invoice:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<Invoice      xsi:schemaLocation="urn:oasis:names:specification:ubl:schema:xsd:Invoice-2
UBL-Invoice-2.0.xsd"          xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xmlns="urn:oasis:names:specification:ubl:schema:xsd:Invoice-2"
xmlns:cac="urn:oasis:names:specification:ubl:schema:xsd:CommonAggregateComponents-
2" xmlns:cbc="urn:oasis:names:specification:ubl:schema:xsd:CommonBasicComponents-2"
xmlns:ccts="urn:oasis:names:specification:ubl:schema:xsd:CoreComponentParameters-2"
xmlns:sdt="urn:oasis:names:specification:ubl:schema:xsd:SpecializedDatatypes-2"
xmlns:udt="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:specification:UnqualifiedDataTypesSchemaModule
:2">
    <cbc:UBLVersionID>2.0</cbc:UBLVersionID>

    <cbc:CustomizationID>urn:tradeshift.com:ubl-2.0-customizations:2010-06</cbc:Customizati
onID>
    <cbc:ProfileID      schemeAgencyID="CEN/ISSS      WS/BII"      schemeID="CWA
16073:2010">urn:www.cenbii.eu:profile:bii04:ver1.0</cbc:ProfileID>
```

How to use this Documentation Package

After downloading and unzipping the archive, you have found this document which provides guidance on how to use it.

Besides the explanatory document, you will find separate folders for each supported file for integration and various examples for the respective document type. For example, within *Invoice* folder, you will find the following files:

- Master_INV_Specification.xlsx - This document lists all the elements present in the relevant document type with their canonical TSUBL names. This document also gives a business description, indicating how the format should look and offers an example of each element. Not all document-types have a master specification, some might “borrow” a master specification from similar documents.
- TSUBL_INV_Specification.xlsx - A structural specification file for the relevant type of document, for example, TSUBL_INV_Specifications.xlsx. This document lists the needed structure of the relevant document type. It also offers mapping between the canonical names and the UBL element fields.
- TSUBL_Invoice_TSGLI.xml - Example of an invoice in TSUBL format, using TSGLI identifier.
- TSUBL_Invoice_01.xml - General example of an invoice.
- TSUBL_Invoice_01bad.xml - Bad example of an invoice.
- TSUBL_Invoice_PricesAdvanced.xml - Invoice example with advanced prices.
- TSUBL_Invoice_POref.xml - Invoice example with PO reference.
- TSUBL_Invoice_TaxExchangeRate.xml - Invoice example with Tax Exchange Rate.
- TSUBL_Invoice_SenderAssigned.xml - Invoice example with Tax Sender Assigned.
- TSUBL_Invoice_Delivery.xml - Invoice example with Delivery Address.
- TSUBL_Invoice_ALC.xml - Invoice example showing allowances and charges.

If you would like to know more about the different documents and the files you find in this package, review section below [Document Types](#).

How to read Master Specifications

This document provides an overview of the various fields and their use in specific scenarios and details limitations if these are applicable. It contains multiple tabs which are described separated further below.

Please note that within Master Specifications, only tabs *Overview* and *PaymentMeans* are unique per format as these are providing information for objects specific for that format. From *CurrencyCode* tab onwards, you will find the same content, no matter the format you are reviewing, representing the standardised list of values for specific fields within the TSUBL.

Overview

This tab provides an overview of specific fields in the document and is unique for the document type you are looking at (Invoice, Credit Note etc) whereas next tabs within

the spreadsheet are general (or referencing standards) and will have the same content in whatever file these can be found.

Here's a description of what each column represents:

- **TSUBL use** -
 - "1" - marks the field as mandatory for the Tradeshift platform for creating a valid document
 - "0..n" - marks the field as optional, and repeatable for n number of times. The field should be present if is filled with information.
 - "1..n" - marks the field as mandatory and repeatable for n number of times if needed.
 - "0..1" - marks the field as optional, and not repeatable.
- ⚠ Even if a specific field is not mandated by the format specification this can be marked as required by the Buyer business firewall rules.
- **Canonical Name** - represents the variable name where the Tradeshift platform is storing the value provided in the TSUBL field.
- **Business description** - Provides a short description of its use.
- **Format** - If applicable, shows the field format, accepted by the Tradeshift platform
- **Example** - This shows an example of the field can be used.
- **Comments** - Any additional comments, if applicable.

