



The European B2B Forum for the Electronics Industry

EDIFICE Guideline

Utilisation of the Time Zone specification

Issue 1

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Comparison to previous issue

No existing previous issue.

1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the EDIFICE utilisation of the time zone specification.

2 Terms and definitions

2.1 Local time

The clock time in public use locally

2.2 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)

The time scale maintained by the Bureau International de l'Heure (International Time Bureau) that forms the basis of a coordinated dissemination of standard frequencies and time signals.

3 Representations

3.1 Explanations

3.1.1. Characters used in place of digits

[C] represents a digit used in the thousands and hundreds components (the 'century' component of the time element 'year')

[Y] represents a digit used in the tens and units components of the time element 'year'

[M] represents a digit used in the time element 'month'

[D] represents a digit used in the time element 'day'

[h] represents a digit used in the time element 'hour'

[m] represents a digit used in the time element 'minute'

[s] represents a digit used in the time element 'second'

3.1.2. Characters used as designators

[Z] is used as time-zone designator, immediately (without space) following a data element expressing the time of the day in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

3.2 Dates

- day of the month
calendar day, is represented by two digits. The first day of any month is represented by [01] and subsequent days of the same month are numbered in ascending sequence;
- month
is represented by two digits. January is represented by [01], and subsequent months are numbered in ascending sequence;
- year
is generally represented by four digits; years are numbered in ascending order according to the Gregorian Calendar.

3.3 Time of the day

As this international Standard is based on the 24-hour timekeeping system which is now in common use, hours are represented by two digits from [01] to [24], whereas minutes and seconds are represented by two digits from [01] to [60]. For most purposes times will be represented by four digits [hhmm].

3.3.1. Local time of the day

When the application clearly identifies the need for an expression only of a time of the day then the complete representation shall be a single numeric data element comprising six digits in the basic format, where [hh] represents hours, [mm] minutes and [ss] seconds.

Format :	hhmm	hhmmss
Example :	2320	232015

3.3.2. Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)

To express the time of the day in Coordinated Universal Time, the representations specified in 5.3.1 shall be used, followed immediately, without spaces, by the time-zone designator [Z].

Format:	hhmmZ	hhmmssZ
Example :	2320Z	232015Z

3.3.3. Differences between local time and Coordinated Universal Time

When it is required to indicate the difference between local time and Coordinated Universal Time, its representation shall be appended to the representation of the local time following immediately, without space, the lowest order (extreme righthand) component of the local time expression, which, in this case shall always include hours

The difference between local time and Coordinated Universal Time shall be expressed in hours and minutes, or hours only independently of the precision of the local time expression associated with it. It shall be expressed as positive (i.e. with the leading plus sign[+]) if the local time is ahead of and as negative (i.e. with the leading minus sign[-]) if it is behind Coordinated Universal Time.

Format :		hhmm(ss)+hh	hhmm(ss)+hhmm
Example:	Brussels	152746+01	152746+0100
	New York	152746-05	152746-0500
	Calcutta		152746+0530
	Newfoundland		152746-0330

4 EDIFICE implementation

The EDIFICE recommended date/time formats are as follows (based on the UN/EDIFACT D.97A Codelist 2379) :

UN/EDIFACT Format	ISO Format	Date/time to specify	Example
102 CCYYMMDD	CCYYMMDD	local date	19981021
203 CCYYMMDDHHMM	CCYYMMDDhhmm	local date/time	199810211524
204 CCYYMMDDHHMMSS	CCYYMMDDhhmmss	local date/time	19981021152439
303 CCYYMMDDHHMMZZZ	CCYYMMDDhhmmZ	UTC date/time	199810211524Z
304 CCYYMMDDHHMMSSZZZ	CCYYMMDDhhmmssZ	UTC date/time	19981021152439Z
X03	CCYYMMDDhhmm+h	Brussels - UTC	199810211524+01
CCYYMMDDHHMMZZZZ *	h	New-York - UTC	01
	CCYYMMDDhhmm-hh	Calcutta - UTC	199810211524-05
	CCYYMMDDhhmm+h	New Foundland - UTC	199810211524+0530
	CCYYMMDDhhmm-hhmm		199810211524-0330
	CCYYMMDDhhmmss+h	Brussels - UTC	19981021152439+01
X04 CCYYMMDDHHMMSSZZZZ *	hh	New-York - UTC	9+01
	CCYYMMDDhhmmss-hh	Calcutta - UTC	19981021152439-05
	CCYYMMDDhhmmss+h	New Foundland - UTC	19981021152439+0530
	hhmm		9+0530
	CCYYMMDDhhmmss-hhmm		19981021152439-0330

* Use these codes until UN/EDIFACT makes codes available

IMPORTANT: Release character will be used in DE 2380 when qualifiers X03 or X04 are used in DE 2379.

5 Example

Example based on DELFOR D.97A:

DELFOR is sent from European location within time zone of 1 hour ahead of UTC.
Trading partners have agreed to specify the date/time as the difference against UTC time
in the format CCYYMMDDHHMMZZZZZ.

UNA:+.? '

UNH+1+DELFOR:D:97A:UN:EDDF04'
BGM+D::8+5678+9'
DTM+137:199802171402?+01:X03'
RFF+ALM:5677'
RFF+CT:999456'
NAD+BY+MAGIMAX LTD::92'
NAD+SE+ABC SUPPLIES::91'
CTA+PD+:PETER SMITH'
COM+0756-551459:TE'
GIS+ZZZ'
NAD+DP+MAGIMAX STORES LTD::92'
LIN+1++ABC00071:BP::92'
PIA+1+ACT2T:VP::91'
QTY+3:1500:PCE'
SCC+1'
QTY+131:500:PCE'
DTM+2:199802251200?+01:X03'
RFF+ON:6785432:1'
SCC+4'
QTY+131:500:PCE'
DTM+158:199803161405?+01:X03'
DTM+159:199803221503?+01:X03'
SCC+4'
QTY+131:500:PCE'
DTM+158:199803231606?+01:X03'
DTM+159:199803291904?+01:X03'
UNT+27+1'