

EASEE-gas

European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange - gas

Common Business Practice

Number: 2007-005/01

Subject: EDIG@S Release Periods

Approved: 7 November 2007

EASEE-gas CBP 2007-005/01 has been approved by the EASEE-gas Executive Committee on 7 November 2007. Formal ratification according to EASEE-gas Rule 9.6 by 26 January 2008.

Summary

This Common Business Practice describes the how EDIG@S releases shall be managed, functionally and technologically.

About EASEE-gas

The European Association for the Streamlining of Energy Exchange-gas or EASEE-gas was created by six founding members in Paris on March 14th, 2002. EASEE-gas's aim is to support the creation of an efficient and effective European gas market through the development and promotion of common business practices (CBPs) that intend to simplify and streamline business processes between the stakeholders. EASEE-gas has set up offices with Association Française du Gaz who provide administrative support.

The formation of EASEE-gas was prompted by the success of the Gas Industry Standards Board in the United States and has been modelled on it. The GISB has now evolved into the North American Energy Standards Board. The creation of EASEE-gas is a project that is fully supported by the European Commission and by the European Regulators through the so-called Madrid Forum. It was achieved through the work of a dedicated Task Force supported by EFET, Eurogas, Eurelectric, GEODE, GTE, OGP and the Edig@s group.

The association is fundamentally based on company membership and voluntary contribution towards the development of common business practices.

Full membership in EASEE-gas is open to all companies, European or other, that are involved in the European gas business, from producers to end users, and to companies that are their service providers. Companies can subscribe to full membership in one or more of the eight gas industry segments.

Associate membership in EASEE-gas is open to government agencies, e.g., regulators, to organisations such as gas business trade associations and to individuals that may contribute to the benefit of EASEE-gas. Associate members do not pay annual fees, nor do they have voting rights.

The development of common business practices within EASEE-gas is organised through working groups under the supervision of an executive committee that is representative of the various gas industry segments. Participation in the working groups is limited to members only.

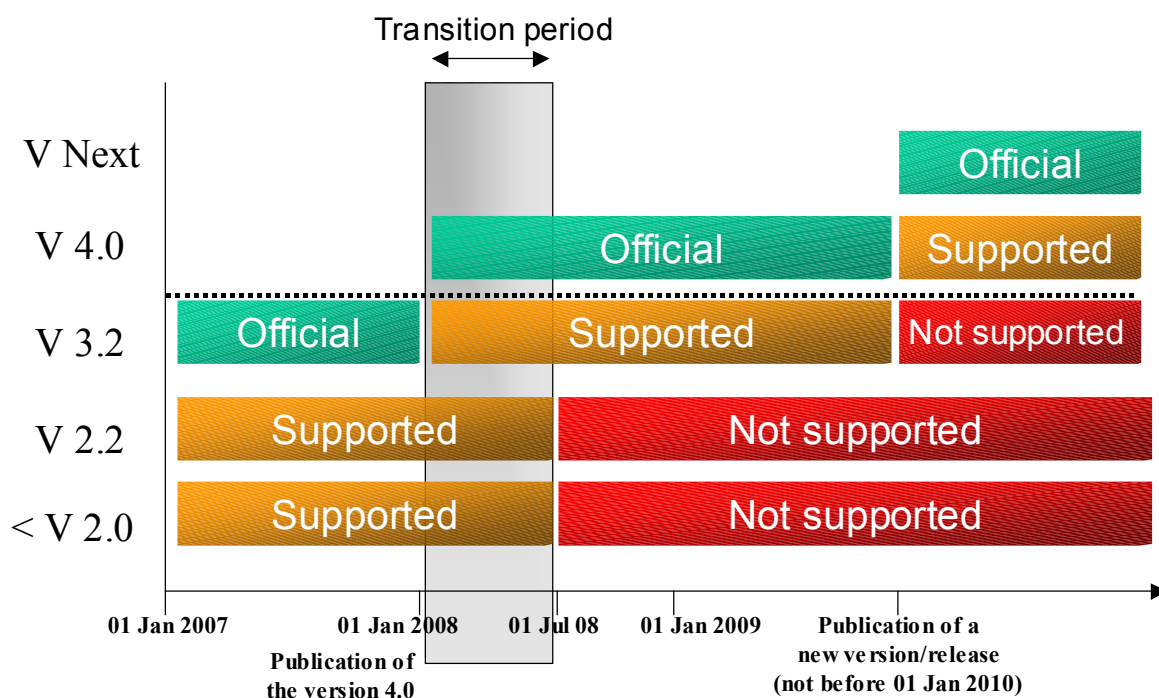
Common Business Practice 2007-xxx/xx
"EDIG@S Release Periods"

The following Common Business Practice has been approved by EASEE-gas for use in the evolution of gas business transaction releases.

