

R97056

Gas Industry Standards Board
Request for Initiation of Standard for Electronic Business Transactions
or
Enhancement of an Existing GISB Standard for Electronic Business Transactions

1. Submitting Entity & Address:

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2. Contact Information:

Jim Buccigross, Legal Counsel
Gregory M. Lander, President

3. Description of Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

The request is to rename the data element now called the "Confirmation Requester's Tracking Number" to the more accurate "Confirmation Requester's Tracking ID" and to clarify that the data element value can in fact contain alpha-numeric data. This data element is present in the Request For Confirmation document (GISB Standard No. 1.4.3), and in the Confirmation Response document (GISB Standard No. 1.4.4).

The value in this data element is not validated by the receiver of the process, is only for EDI, is defined as an alphanumeric field in the EDI guide and therefore it is appropriate for an originator to place any character string into this field so that they may "tie request for confirmation to [the] confirmation response."

This request is made in order to remove any perceived ambiguity as to whether the data element can contain alpha-numeric data (or as some maintain only numeric data). The name change, combined with the fact that the fields already mapped for the confirmation requester's tracking number in the EDI datasets are in fact mapped alpha-numeric fields, should resolve the issue.

4. Use of the Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

GISB Standards 1.4.3 and 1.4.4 (the Request For Confirmation and Confirmation Response datasets respectively) have a data element called "Confirmation Requester's Tracking Number." In relevant part, its definition reads as follows: "This is created by the originator of the process. It is line item specific and is used by the originator of the process to tie request for confirmation to confirmation response. It is not validated by the receiver of the process nor is it a key in the receiver of the process' database." The definition goes on to state that the receiver does not track

this item "but merely echo[es] it back in the response document." And finally, the definition goes on to state that this item is not to be added to the EBB's.

The usage, conditionality, and all other factors surrounding the data element would be identical to current practice.

5. Description of Any Tangible or Intangible Benefits to the Use of the Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

What the request does, is allow the confirmation requester to utilize alpha characters in the Confirmation Requester's Tracking Number and clarify that all confirmation service providers will accept them. Currently, it is possible that a confirmation service requester using alpha characters in a Confirmation Requester's Tracking Number could have them accepted by one confirmation service provider, yet not accepted by another.

In addition, it allows the confirmation service requester to encode additional intelligence into the Confirmation Requester's Tracking Number if he so desires. As this value is not verified or edited by the receiver, there is no negative aspect in terms of processing or database programming.

The data element name change adds clarity as to the type of data which may be contained in the data element.

6. Estimate of Incremental Specific Costs to Implement Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

Any costs associated with this proposed enhancement are zero to minimal. The request does not propose to increase the volume of data sent or require any additional processing of the tracking number. No re-mapping is required, the tracking number is already mapped to alpha-numeric fields in the EDI documents and is not required to be present on the EBB's.

7. Description of Any Specific Legal or Other Considerations:

None.

8. If This Proposed Standard or Enhancement is Not Tested Yet, List Trading Partners Willing to Test Standard or Enhancement

The change is minor and little or no testing will be required. Nevertheless, TransCapacity would certainly be willing to undertake testing with any other party.

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9. If This Proposed Standard or Enhancement Is In Use, Who are the Trading Partners:

The requested name change itself is obviously not in practice at this time. However, many trading partners are planning on supporting alpha-numeric values in the Confirmation Requester's Tracking Number field, which is essentially what this request entails.

10. Attachments

None.