

1 Introduction

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) focuses on facilitating national and international transactions, through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows over the entire trade transaction chain, from the initiation of the order for the goods right through to their final delivery to the buyer.

Through its TBG working groups a host of business areas are covered encompassing Finance, Architecture & Construction, Statistics, Collection & Reporting, Customs, International Trade Procedures and Entry Points, Insurance, Travel, Tourism & Leisure, Healthcare and Social Services.

The TBG6 working group is focused on developing standards for data exchange in the Architect, Engineering and Construction domain although it does undertake cross-domain projects with other working groups.

2 Current Projects

2.1 eTendering

This project is co-hosted with TBG1 (Supply Chain Domain) as it covers not just tendering in construction but also tendering in private and public procurement. It covers processes around Approved Contractor Lists (applying for registration and approvals), Invitations to Tenders and Tenders.

2.2 Project Scheduling and Cost Performance Management

This project addresses the requirement for contractors reporting on project progress to their clients and developers in a consistent way, using techniques such as Earned Value Management.

2.3 Contract Financial Execution Management

This project covers the valuation and payment process once a building project is in the construction phase dealing with a contractor's request for payment, the approval and agreement of interim and final accounts, the certification of payments due and the payments themselves. Again there is close liaison with TBG1 regarding invoicing and payments and other TBG working groups.

2.4 Security

This is a TBG cross-domain project hosted by TBG6 with the objective to define the security requirements in data exchange from a purely business perspective. Unlike the other TBG6 projects there will not be a data exchange standard published at the end of the project but rather a standard which defines requirements for authentication, non-repudiation, encryption etc. which technical solutions should address if they are to meet a UN/CEFACT security standard.