1. FUNCTIONAL RELEASE PERIOD

The publication of the Edig@s release V4.0 brings with it the formalisation of the way Edig@s publication releases shall be managed.

From the 1st of July 2008, The EASEE-gas working group Edig@s shall manage only one official release of its publication. It will only support the previous release to the official one..



To facilitate the user community to handle this evolution a release transition period shall be introduced with the release of Version 4.0 and will last for six months. During this period, Version 4.0 shall be the official Edig@s version and all previous versions shall be supported during the period in question. At the end of the transition period, Version 3.2 shall become the only supported release.

The implementation timetable from the functional view is as follows:

1 st January 2008	The Version 4.0 of EDIG@S becomes the official version. All the previous versions are supported versions.
1 st July 2008	All the versions prior to the Version 3.2 are not supported anymore.
31 st December 2009	The Version 4.0 of EDIG@S must be implemented by all the gas partners using EDIG@S. All the versions prior to the Version 4. shall no longer be supported.

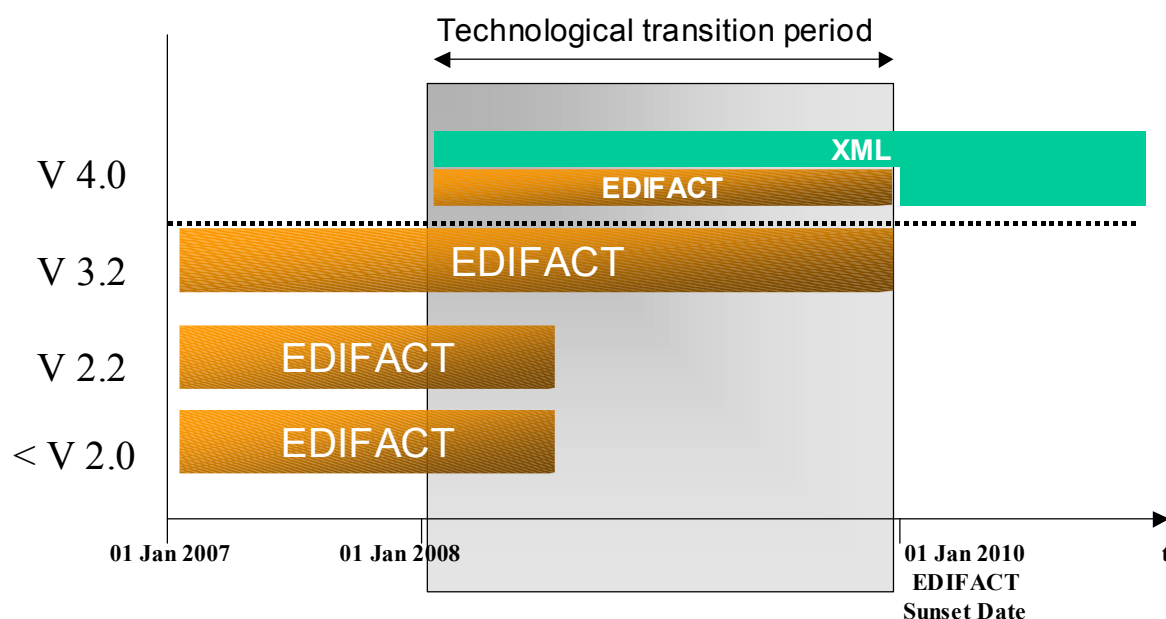
2. TECHNOLOGICAL RELEASE PERIOD

EASEE-gas strongly recommends the use of EDIG@S version 4.0 with XML format as soon as possible.

A technological release period shall occur to handle the introduction of a new syntax technology.

A transition period of 2 years shall systematically be provided during which the two syntax technologies will be supported. At the end of this transition period only the new syntax technology shall be supported.

The Edig@s Version 4.0 introduces the XML technology and the documentation release provides the description for the implementation of both EDIFACT and XML..



From the formal release of Version 4.0, both the XML syntax technology and the EDIFACT syntax technology may be used. Two years after this release the EDIFACT syntax technology shall be withdrawn (i.e. Version 4.0 shall be released on the 1st of January 2008 consequently on the 1st of January 2010 the EDIFACT syntax shall no longer be supported by the EASEE-gas Edig@s working group).

During the transition period, both syntaxes shall be supported and may be implemented by Edig@s partners through bilateral agreements.

The implementation timetable from the technological view is as follows:

1 st January 2008	Publication of the Version 4.0. Both XML and EDIFACT are permitted. XML can be implemented, based on a bilateral agreement.
1 st January 2010	EDIFACT sunset date : the EDIFACT format is no longer supported.