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Second edition
2002-07-01

Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4, Syntax release number: 1) —

Part 6:

Secure authentication and acknowledgement message (message type – AUTACK)

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Échange de données informatisé pour l'administration, le commerce et le transport (EDIFACT) — Règles de syntaxe au niveau de l'application (numéro de version de syntaxe: 4, numéro d'édition de syntaxe: 1) —

Partie 6: Message sécurisé pour l'authentification et accusé de réception (type de message AUTACK)

Reference number
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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO 9735 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 9735-6 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 154, *Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration* in collaboration with UN/CEFACT through the Joint Syntax Working Group (JSWG).

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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 9735-6:1999). However ISO 9735:1988 and its Amendment 1:1992 are provisionally retained for the reasons given in clause 2.

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Furthermore, for maintenance reasons the Syntax service directories have been removed from this and all other parts of the ISO 9735 series. They are now consolidated in a new part, ISO 9735-10.

At the time of publication of ISO 9735-1:1998, ISO 9735-10 had been allocated as a part for “Security rules for interactive EDI”. This was subsequently withdrawn because of lack of user support, and as a result, all relevant references to the title “Security rules for interactive EDI” were removed in this second edition of ISO 9735-6.

Definitions from all parts of the ISO 9735 series have been consolidated and included in ISO 9735-1.

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, Syntax release number: 1)*:

— *Part 1: Syntax rules common to all 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*

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— *Part 9: Security key and certificate management message (message type — KEYMAN)*

— *Part 10: Syntax service directories*

Further parts may be added in the future.

Annexes A to 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.

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

This is a new part, which has been added to ISO 9735. It provides an optional capability of securing batch EDIFACT structures, i.e. messages, packages, groups or interchanges, by means of a secure authentication and acknowledgement message.

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Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4, Syntax release number: 1) —

Part 6:
Secure authentication and acknowledgement message (message type — AUTACK)

1 Scope

This part of ISO 9735 for EDIFACT security defines the secure authentication and acknowledgement message AUTACK.

2 Conformance

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Whereas this part shall use a version number of “4” in the mandatory data element 0002 (Syntax version number), and shall use a release number of “01” in the conditional data element 0076 (Syntax release number), each of which appear 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 and its Amendment 1:1992 — *Syntax version number: 3*

— ISO 9735:1998 — *Syntax version number: 4*

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.

Data that is interchanged is in conformance if the structure and representation of the data conform to the syntax rules specified in this part of ISO 9735.

Devices supporting this part of ISO 9735 are in conformance when they are capable of creating and/or interpreting the data structured and represented in conformance with this part of ISO 9735.

Conformance to this part of ISO 9735 shall include conformance to parts 1, 2, 5 and 10 of ISO 9735.

When identified in this part of ISO 9735, provisions defined in related standards shall form part of the conformance criteria.

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3 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 9735. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 9735 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 9735-1:2002, *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4, Syntax release number: 1) — Part 1: Syntax rules common to all parts*

ISO 9735-2:2002, *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4, Syntax release number: 1) — Part 2: Syntax rules specific to batch EDI*

ISO 9735-5:2002, *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4, Syntax release number: 1) — Part 5: Security rules for batch EDI (authenticity, integrity and non-repudiation of origin)*

ISO 9735-10:2002, *Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) — Application level syntax rules (Syntax version number: 4, Syntax release number: 1) — Part 10: Syntax service directories*

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4 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 9735, the terms and definitions given in ISO 9735-1 apply.

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5 Rules for the use of the secure authentication and acknowledgement message

5.1 Functional definition

AUTACK is a message authenticating sent, or providing secure acknowledgement of received interchanges, groups, messages or packages.

A secure authentication and acknowledgement message can be used to:

a) give secure authentication, integrity or non-repudiation of origin to messages, packages, groups or interchanges;

b) give secure acknowledgement or non-repudiation of receipt to secured messages, packages, groups or interchanges.

5.2 Field of application

The secure authentication and acknowledgement message (AUTACK) may be used for both national and international trade. It is based on universal practice related to administration, commerce and transport, and is not dependent on the type of business or industry.

5.3 Principles

5.3.1 General

The applied security procedures shall be agreed to by trading partners and specified in an interchange agreement.

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The secure authentication and acknowledgement message (AUTACK) applies security services to other EDIFACT structures (messages, packages, groups or interchanges) and provides secure acknowledgement to secured EDIFACT structures. It can be applied to combinations of EDIFACT structures that need to be secured between two parties.

The security services are provided by cryptographic mechanisms applied to the content of the original EDIFACT structures. The results of these mechanisms form the body of the AUTACK message, supplemented by relevant data such as references of the cryptographic methods used, the reference numbers for the EDIFACT structures and the date and time of the original structures.

The AUTACK message shall use the standard security header and trailer groups.

