



**RECOMMENDATION TO GISB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Requester: Systrends**

**Request No.: R01019**

**1. Recommended Action:**

- Accept as requested
- Accept as modified below
- Decline

**Effect of EC Vote to Accept Recommended Action:**

- Change to Existing Practice
- Status Quo

**2. TYPE OF MAINTENANCE**

**Per Request:**

- Initiation
- Modification
- Interpretation
- Withdrawal

**Per Recommendation:**

- Initiation
- Modification
- Interpretation
- Withdrawal

- Principle (x.1.z)
- Definition (x.2.z)
- Business Practice Standard (x.3.z)
- Document (x.4.z)
- Data Element (x.4.z)
- Code Value (x.4.z)
- X12 Implementation Guide
- Business Process Documentation

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- Definition (x.2.z)
- Business Practice Standard (x.3.z)
- Document (x.4.z)
- Data Element (x.4.z)
- Code Value (x.4.z)
- X12 Implementation Guide
- Business Process Documentation

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

**SUMMARY:** Accept the request to add a new header element, REFNUM, to the EDI/EDM specification. This header element provides trading partners the ability to uniquely identify outbound messages, enabling greater tracking and auditing ability.

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**STANDARDS LANGUAGE:**

Modify the EDM Manual (pdf page 50, Version 1.5) as follows:

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Usage*</b>	<b>Condition</b>
<u>Refnum</u>	<u>Used by the party to assign a unique message identifier for tracing purposes</u>	<u>Maximum 40 character integer value</u>	<u>in Request; MA</u>	<u>May be used by sender to send tracking information to a recipient. Use of this data element is by mutually agreed. This data element is conceptually similar to a Message-ID filed within RFC 822.</u>

Also included are a related error code and a related warning code. Corresponding changes to the EDM Manual (pdf page 83 Version 1.5) are:

<b>Validation Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Required vs. Mutually Agreed</b>
<u>EEDM119</u>	<u>Mutually agreed element, refnum, not present</u>	<u>Refnum</u>	<u>mutually agreed</u>
<u>WEDM104</u>	<u>Element refnum received, not mutually agreed; ignored</u>	<u>Refnum</u>	<u>mutually agreed</u>

**4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**a. Description of Request:**

Addition of a new header element, REFNUM, to the EDI/EDM specification. This header element provides trading partners the ability to uniquely identify outbound messages, enabling greater tracking and auditing ability.



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**b. Description of Recommendation:**

The EDM Subcommittee evaluated the addition of a new header element, REFNUM, to the EDI/EDM specification. This header element provides trading partners the ability to uniquely identify outbound messages, enabling greater tracking and auditing ability. After considerable discussion, the Request was approved unanimously.

**c. Business Purpose:**

The REFNUM header element is defined by the IETF EDIINT AS2 specification as a header data element used to uniquely identify messages. Trading Partners associate a unique reference number with each outbound data exchange in order to track message status. The REFNUM element would be included as an HTTP request data element, along with “To”, “From”, etc.

The Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is currently processing 10 million transactions per month. With this heavy workload it is imperative for ERCOT to maintain automated systems to track the status of a message from application through transport. The REFNUM element provides ERCOT the information necessary to aid logging and tracking of messages.

**d. Commentary/Rationale of Subcommittee(s)/Task Force(s):**

See minutes of the EDM Subcommittee for 2/28/02, 3/06/02, 3/11/02, and 3/13/02.