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1. Project Name

Project Name
Version: 1.0

2. Objectives

2.1. Purpose

The objective of the project is to revise Recommendation 12

- Measures to facilitate Maritime Transport Document Procedures. The Recommendation was published in March 1993 and recommended that all the parties in international trade should implement facilitation measures where internationally traded goods are physically transferred by maritime transport. In the 10 years since publication there have been significant developments in the practices and procedures for moving goods by sea, not least the increasing utilisation of multi-modal transport and the rapid advances in information and communications technologies.

To reflect these developments in the trade and transport processes, the International Trade Procedures Working Group (ITPWG) an empowered group within the UN CEFAC family of committees, has decided to update the Recommendation. The revision will recommend that all business parties should

- appreciate the advantages of the non-negotiable maritime transport documents and actively adopt their use except where goods are traded in transit; and
- recognise the disadvantages of using negotiable maritime transport documents when not essential to the international trade process especially the additional costs and burdens associated with any absence or delay of an original bill of lading at the place of destination.

In turn administrative authorities should

- ensure that any official mandatory requirements can be met by the use of non negotiable transport documents in preference to the negotiable bill of lading; and
- pursue the feasibility of developing legislation making possible the replacement of paper maritime transport documents with an equivalent electronic message.

2.2. Scope

The project will focus on national and international use of the Recommendation. The revision will review and consider developments in maritime document procedures between the trading partners and their trade services providers, particularly the carrier of the traded goods, any institution that finances the trade and other parties involved in organising the cross-border movement of goods and the exchange of data concerning the goods.

The revision will explain the different types of Maritime Transport Documents (Sea Waybill, Non-negotiable Bill of Lading and Negotiable Bill of Lading) and their varied and various uses (receipt for the goods, evidence of the contract of carriage and a document that assists prompt and secure payment). Also the content and text will include issues such as the Merchant's business needs (delivery of the goods in accordance with the sales contract, payment for the goods in accordance with the sales contract and the use of multi modal transport) and the influence of third parties on maritime transport procedures.

3. Deliverables

The project will prepare a draft revision of Recommendation 12 in which the key issues related to maritime document procedures will be explained and analysed. The main theme of the original Recommendation, the encouragement of the use of the non-negotiable Seaway Bill in preference to the negotiable bill where custom and practice, and the trading partners agree on the maritime transport document, will be strengthened and fully supported.

4. Functional Expertise of Membership

Membership is open to experts who have broad knowledge in the areas ...

5. Geographical Focus

The geographic focus of the project is global

6. Initial Contributions

Initial contributions will come from a variety of sources. A call for contributions will be made for ... The following have expressed an interest in making such contributions:

7. Project Management

7.1. Team

Project Chair	Johan Pontén
Editor	Alex de Lijster

7.2. Milestones

Estimated Open Development Process (ODP) milestone dates:

ODP Step	ODP Name	Estimated Completion Date	Comment
1	Project Proposal		Comment
2	Requirements List		Comment
3	1st Working Draft		Comment
4	Internal Review		Comment
5	Public Review		Comment
6	Implementation Verification		Comment
7	Final Release		Comment

8. Statement of Resource Requirements

Participants in the project shall provide resources for their own participation. The continued existence and functioning of the project team shall not require any additional resources from the UN/ECE secretariat other than:

- Establishing and maintaining the project team's public Web site pages with appropriate links, document download facilities, and items of interest;
- Establishing and maintaining the project team's public and private list servers.