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Postal services - Hybrid mail - XML definition of encapsulation of letters for automated postal handling

Services postaux - Courrier hybride - Définition XML de l'encapsulation des lettres pour un traitement postal automatisé

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 14014:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 331 “Postal services”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes CEN/TS 14014:2006. An explanation of the differences between this Technical Specification and CEN/TS 14014:2006 is given in Annex C.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this Technical Specification: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

Hybrid Mail is the technology whereby input in one communication medium is converted for delivery on another communication medium according to the sender's instructions and/or the recipient's capabilities. The typical application of Hybrid Mail is to provide a Hybrid Mail operator with printing data as well as processing and delivery instructions, and request the operator to secure the print, enveloping and delivery of the physical letters. Hybrid Mail operators may also exchange data.

The transfer of data to a Hybrid Mail operator or between Hybrid Mail operators requires that the printing data be linked to a number of data items related to the management, production, finishing, etc. of the data to be printed. Such data items secure that all relevant information is accompanying the printing data. Also it will enable the Hybrid Mail operator to automate his processes with customers and other Hybrid Mail operators.

There is a need for a standardised yet flexible way to present the data to the Hybrid Mail operator or to exchange data between Hybrid Mail operators. This will enable customers and Hybrid Mail operators to have a seamless exchange of information. It will allow makers of applications for document creation (letters, marketing mailing, etc.) and output management from other applications (accounting systems, production management, etc.), to add here to the same data presentment and to offer the seamless data interchange.

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1 Scope

The purpose of this Technical Specification is to define the syntax rules for a data stream for the submission of printing data to a Hybrid Mail operator or between Hybrid Mail operators. The Technical Specification defines an XML Schema Definition (XSD) describing the data stream.

The description is based upon the XML (eXtended Mark-up Language) definition of rules and semantics for defining an XSD. The purpose of this is to offer a generalised syntax description that can provide seamless integration with a number of existing applications generating data that is liable to be forwarded to or from a Hybrid Mail operator.

The use of an XSD will ensure that the documents confirm to the standard defined and that the output has the correct syntax. Software manufacturers can use an XSD to program applications that will produce “correct” outputs.

This Technical Specification defines the syntax for creating a data stream that will eventually be converted into a deliverable. The overall object (a batch) can be divided into one or more objects that again can be divided into objects. The hierarchy includes bundles that contain a common part and letters. Each object has a number of characteristics attached to it.

This diagram shows the structure of a HML (Hybrid Mail Language) document: each letter is self-contained (contains all the necessary information to be delivered on a certain destination).

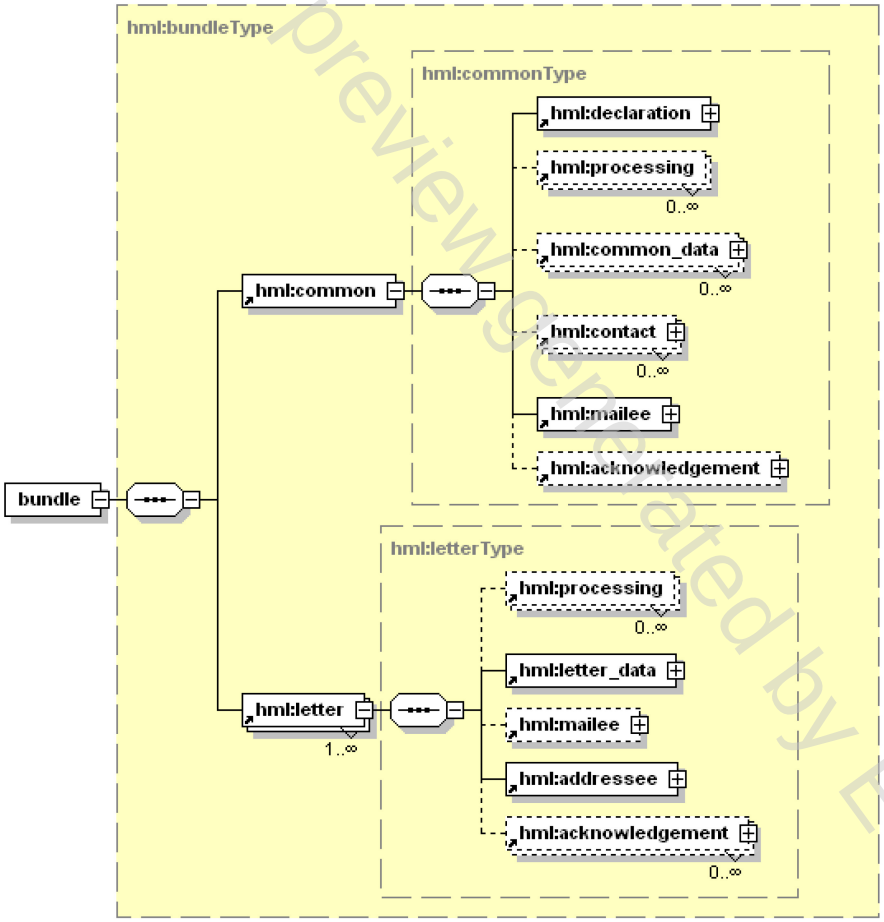

Figure 1 — Structure of a HML (Hybrid Mail Language)

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Each letter can have one contact. Each contact can have multiple alternatives for delivery.

This Technical Specification does not define the specific services offered by local operators (Hybrid Mail operators).

This Technical Specification does not define the communication method used. It does only define the format of Hybrid Mail as such.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 10646, *Information technology — Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1
mailbag
data structure that contains bundles as well as administrative and other data common to all bundles

Note 1 to entry: One HML document will contain one mailbag. A mailbag may contain one or several bundles.

3.2
bundle
data structure that contains letters that are processed as a group as well as administrative and other data common to these letters. A bundle is equivalent with a batch. Usually a sender is sending a mailbag with only one batch

Note 1 to entry: A bundle may contain one or more letters.

3.3
letter
data structure that contains the data to be rendered as one integral piece of information which is to be delivered to one recipient in physical or electronic format

3.4
contact
data structure that contains delivery information for letters

Note 1 to entry: The contact may be relevant to only one letter or may be shared between several letters.

3.5
target language
language to be defined in this document and to be later used for writing documents, and the result of a possible translation of existing data structure(s). In the present document the target language is HML

Note 1 to entry: Clause 4 gives further description of the syntax of the target language.

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