

ASC X12 Minutes Finder Results:

X12G - Government

Tax Information Interchange Development and Tigers
August 1997

MINUTES: INTERIM MEETING OF X12G/TG2 and TIGERS WORKGROUP

AUGUST 20 - 22, 1997 - SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Wednesday, August 20, 1997 - 1:30 pm - TIGERS

Chair Terry Garber welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Lissa Henderson (NM) requested that minutes distributed by electronic mail be placed in the body of the e-mail, rather than as an attachment.

Roger Trout (Mobil Oil), Vice Chair of the Petroleum Institute Data Exchange (PIDX), discussed the history and operations of PIDX. PIDX has 48 member companies. It works with other industry groups, such as UIG and TIGERS, to help speed the standards process by determining as an industry how a standard should look or be utilized. Since PIDX is sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute, they have access to full-time staffing. PIDX meets all Sunday morning and afternoon at each X12 trimester meeting, and meets briefly at 7:00 each day. Roger sees EDI moving to the Internet in the future, but believes that standards will be even more critical in that environment.

Carolyn French (MI) discussed the Michigan EDI Users Group. She noted that they are trying to meet the needs of beginning, intermediate, and advanced EDI users, in order to attract new members and retain old ones.

Laurie Rhea noted that a North California EDI Users Group had focused on Silicon Valley. They now have a Sacramento chapter to address government issues.

Eric Gundacker (EDI-Q Systems) presented an Internet-based EDI electronic tax filing system. The system presents and accepts tax forms to and from the user over the Internet, with all edits at the server. No software is downloaded to the client, making the system virus-proof. The system utilizes

128-bit SSL public key encryption.

Lee Rife (MN) presented a Minnesota approach to Object Oriented EDI. Facing a mandate for all payroll providers to file electronically, Lee looked for a simplified approach to inexpensive software for the field. He has heard that vendors do not want to deal with EDI. Lee presented a simplified data format based on Minnesota forms.

An extremely lively discussion followed, concerning Lee's option, the future of EDI, and the purpose of the TIGERS group. Consensus appeared to be that a tax authority needed to reach the widest possible customer base by supporting a variety of approaches. Discussion of alternatives is healthy, and TIGERS should provide a forum for such discussion. However, the group is a work group of X12, so that when it comes to actual implementation of EDI, it should be done in a standard way.

Thursday, August 21, 1997 - 9:00 am - TIGERS

Matt Tunny (NY) reviewed the New York State combined Withholding and Unemployment Insurance map, particularly the multiple filer issues, and reported that the changes recommended at the last TIGERS meeting had been implemented.

Matt and John Goggin (NY) raised the issue of adding a MSG segment to Transaction Set 150 to hold IFTA rate schedule footnotes. The group expressed concern that if the MSG were available, users would want to use it rather than coding the functionality of the 150. The consensus was not to add the MSG. John noted that New York's alternative was to put the footnotes into a bulletin board system for user access.

John Holzer (EXXON Oil) introduced the PET (Property Electronically Taxed) project. Their first task is the implementation of transaction set 813 for property tax filing. Chip Ferris of Burr Wolff presented the 813 map. Several minor changes were made to the map, including the need for TIA05 if TIA04 is present, and relocation of several DTM segments. It was suggested to use the TFS to specify location, and the FGS to indicate both type and line number.

Much of the discussion centered on the large number of codes required to indicate classifications of property, and the desire not to create multiple state-specific code sets. Several suggestions included use of the new Dun & Bradstreet code set, the UPC codes, or Marshall & Swift. Alternatively, a

property taxation organization such as IPT or IAAO might be willing to maintain the code lists. There was general agreement that the code list Chip had developed was workable, but needed a sponsor to promote its universal use.

Evelyn Lopez (PA) presented the Pennsylvania motor fuel map of the 813. Pennsylvania followed the FTA Motor Fuel Uniformity Committee's Red Book. They are mapping every detail line item, but not mapping derived fields on summary. Disbursements are similar to receipts, but have the terminal id.

Three new TIA codes are needed, dealing with credit card sales. Evelyn has contacted Ray Grimm to request the codes. A new TIA code for version number is being added to the Red Book.

Kevin Schatz (ND) and Joan presented the North Dakota motor fuel maps. They only use EDI for receipts and disbursements at this time. They have adopted the uniform forms, and followed the Red Book and the Wisconsin map. Evelyn noted the use of code value 94" (user assigned) for Mode of Transaction in data element 66 in the TFS. This code may represent either a physical mode of transportation, or a book entry transfer. A recommendation for data maintenance to create a new code may come out of the September Motor Fuel Uniformity meeting.

Version 9 of the Reference Model Volume II, the technical guide, was distributed for review and comment. Marcia Larson (ICESA) and Jonathan Lyon (FTA) have created an inventory matrix of available model maps and their owners. This matrix was included as Section 9, replacing three inches of actual mappings. It was noted that the inventory will have to be kept up to date.

The desire to publish the model as widely as possible was discussed. It was agreed to look into Web publishing, and to determine the copyright restrictions imposed by publishing as a DISA document. It was noted that the reference model was an approved project proposal, so that DISA is expecting to publish it. Jonathan expressed preference for publishing through the FTA Web page. It was noted that general users go to DISA for information, and may not know to look to the FTA.