The AUTACK message can apply to one or more messages, packages or groups from one or more interchanges, or to one or more interchanges. As one example, Figure 1 describes an interchange when using the AUTACK message together with one or more messages.

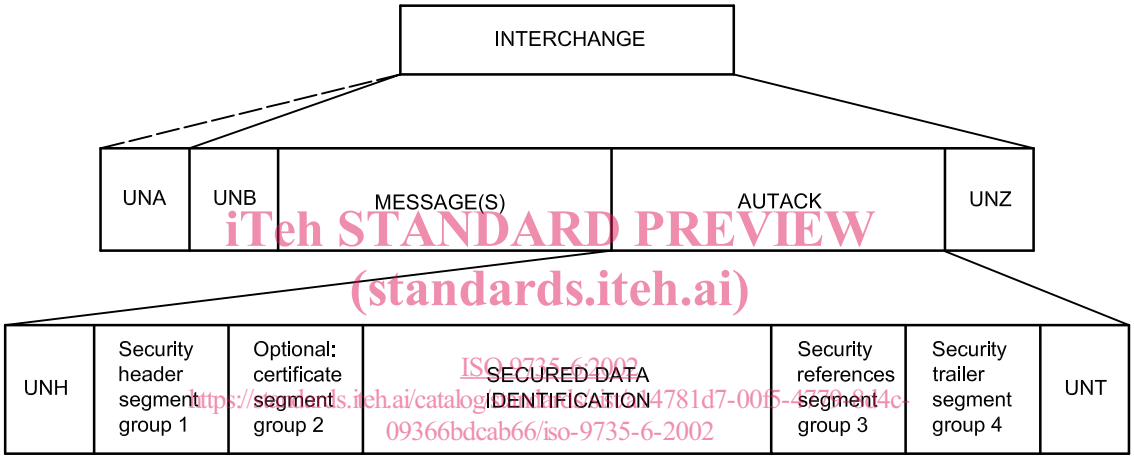

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Figure 1 — Interchange showing security by using the AUTACK message at message level (schematic)

5.3.2 Use of AUTACK for the authentication function

5.3.2.1 General

An AUTACK message used as an authentication message shall be sent by the originator of one or more other EDIFACT structures, or by a party having authority to act on behalf of the originator. Its purpose is to facilitate the security services defined in ISO 9735-5, i.e. authenticity, integrity, and non-repudiation of origin of its associated EDIFACT structures.

An AUTACK authentication message can be implemented in two ways. The first method conveys the hashed values of the referenced EDIFACT structures secured by the AUTACK itself; the second uses the AUTACK only to convey digital signatures of the referenced EDIFACT structures.

5.3.2.2 Authentication using hash values of the referenced EDIFACT structures

The secured EDIFACT structure shall be referenced in an occurrence of the USX (security references) segment. For each USX there shall be at least one corresponding USY (security on references) segment which contains the security result, for example the hash value, of the security function performed on the referenced EDIFACT structure.

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Details about the security function performed shall be contained in the AUTACK security header group. The USY and USH segments for the referenced EDIFACT structure shall be linked using security reference number data elements in both segments.

As a final step, all the information conveyed in the AUTACK shall be secured using at least one pair of security header and security trailer groups.

NOTE AUTACK uses the USX segment to reference one or more messages, packages or groups in one or more interchanges, or to reference an entire interchange. For each USX segment a corresponding USY segment contains the result of the hashing, authentication or non-repudiation method applied to the referenced EDIFACT structure.

5.3.2.3 Authentication using digital signatures of the referenced EDIFACT structures

The secured EDIFACT structure shall be referenced in an occurrence of the USX (security references) segment. For each USX at least one corresponding USY (security on references) segment, which contains the digital signature of the referenced EDIFACT structure, shall be present. Details about the security function performed shall be contained in the AUTACK security header group. Because a single referenced EDIFACT structure may be secured more than once, the related USY and security header group shall be linked using security reference number data elements in both segments.

If the digital signature of the referenced EDIFACT structure is contained in AUTACK (rather than just a hash value), the AUTACK does not itself require to be secured.

5.3.3 The use of AUTACK for the acknowledgement function

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An AUTACK message used as an acknowledgement message shall be sent by the recipient of one or more previously received secured EDIFACT structures, or by a party having authority to act on behalf of the recipient. Its purpose is to facilitate confirmation of receipt, validation of integrity of content, validation of completeness and/or non-repudiation of receipt of its associated EDIFACT structures.

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The acknowledgement function shall be applied only to secured EDIFACT structures. The secured EDIFACT structure shall be referenced in an occurrence of the USX (security references) segment. For each USX there shall be at least one corresponding USY (security on references) segment which contains either the hash value or the digital signature of the referenced EDIFACT structure. The USY shall be linked to a security header group of the referenced EDIFACT structure, or of an AUTACK message securing it, by using security reference number data element. The corresponding security header related to the referenced EDIFACT structure contains the details of the security function performed on the referenced EDIFACT structure by the sender of the original message.

