

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU)
INTERNATIONAL POSTAL ADDRESSING
STANDARDS

ISO/TC 211 WG 7

Copenhagen

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UPU INTERNATIONAL POSTAL ADDRESSING STANDARDS

- UPU S42 international postal addressing standard
 - S42-5 approved by UPU Standards Board in Feb 2006
 - “International Postal Address Components and Templates”
 - Definition of name and address elements based on CEN standard EN 14142 with extensions
 - Country based PATDL XML templates describe address structures
 - Rendition instructions to govern address presentation on physical mail pieces
 - S42 now recognized by CEN as a joint standard under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UPU

UPU INTERNATIONAL POSTAL ADDRESSING STANDARDS

UPU Standards Board (SB) Project P14

- Second part of original proposal to UPU SB in 2001
- XML format for sending, receipt and final rendition
- Elements, constructs, lines, blocks, templates, quality flags
- Supports S42 elements, P14 elements and external vocabularies
- Operate within secure .post top level domain
- International change of address, customs and financial applications, hybrid mail use cases

NEED FOR UPU S42 AND P14

- Over 10% deficiencies in name and address files
- Posts increasingly tightening requirements
- Address maintenance needs documentation
- Control of address elements is essential
- Storage of parsed address elements recommended
- These tasks go beyond legacy system capabilities
- Industry costs diminish using standard formats
- UPU well suited to work on international standard
- International commerce held back by current methods

KEY FEATURES

- Working with name and address elements at the lowest meaningful level is essential to understanding name and address structure.
- A single international list of common elements is needed that can encompass national vernacular lists.
- To work with elements, an assembly method is needed that can produce accurate renditions within space constraints
- Templates by themselves can assure valid structure, but with delivery point data available both syntax and semantics can be verified.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Accuracy of addressing, not just complete and correct addresses, but also up to date party designations for addressees, is a strategic issue for Posts and has been recognized as such by the UPU.
- The physical network of addressing will remain salient for communication and commerce regardless of how national postal services and firms adapt to new legal frameworks and market conditions.
- Links between the physical and electronic networks have been difficult to set up and maintain, but with precise and current physical addresses, universal service providers may be able to make progress in this area
- The same technologies and approaches needed for cross border mail can be used within countries to bootstrap themselves into full participation in worldwide physical and electronic networks.