Thursday, August 21, 1997 - 1:30 pm - X12G/TG2

Transaction Set 283, Tax or Fee Exemption, was discussed. Most of the discussion centered on the need for codes for reason for exemption. There

are many state-specific codes, but it is impractical to have fifty contradictory and overlapping state code lists. Bob Shickora (NJ) has reported back to the FTA working group that a keeper of the codes is needed.

The use of broad code categories, such as tangible personal property was discussed as preferable to the endless list of possible goods and products; however the Dun & Bradstreet product list, soon to be available, was also mentioned as a possibility. Bob has gone through approximately 35 states and extracted the categories. He suggested floating this approach with the Multistate Tax Commission (MTC). Since over 30 states belong to the MTC, if they buy into this approach, the majority of states should be handled.

The discussion continued as to whether the code list should be made part of Data Element 441, the current reason for exemption, or maintained by an external code source. It was noted that Sears has come up with an internally used list of 77 exempt codes. Jim Paradise (Vertex Software) will check whether Vertex would be willing to maintain an open code list.

Within the TXI segment in the 283, it was agreed that either DE 441 could be used, with its limited set of common reasons for exemption, or else a 1270/1271 pair to refer to an external list. A semantic note should be added to state that either the 441 or the 1270/1271 pair must be used, but not both.

Laurie Rhea (CA) will develop a trial map for income tax exemption. Bob will solicit trial maps for sales tax.

The timing and location of the December meeting was discussed. The Motor Fuel Uniformity meeting will be December 5 - 7 in either Austin or San Antonio. Austin has free government meeting space, and a Guest Quarters hotel nearby. There is also the possibility of meeting in Houston, hosted by the PET group. Jonathan Lyon (FTA) will follow up.

The next discussion covered the use of Transaction Set 154 for liens other than UCC filings. It was agreed to recommend changing the name of the transaction set to Secured Interest Filing, and to change the Purpose and Scope accordingly. Code values will be needed for the Transaction Set Purpose in the BGN segment to indicate a lien filing, release, expunge, cancel, inquiry and response.

It was suggested to add segments PAM, AMT, N9, and DTM to the transaction set before the NTE. Lynnette Wong shared with the group a 154 implementation

guide. It showed that in certain cases the LS1 segment was set to a dummy value. Based on this usage, it was suggested to add segments TXI, TAX, CDS, and CED to the LS1 loop.

The group was urged to try to map tax liens to the revamped transaction set for the October meeting.

The group formally voted to approve the REF codes proposed by the PET group in the morning TIGERS meeting.

Friday, August 22, 1997 - 9:00 am - TIGERS

Laurie Rhea (CA) presented the Implementation Guide for Transaction Set 521, the Income or Asset Offset. Laurie worked with Becky Podd of DISA to verify that the format was okay. The first part will be DISA boilerplate. Within the segments, shaded areas show codes recommended for use in this application.

Several potential data maintenance items were suggested while walking through the document. Additional entity codes may be needed. An AD1 segment should be added to the transaction set header, to indicate an adjustment to the entire offset. Codes might be added to CDS02 to indicate non-court or administrative action. A new code may be needed in DE 374 to indicate the date that funds were withheld.

How changes of address could be indicated was also discussed. It was noted that the PAM segment has data elements that can be used to indicate an amount to be withheld at regular intervals, as from a paycheck.

Everyone was encouraged to review the document and to get any suggested changes to Laurie by September 15,

Pete Isberg (ADP) and Marcia Larson (ICESA) will work on a similar guide for Transaction Set 540. Pete would like to put something together for the business side, not just the technical. It was suggested to cross-reference the 521 and 540 guides.

Terry Garber reviewed the dilemma of uniformity in Transaction Set 151, and especially the PBI segment. The issue is to put out information useful both to the taxpayer and to a software vendor. At the time that the tax authority's application is determining errors, it does not have access to the structure of the 813 that was submitted. Paul Connelly (OK) argued that if

the application has access to both the legacy data and the 813 map, it can construct a fairly specific 151. Connie (FLS) noted that the software can analyze a 151 and give the user a message which either says change this or else call the vendor and give this technical message.

The distinction between an error acknowledgement and a notice of adjustment was discussed. It was recommended that anything beyond certain types of errors should be handled with Transaction Set 149, the Notice of Adjustment. Paul noted that the 151 means Here is an error, while the 149 means We have changed your data. It was noted that the 149 also follows the technical format of the 813, and that the group may need to look into whether changes are needed to the 149 to make it useful in the real world. It was left that there are three possible alternatives to acknowledge the 813: a 151 which relates back structurally to the 813; the Minnesota approach of a human-readable 151 which indicates the nature of the error; or a 149 to follow.

The remainder of the session was spent on planning. The timing of program such as presented on Wednesday afternoon, which everyone said was valuable, was discussed. It was agreed that the group should do TIGERS in the traditional sense of uniformity, but also some exploratory topics. It was debated whether it was better to do more exploratory program in the interim meetings, where there was more flexibility, or at the X12 trimester meetings where, although much time must be spent on X12 matters, there was more access to resource people.

The need for a Program Chair was discussed. It was suggested that Jon Lyon or Terry Garber should use their access to contacts to funnel ideas to a Program Chair. For October, Bob, Jon, Terry, and Connie (IA) will hold a conference call to plan the Sunday program.

Ways to get more attendees were also discussed. States who do not attend, or who attend only for their limited purposes, must be encouraged. Word of valuable programs should be spread early, and to service providers as well as through FTA channels. It was suggested to approach Bob Barr to get more IRS participation.

The meeting was adjourned.