
**Electronic data interchange for
administration, commerce and transport
(EDIFACT) — Application level syntax
rules (Syntax version number: 4) —**

Part 3:

Syntax rules specific to interactive EDI

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*Échange de données informatisées pour l'administration, le commerce et le
transport (EDIFACT) — Règles de syntaxe au niveau de l'application
(Numéro de version de syntaxe: 4) —*

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Partie 3: Règles de syntaxe spécifiques à l'EDI interactif



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International Organization for Standardization
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Genève 20 • Switzerland
Internet iso@iso.ch

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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This part of ISO 9735 was prepared by the UN/ECE Trade Division (as UN/EDIFACT) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by Technical Committee ISO/TC 154, *Documents and data elements in administration, commerce and industry*.

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Whereas this part supersedes the earlier publications, and shall use a version number of "4" in the mandatory data element 0002 (Syntax version number) in the segment UNB (Interchange header), interchanges continuing to use the syntax defined in the earlier published versions shall use the following Syntax version numbers, in order to differentiate them from each other and from this part:

ISO 9735:1988 — *Syntax version number: 1*

ISO 9735:1988 (amended and reprinted in 1990) — *Syntax version number: 2*

ISO 9735:1988 (amended and reprinted in 1990) plus Amendment 1:1992 — *Syntax version number: 3*

ISO 9735 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) - Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4)*:

- *Part 1: Syntax rules common to all parts, together with syntax service directories for each of the parts*
- *Part 2: Syntax rules specific to batch EDI*
- *Part 3: Syntax rules specific to interactive EDI*
- *Part 4: Syntax and service report message for batch EDI (message type - CONTRL)*
- *Part 5: Security rules for batch EDI (authenticity, integrity and non-repudiation of origin)*

- *Part 6: Secure authentication and acknowledgement message (message type - AUTACK)*
- *Part 7: Security rules for batch EDI (confidentiality)*
- *Part 8: Associated data in EDI*
- *Part 9: Security key and certificate management message (message type - KEYMAN)*
- *Part 10: Security rules for interactive EDI*

Further parts may be added in the future.

Annexes A, B and C of this part of ISO 9735 are for information only.

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Introduction

This part of ISO 9735 includes the rules at the application level for the structuring of data in the interchange of electronic messages in an open environment, based on the requirements of either batch or interactive processing. These rules have been agreed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) as syntax rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) and are part of the United Nations Trade Data Interchange Directory (UNTDID) which also includes both batch and interactive Message Design Guidelines.

This part of ISO 9735 may be used in any application, but messages using these rules may only be referred to as EDIFACT messages if they comply with other guidelines, rules and directories in the UNTDID. For UN/EDIFACT, interactive messages shall comply with the message design rules for interactive usage. These rules are maintained in the UNTDID.

Communications specifications and protocols are outside the scope of this part of ISO 9735.

[ISO 9735-3:1998](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/10000000/iso-9735-3-1998)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/10000000/iso-9735-3-1998> This is a new part, which has been added to ISO 9735. It provides for the exchange of EDIFACT messages in an interactive (conversational) EDI environment.

Interactive EDI (I-EDI) is characterised by the following:

- a formalised association between the two parties using a dialogue,
- the ability, dynamically, to direct the course of the I-EDI transaction, depending upon the result of earlier exchanges within the dialogue,
- short response times,
- all the messages exchanged within one dialogue relate to the same business transaction,
- a transaction is a controlled set of dialogues which can take place between two or more parties.

These characteristics differentiate I-EDI from batch EDI which is specified in ISO 9735-2 (syntax rules specific to batch EDI).

For consistency and in order to simplify the implementation of the standard for those users who wish to utilise both batch and interactive processing, this part of ISO 9735 has been aligned as far as possible with ISO 9735-2.

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Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4) —

Part 3: Syntax rules specific to interactive EDI

1 Scope

This part of ISO 9735 specifies syntax rules specifically for the transfer of interactive messages to be interchanged between computer application systems. For the transfer of packages in an interactive environment, see ISO 9735-8.

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2 Conformance

Conformance to a standard means that all of its requirements, including all options, are supported. If all options are not supported, any claim of conformance shall include a statement which identifies those options to which conformance is claimed. <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/d8ce73f5-7c71-4119-b0c7-fc3e32f6d669/iso-9735-3-1998>

Data that is interchanged is in conformance if the structure and representation of the data conforms to the syntax rules specified in this International Standard.

Devices supporting this International Standard are in conformance when they are capable of creating and/or interpreting the data structured and represented in conformance with the standard.

Conformance to this part shall include conformance to ISO 9735-1.

When identified in this International Standard, provisions defined in related standards shall form part of the conformance criteria.