Currency Code

This tab contains a list of currency codes standardised by ISO 4217. Note that only one of the values presented here is accepted by the Tradeshift Platform.

Country Identification Code

This tab contains a list of country codes standardised by ISO 3166. Note that only one of the values presented here are accepted by the Tradeshift Platform

Tax Category ID

This tab contains a list of tax category ids standardised by UN/ECE 5305 and their explanations. Note that only one of the values presented here are accepted by the Tradeshift Platform

Tax Scheme ID

This tab contains a list of tax scheme is standardised by UN/ECE 5153 Subset and their explanation. Note that only one of the values presented here are accepted by the Tradeshift Platform

Unit Of Measure Code

This tab contains a list of UoM codes standardised by UN/ECE rec 20 and their explanation. Note that only one of the values presented here are accepted by the Tradeshift Platform

TS PartyID schemes

This tab contains a list with all the Tradeshift Party Identification schemes accepted by the Tradeshift Platform. The information here should be provided in the parameter TS_cac:PartyIdentification/cbc:ID/@schemeID having the actual value in the ID field. Note that only one of the values presented here is accepted by the Tradeshift Platform and that this is a very important piece of information for the Tradeshift Platform because based on this it will be identified the sender and receiver account.

TS PartyID schemes names

This tab contains all the accepted values for parameter TS_cac:PartyIdentification/cbc:ID/@schemeName. Note that only one of the values presented here are accepted by the Tradeshift Platform

Binary Object Mime Code

This tab contains all the mime types standardised by IANA MIME Media Types. Note that only one of the values presented here are accepted by the Tradeshift Platform

TS Document Types

This tab contains all the Tradeshift Extensions implemented over the UBL for DocumentReference field for storing specific industry information. Note that only one of the values presented here is accepted by the Tradeshift Platform.

TS Districts

This tab contains the list with districts that are accepted by the Tradeshift Platform. The list is composed out of the district code, the description and the country code for which the district is implemented. Note that only one of the values presented here are accepted by the Tradeshift Platform

How to read TSUBL_DOC_Specifications

This document contains the TS-UBL structure with the associated canonical names for each and every field. This document should be used to identify the hierarchy of the TS-UBL objects/fields and their exact structure including the XPath to a specific field. The document contains the bellow columns

- **TSUBL use** -
 - "1" - marks the field as mandatory for the Tradeshift platform for creating a valid document
 - "0..n" - marks the field as optional, and repeatable for n number of times. The field should be present if is filled with information.
 - "1..n" - marks the field as mandatory and repeatable for n number of times if needed.
 - "0..1" - marks the field as optional, and not repeatable.
- ⚠ Even if a specific field is not mandated by the format specification this can be marked as required by the Buyer business firewall rules.
- **Column B to M** - shows the TS-UBL structure and hierarchy.
- **CanonicalName** - represents the variable name where the Tradeshift platform is storing the value provided in the TSUBL field.
- **Business description** - Provides a short description of its use.
- **Hardcoded** - this column will be filled with a value that needs to always be the same.
- **XSD Validation** - represents the format of the value that is accepted or the standardised list of values accepted by the field
- **TS Core Validation** - represents the format, possible values or standardised Tradeshift list of values that can be used to fill in those fields.
- **Example** - This shows an example of the field can be used.
- **Comments** - Any additional comments, if applicable.
- **XPath** - represents the XPath for the respective field.

Mandatory fields required by Tradeshift platform

For every type of business document (Invoice, Order, CreditNote etc.) Tradeshift has made a specification for every business element supported. It is called Tradeshift's master spreadsheet for the given document type. For each business element, the specification holds the following:

- The name of the business element (the name of the canonical)
- A short business description
- The Tradeshift use (optional, mandatory, repeatable etc.)
- An optional format specification (only when special requirements apply)

- An example value
- An optional comment (only when special requirements apply)

An example of a mandatory use could be the invoice number of an Invoice:

- The name of the canonical: InvoiceNumber
- A short business description: An identifier for the Invoice assigned by the Creditor
- The Tradeshift use: 1 (means mandatory, but only one instance)
- An example value: 2750

An example of an optional use could be the invoice header note of an Invoice:

- The name of the canonical: InvoiceNote
- A short business description: Free-form text applying to the Invoice. This element may contain notes or any other similar information that is not contained explicitly in another structure
- The Tradeshift use: 0..1 (means optional, but only one instance)
- An example value: This is a note