

Postal services - Interface and data transfer format for capturing postal automation events IDT-PAE

Táto norma obsahuje anglickú verziu európskej normy. This standard includes the English version of the European Standard.

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Postal services - Interface and data transfer format for capturing postal automation events IDT-PAE

Services postaux - Format d'interface et de transfert des données relatives à la capture des évènements sur des équipements postaux automatisés

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Cont	tents	Page
Europ	oean foreword	4
Intro	duction	5
1	Scope	7
2	Terms and definitions	
3	Symbols and abbreviations	
4	Generic Postal Process	
4.1	General	
4.2	Postal operations	
4.2.1	General	
4.2.2	Collection	
4.2.3	Sorting centre- for further transportation (Outward sorting)	
4.2.4	Transport	
4.2.5	Sorting centre-distribution (Inward sorting)	
4.2.6	Distribution (Delivery office / in office activities)	
4.3	Postal activities in postal operations	
4.4	Postal events	
4.4.1	General	
4.4.2	Handover Events	
4.4.3 4.4.4	Processing EventsStorage Events	
4.4.4 4.4.5	Transport Events	
4.4.5 4.4.6	Delivery Events	
4.4.0 4.4.7	Delivery	
4.4. / 4.5	Business Steps	
	•	
5	MIS Interface	
5.1	General	
5.2	Information about processes which move Items	
5.2.1	General	
5.2.2	Item	
5.2.3	Object / Product	
5.2.4	Location	
5.3	Classification of Postal Business Events in EPCIS data model	
5.3.1	General	
5.3.2	Business steps in EPCIS	
5.4	The impact of events on MIS	
6	Data Collection and Transfer	_
6.1	General	
6.2	Process Integration and Service Oriented Architecture	
6.3	Process Integrations Platform	
6.3.1	General	
6.3.2	Common components of integration platform	
6.4	Message based process integration platform	
7	Data Storage and Format	53

7.1	General	53
7.2	Data storage in a Repository	53
7.2.1	General	53
7.2.2	EPCIS Repository	54
7.3	Data formats	56
7.3.1	Data levels	56
7.3.2	Identification	56
7.3.3	Capture	57
	A (informative) Typical Postal Industry MIS interfaces	
Annex	B (normative) EPCIS standard summary reference	61
B.1	Overview	61
B.2	EPCIS Event and Master Data example	63
B.3	EPCIS Data Exchange Components	63
B.4	Services Approach	
B.5	Relationship to the EPC global Architecture Framework	
B.6	Elements of the EPCglobal Architecture Framework	
B.7	EPCIS Specification Principles	66
B.8	EPCIS Specification Framework	66
B.9	Layers	66
B.10	Extensibility	69
B.11	Modularity	69
Annex	C (normative) EPCIS Data Model assessment with respect to a standardised MIS	
	interface	
C.1	General	
C.2	Vocabularies	
C.3	Locations	
C.4	Extension points	
C.5	Prospective assertions	
C.6	Event Types	
C.7	Capture application	71
Annex	D (informative) Object Data Model definition in the postal process (Items and	
	Aggregations)	73
Biblio	graphy	83

European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16919:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 331 "Postal services", the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

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Introduction

This Technical Specification will be in the series of the Open Standard Interfaces defining manufacturer independent interface definitions where needed. All Sorting equipment of the different manufacturers in a sorting centre produce data which are relevant for service planning, machine and staff planning, optimization of machine utilization and other sorting centre management relevant data. On the other hand the major suppliers for postal IT systems have developed MIS systems for these or other purposes. In sorting centres with mixed machinery and one or more MIS systems, data need to be converted for integration. This Technical Specification will allow to define a common interface to avoid these multiple conversions and by this save costs in the postal business. See Figure 1.

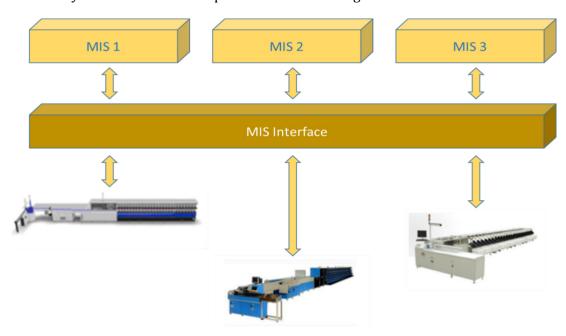


Figure 1 — Open Interface Illustration

As a conscious decision of the Project Team work it is assumed MIS standard will be an instance of EPCIS standard with specific application of this Technical Specification to the Postal Process that will be modelled in the chapters. The Technical Specification will then go through a number of significant events of the process that an MIS interface should contain in order to guarantee the interoperability of different proprietary MIS systems and different Postal Sorting equipment.

Focus of the development is:

- The specification will allow interfacing postal processes in order to gather information which shall be prepared for presentation/aggregation to higher-level systems;
- The specification will not be in favour of one vendor over another;
- The specification will not be specific to a programming language, operating system or hardware;
- The specification will be specific enough, to allow any standards-compliant equipment to be connected to standards-compliant higher level systems and get at least basic functionality without any customization;
- The Data Model will use well-established terms, e.g. taken from the UPU data model, which are suitable to describe postal processes accurately;

- The Data Model will categorize the information sent and received (e.g. into status, event, control-message) and define standards for each of these categories;
- The specification will allow for vendor-specific or equipment-specific variations. The scope of these variations will be limited (otherwise we would not have a standard at all);
- The specification will provide for future extensions and modifications, such that future versions do not break existing installations;
- It will have to be easy to implement an interface which is compliant with this standard;
- The specification will define how to prevent unauthorized access, preferably by referring to an existing security standard;
- The specification will use well-established technologies for Data Transport;
- The specification will use established standard for Data Format;
- The specification needs to state minimal requirements for data volume and frequency as well as the permissible latency which an implementation needs to comply to.

1 Scope

An IDT-PAE interface enables interoperability among several systems and processes by providing specifications to the following requirements:

a) Data Collection and Transfer: Specification of data transported from the devices to higher level systems. There may be more than one permissible protocol referring to different OSI layers. The standard will define where the communication requires polling and where asynchronous messages are used.

The basis is messages triggered by events.

- b) Data Storage and Format: Specification how data is formatted and structured. This concerns the choice between XML, CSV, EDI, JSON and other formats including possible binary representations.
- c) Data Model: Specification of the semantics (meanings) behind the data. This is the most important part and the one of the most important objectives for the specification. This means that conceptual data model and its mapping to the Data Format will be developed. Major focus on specifications level of detail will be placed in order to provide a document that will provide detailed specification information without being too general or too specific.

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