3 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 9735. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 9735 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 9735-1:1998, *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4) — Part 1: Syntax rules common to all parts, together with syntax directories for each of the parts.*

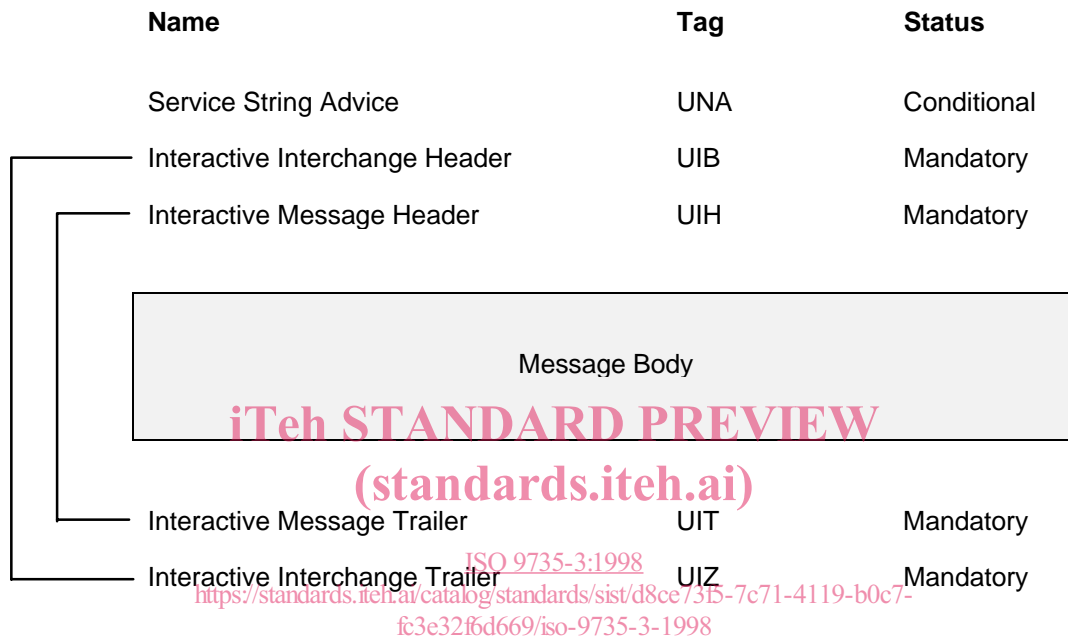
ISO 9735-8:1998, *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4) — Part 8: Associated data in EDI.*

4 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 9735, the definitions in ISO 9735-1:1998, annex A apply.

5 I-EDI interchange structure

The service string advice (if used) and the header and trailer service segments shall appear in an I-EDI interchange in the order shown below:



In the diagram above, the lines to the left show the pairing of header and trailer segments. For simplicity, an interchange containing only one message is shown.

For the specification of the service string advice see ISO 9735-1:1998, annex B.

For the specification of the interactive header and trailer segments see ISO 9735-1, annex C.

NOTE — Segments for use in UN/EDIFACT messages are defined in the United Nations Trade Data Interchange Directory (UNTDID).

