

UN/CEFACT

UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Standards enable secure, interoperable data exchange and standardized processes for international trade and supply chains.



What it is

UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Standards is a collection of international standards that facilitate secure, efficient, and interoperable data exchange across global supply chains. These standards enable organizations to streamline trade, automate business processes, and address data security, privacy, and compliance requirements in cross-border transactions.

Developed and published by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), these standards are adopted by governments, multinational corporations, and logistics providers. The framework covers areas such as electronic data interchange (EDI), supply chain information security, regulatory compliance, risk management, and trade documentation.

At a glance

PUBLISHER United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	TYPE Standard	VERSION Current UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Standards and Technical Specifications
EFFECTIVE 1996	DOMAIN Supply Chain Security	FAMILY Other
REGION United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	ADOPTION MODEL Industry Requirement	IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY High

Source: <https://unece.org/trade/uncefact>

Why it matters

- Enhance interoperability and automation** Enable seamless exchange of standardized supply chain data, reducing manual intervention and improving business process efficiency.
- Strengthen data protection practices** Safeguard sensitive trade and logistics information by supporting secure data exchange and confidentiality across borders.
- Improve regulatory compliance** Support adherence to diverse international regulations, enabling alignment with varying legal and industry-specific requirements in global trade.
- Promote operational resilience** Reduce the risk of supply chain disruptions through standardized practices that improve consistency, visibility, and risk management.

How SmartSuite supports UN/CEFACT

Standardized Workflow Templates

Deploy consistent, repeatable supply chain workflows aligned to standards.

Data Model and Dictionary Management

Maintain shared data definitions for partners and internal teams.

Trading Partner Onboarding

Track partner requirements, validations, and go-live readiness in one place.

Change Control for Integrations

Manage interface changes with approvals, testing, and release evidence.

Testing and Certification Evidence

Store test results and interoperability proof tied to partner exchanges.

Operational Reporting

Report performance, exceptions, and partner readiness across processes.

Common framework mappings

- ISO 28000
- NIST SP 800-161 Rev.1
- WCO Data Model

Official resources

UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Standards Framework

Defines international standards for secure and efficient data exchange in global supply chains.
unece.org/trade/uncefact

UN/CEFACT Recommendation No. 25

Provides guidelines on the use and implementation of the UN/CEFACT standards.
unece.org/trade/uncefact/recommendation-no25

UN/CEFACT EDI Implementation Guidelines

Outlines the implementation process for electronic data interchange using UN/CEFACT standards.
unece.org/trade/uncefact/edi-guidelines

UN/CEFACT Business Process Specifications

Describes standardized business process models for supply chain operations.
unece.org/trade/uncefact/business-process-specifications

Frequently asked questions

How does implementation of UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Standards work?

Implementation involves integrating standardized control domains and messaging formats into organizational policies, IT systems, and supply chain processes. The process typically includes aligning internal controls with framework requirements, mapping risks, and embedding governance practices for ongoing compliance.

How does UN/CEFACT relate to other supply chain and security frameworks?

UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Standards are complementary to other frameworks such as ISO 28000 (supply chain security) and ISO 27001 (information security management). Organizations often map controls across frameworks to ensure holistic governance, risk management, and regulatory alignment.

How would SmartSuite support UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Standards?

SmartSuite assists organizations in managing UN/CEFACT Supply Chain Standards through centralized risk tracking, comprehensive control management libraries, real-time evidence collection, and streamlined audit readiness workflows. The platform supports continuous compliance monitoring, remediation tracking, and robust reporting to facilitate effective framework governance.

License included / downloadable: Yes UN/CEFACT standards are published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and are publicly available through official UN resources.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/un-cefact-supply-chain-standards