As a final step in generation of the acknowledgement message, all the information conveyed in the AUTACK shall be secured using at least one pair of security header and security trailer groups.

AUTACK may also be used for non-acknowledgement in case of problems with the verification of the security results.

NOTE Secure acknowledgement is only meaningful for secured EDIFACT structures. Securing EDIFACT structures is accomplished by the use of either integrated security segments (see ISO 9735-5) or AUTACK authentication.

To prevent endless loops, an AUTACK used for the acknowledgement function shall not require its recipient to send back an AUTACK acknowledgement message.

5.4 Message definition

5.4.1 Data segment clarification

0010 **UNH, Message header**

A service segment starting and uniquely identifying a message.

The message type code for the secure authentication and acknowledgement message is AUTACK.

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The data element message type sub-function identification shall be used to indicate the usage of the AUTACK function as either authentication, acknowledgement or refusal of acknowledgement.

Secure authentication and acknowledgement messages conforming to this document must contain the following data in segment UNH, composite S009:

Data element	0065	AUTACK
	0052	4
	0054	1
	0051	UN

0020 **Segment Group 1: USH-USA-SG2 (security header group)**

A group of segments identifying the security service and security mechanisms applied and containing the data necessary to carry out the validation calculations (as defined in ISO 9735-5).

This segment group shall specify the security service and algorithm(s) applied to the AUTACK message or applied to the referenced EDIFACT structure.

Each security header group shall be linked to a security trailer group, and some may be linked additionally to USY segments.

0030 **USH, Security header**

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A segment specifying a security service applied to the message/package in which the segment is included, or to the referenced EDIFACT structure (as defined in ISO 9735-5).

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The security service data element shall specify the security function applied to the AUTACK message or the referenced EDIFACT structure:

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— the security services: message origin authentication and non-repudiation of origin shall only be used for the AUTACK message itself;

— the security services: referenced EDIFACT structure integrity, referenced EDIFACT structure origin authentication and referenced EDIFACT structure non-repudiation of origin shall only be used by the sender to secure the AUTACK referenced EDIFACT structures;

— the security services: receipt authentication and non-repudiation of receipt shall only be used by the receiver of secured EDIFACT structures to secure the acknowledgement.

The scope of security application of the security service shall be specified, as defined in ISO 9735-5. In an AUTACK message, there are four possible scopes of security application:

— the first two scopes are as defined in ISO 9735-5:2002, clause 5;

— the third scope includes the whole EDIFACT structure, in which the scope of the security application is from the first character of the referenced message, package, group or interchange (namely a “U”) to the last character of the message, package, group or interchange, inclusive;

— the fourth scope is user defined, in which scope the security application is defined in an agreement between sender and receiver.

0040 **USA, Security algorithm**

A segment identifying a security algorithm, the technical usage made of it, and containing the technical parameters required (as defined in ISO 9735-5).

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0050 **Segment Group 2: USC-USA-USR (certificate group)**

A group of segments containing the data necessary to validate the security methods applied to the message/package, when asymmetric algorithms are used (as defined in ISO 9735-5).

0060 **USC, Certificate**

A segment containing the credentials of the certificate owner and identifying the certification authority which has generated the certificate (as defined in ISO 9735-5).

0070 **USA, Security algorithm**

A segment identifying a security algorithm, the technical usage made of it, and containing the technical parameters required (as defined in ISO 9735-5).

0080 **USR, Security result**

A segment containing the result of the security functions applied to the certificate by the certification authority (as defined in ISO 9735-5).

0090 **USB, Secured data identification**

This segment shall contain identification of the interchange sender and interchange recipient, a security related timestamp of the AUTACK and it shall specify whether a secure acknowledgement from the AUTACK message recipient is required or not. If one is required, the message sender will expect an AUTACK acknowledgement message to be sent back by the message recipient.

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The interchange sender and interchange recipient in USB shall refer to the sender and the recipient of the interchange in which the AUTACK is present, in order to secure this information.

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0100 **Segment group 3: USX-USY**

This segment group shall be used to identify a party in the security process and to give security information on the referenced EDIFACT structure.

0110 **USX, Security references**

This segment shall contain references to the party involved in the security process.

The composite data element security date and time may contain the original generation date and time of the referenced EDIFACT structure.

If data element 0020 is present and none of: 0048, 0062 and 0800 are present, the whole interchange is referenced.

If data elements 0020 and 0048 are present and none of: 0062 and 0800 are present, the group is referenced.

0120 **USY, Security on references**

A segment containing a link to a security header group and the result of the security services applied to the referenced EDIFACT structure as specified in this linked security header group.

When the referenced EDIFACT structures are secured by the same security service, with the same related security parameters many USY segments may be linked to the same security header group. In this case the link value between the security header group and the related USYs shall be the same.

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