5.1 I-EDI message within a transaction

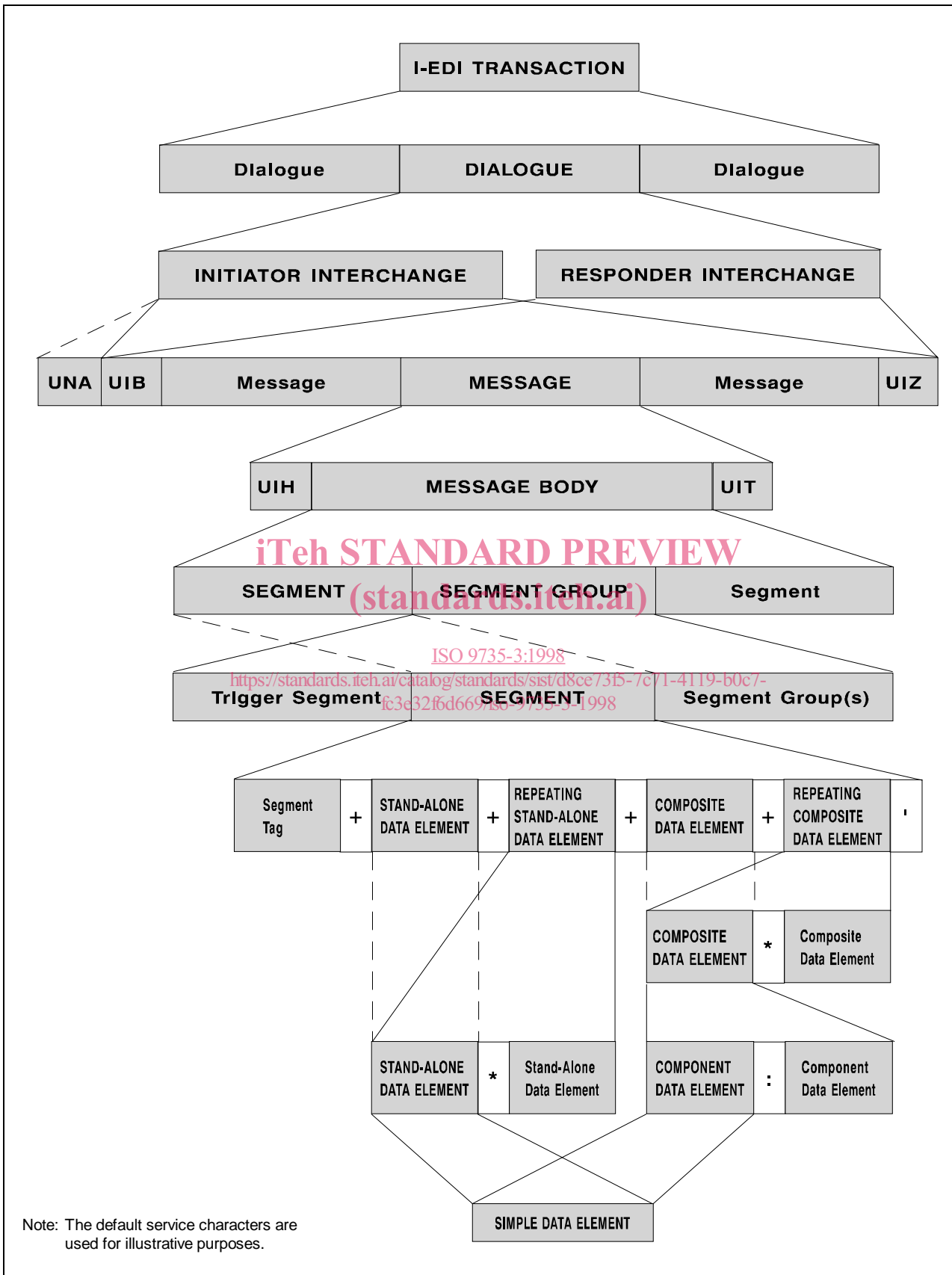


Figure 1a — I-EDI message within a transaction (Schematic)

An **I-EDI TRANSACTION** contains:

- Dialogue(s)

A **DIALOGUE** contains:

- an Initiator Interchange
- a corresponding Responder Interchange

An **INITIATOR INTERCHANGE** contains:

- UNA, Service String Advice, if used
- UIB, Interactive Interchange Header
- message(s), if used
- UIZ, Interactive Interchange Trailer

A **RESPONDER INTERCHANGE** contains:

- UIB, Interactive Interchange Header
- message(s), if used
- UIZ, Interactive Interchange Trailer

A **MESSAGE** contains:

- UIH, Interactive Message Header
- a message body
- UIT, Interactive Message Trailer

A **MESSAGE BODY** contains:

- segment(s) and/or segment group(s)

A **SEGMENT GROUP** contains:

- a trigger segment
- segments(s) and possibly segment group(s)

A **SEGMENT** contains:

- a segment tag
- stand-alone data element(s) and/or composite data element(s) and/or repeating stand-alone data element(s) and/or repeating composite data element(s)

A **REPEATING STAND-ALONE DATA ELEMENT** is:

- one or more occurrences of the same stand-alone data element

A **REPEATING COMPOSITE DATA ELEMENT** is:

- one or more occurrences of the same composite data element

A **COMPOSITE DATA ELEMENT** contains:

- two or more component data elements

A **COMPONENT DATA ELEMENT** is:

- a simple data element

A **STAND-ALONE DATA ELEMENT** is:

- a simple data element

A **SIMPLE DATA ELEMENT** contains:

- a single data element value

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[ISO 9735-3:1998](#)

[libby://segment-group\(s\)/alog/standards/sist/d8ce73b5-7c71-4119-b0c7-fc3e32f6d669/iso-9735-3-1998](#)

Figure 1b — I-EDI message within a transaction (Legend)

6 Dialogue control

An I-EDI transaction, which is an instance of a particular scenario, consists of one or more dialogues, occurring either concurrently or sequentially between two or more parties.

A dialogue consists of an interleaved pair of EDIFACT interchanges; an initiator interchange and a responder interchange.

The following transfers shall take place:

- An initiator begins a dialogue by sending an interchange header segment to a responder, optionally preceded by a UNA, and optionally followed by a message.
- The responder replies to the initiator with an interchange header segment, optionally followed by a message (note that the values of the UNA sent by the initiator also apply to the responder).
- The initiator sends a query message to the responder.
- The responder replies to the initiator with a response message.
- The initiator and responder exchange additional messages, as necessary.
- The initiator ends the dialogue by sending an interchange trailer segment to the responder, optionally preceded by a message.
- The responder replies to the initiator with an interchange trailer segment, optionally preceded by a message.

The following variations are possible:

For each message from the initiator to the responder there may be zero, one, or more than one message from the responder to the initiator, and vice-versa.

UIR service segments may be interleaved with messages.

A dialogue can be prematurely terminated at any time by either party, by using a UIR service segment.

A message or messages may be combined with:

- the interchange header or,
- the interchange trailer or,
- both the interchange header and the interchange trailer (a complete dialogue).

Whilst exchange of data controlled by the initiator is a common mode of operation for interactive applications, the I-EDI syntax does not exclude other modes of operation.

See annex A for examples.