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Business Interoperability Interfaces for Public Procurement in Europe - Architecture - Part 105: Conformance Registry specification

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Business Interoperability Interfaces for Public Procurement in Europe - Architecture - Part 105: Conformance Registry specification

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European foreword

CWA 17025-105, **Conformance Registry specification** was developed in accordance with CEN-CENELEC Guide 29 “CEN/CENELEC Workshop Agreements – The way to rapid agreement” and with the relevant provisions of CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations - Part 2. It was agreed on 2015-12-02 in a Workshop by representatives of interested parties, approved and supported by CEN following a public call for participation made on 2013-02-20. It does not necessarily reflect the views of all stakeholders that might have an interest in its subject matter.

The final text of CWA 17025 was submitted to CEN for publication on 2016-04-20. It was developed and approved by:

— Agency for public Management and eGovernment (DIFI), NO

— Agenzia delle entrate, IT

— ANAC, Autorità Nazionale Anticorruzione (formerly AVCP), IT

— Bundesverband Materialwirtschaft, Einkauf und Logistik e.V, DE

— Cloudia Oy, FI

— Columbus Denmark A/S (resigned per 2015-08-01), DK

— Consorzio CBI (resigned per 2014-11-17), IT

— Danish Agency for Digitisation (DIGST), DK

— Department of Health, UK

— Direction de l'information légale et administrative (DILA), FR

— Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI) TC (liason)

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This CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) has been drafted and approved by the Workshop on **Business Interoperability Interfaces for Public procurement in Europe (BII)**, phase 3.

CWA 17025 is part of a set of CWAs prepared by CEN WS/BII 3[1]:

CWA 17025:2016 Methodology and Architecture
CWA 17026:2016 Notification profiles and transactions
CWA 17027:2016 Tendering profiles and transactions
CWA 17028:2016 Catalogue profiles and transactions
CWA 17029:2016 Post-award profiles and transactions

CWA 17025 consists of:

CWA 17025-1 Overview and Architecture
CWA 17025-101 Conformance and Customization Methodology guideline
CWA 17025-102 Code List and Identifier Management specification

[1] In order to ease the reading the CWAs provided by the CEN BII initiative, they are also made available on http://www.cenbii.eu together with explanatory notes and supporting material. The official version is however the version as published by CEN.

CWA 17025-103 Business Document and Envelope guideline
CWA 17025-104 Profile Architecture specification
CWA 17025-105 Conformance Registry specification
CWA 17025-106 Open Procurement Data report
CWA 17025-107 Message Level Response guideline
CWA 17025-108 Use of Digital Signature and Other Trust Services
CWA 17025-109 Guideline on the Concept of Core
CWA 17025-110 Profile Maintenance Process specification
CWA 17025-111 Capturing Business Requirements specification
CWA 17025-112 Syntax Implementations Guideline Methodology guideline
CWA 17025-113 Business Rules Description Mechanism guideline
CWA 17025-114 Attachments Handling guideline
CWA 17025-115 Semantic Data Type guideline
CWA 17025-116 Glossary and Business Term Vocabulary
CWA 17025-203 BDE Syntax Implementation Guideline for Messaging Envelope
CWA 17025-207 UBL Syntax Implementation Guideline for Message Level Response

A detailed overview of all CWA 17025 parts can be found in CWA 17025 part 1.

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Introduction

The first CEN BII Workshop was established in May 2007 with the objective of harmonising electronic procurement in Europe. The CEN BII initiative, which now comprises a further two CEN Workshops, is a standardisation activity within CEN (European Committee for Standardisation). It provides a framework for interoperability in pan-European electronic transactions expressed as a set of technical specifications.

During the second phase of the initiative (CEN WS/BII 2) a set of technical specifications – “CEN BII Profiles” – were documented and published as five CEN Workshop Agreements (CWAs), which are currently used across Europe. The profiles are designed to facilitate effective public e-procurement based on a modular approach for implementation, with a focus on global interoperability.

The CEN BII profiles can be seen as “agreements” on message contents and business processes. The profile descriptions focus on core information elements that typically cater to the majority of user requirements applicable across Europe and lower the need for detailed bilateral agreements between the trading partners.

In its third phase (CEN WS/BII 3), which began in March 2013 with the approval of the business plan, the Workshop has focused on ensuring that all relevant aspects of e-procurement are covered, including additional business requirements coming from the new Public Procurement Directives[2] and alignment to other standardization efforts in the area of electronic invoicing, as well as ensuring wider recognition and adoption of its deliverables.

More information about the CEN BII initiative can be found on www.cenbii.eu.

This purpose of this specification is to describe how we can gather statements from those who claim conformance to our deliverables. Currently there are various disparate Registries, such as PEPPOL, DIFI in Norway and SFTI, but there is a need to provide a central registry to gather all the information together so that software developers, business users, standards development organisations, and CEN BII itself can see the extent of the use of BII throughout the Europe and beyond.

[2] Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement – replaces Directive 2004/18/EC ("classic Directive"), Directive 2014/25/EU on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors – replaces Directive 2004/17/EC ("utilities Directive"), and Directive 2014/23/EU on the award of concession contracts (new)

1 Scope

Standards, especially in the area of common semantics and re-usable data models, foster interoperability in solutions that address business and government requirements for information exchange, thereby enabling greater effectiveness and efficiency in trade facilitation and electronic business.

The document will outline the goals, requirements and methodology which will:

— Specify ways in which end users can identify and declare conformance with standards/specifications in order to foster interoperability,

— Discuss how self-conformance statements can be made publically available to improve transparency in the use of BII specifications.

This report focuses on conformance in run-time, i.e. how well a specific implementation and its supporting documents such as sub sets and implementation guides conform to BII specifications once developed. Design-time conformance, the tools and software used for the implementation or design of the supporting documents, is out of scope and covered in other BII Architecture. Conformance in run time follows conformance in design time, so in that sense the tools and methodologies are proven as well.

2 The challenge of Interoperability

Interoperability is looking at how disparate systems understand each other. It is about receiving data and behaving as expected. When a system sends a message there is the expectation for a particular behaviour from the recipient such as a receipt. For example text from a Mac system can be read and understood in a Windows system and although both systems have different code bases and operating systems they can exchange messages reliably. Also when exchanging word processing documents, the user understands the contents but with an interoperable system, the system must understand the message in such a way that it is processed in a consistent and timely manner. So in the case of a Purchase Order, the receiving system understands the message so that it is now able to read the Order and start or continue the process at this stage in the Supply Chain.

The challenge in facilitating this is that most implementations are separate and different and no one major player can force alignment globally. Typically misinterpretations occur both before and after implementations; the implementers can misinterpret the specification and if the system is not developed properly, the system can misread some or all of the message received. e.g. A UNIX system can misinterpret some types of text received from a Windows system. The other challenge is that systems will only understand a specific section of the process, so all systems involved need to be choreographed and implemented as well. The CEN BII Profile is a specification which contains all these aspects and implementers must ensure it is fully implemented in a conformant manner.

2.1 Conformance as a tool to ensure interoperability

Conformance is measuring how an implementation makes use of a given standard or specification. This document is concentrating on Self-Conformance, which generally should be accompanied by some sort of proof or validation, otherwise misinterpretations will occur. What users may also need is some sort of certification that they are conformant However this is beyond our scope, as there is an assumption that some sort of testing will be carried out to verify the claim e.g. by providing test