



The Global Language of Business

# Attribute Value Pairs (AVP) in GS1 EDI Management rules

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## Contributors

Name	Organisation
Ewa Iwicka	GS1 GO
Jean-Luc Champion	GS1 GO
Mark Van Eeghem	GS1 GO
Roman Strand	GS1 Germany
Andreas Pelekies	GS1 Germany
Xavier Pujol	GS1 Spain
Tom Eric Schmidt	August Storck

## Log of Changes

Release	Date of Change	Changed By	Summary of Change
1	New document	Ewa Iwicka	
2	September 2015	Ewa Iwicka	Renamed eCom to EDI in entire document to become consistent with GS1 terminology

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## 1 Introduction

The adoption of GS1 EDI XML standards in new business processes in various sectors often requires changes to message structure and / or their content, to support new requirements. The maintenance releases of EDI standards are published every two years. Such frequency is believed to ensure the stability of standards, while providing necessary flexibility in supporting new requirements. However, in some cases, especially those when the users need to conform to new legislation or government requirements, two years publication cycle is not sufficient.

As of EDI release 3.2, such urgent requirements can be supported on exceptional basis by adding temporary components to the existing messages that can be used until the nearest EDI Maintenance Release. These new components are introduced as the Attribute Value Pair (AVP) – a set of pre-defined placeholders within the EDI messages. The actual attributes and values allowed are stored in the [Global Data Dictionary](#).

In the nearest Maintenance Release the AVPs will be added to the basic message structure, so they should be considered as a temporary solution applied in exceptional cases.

The AVPs may only be implemented for backward compatible changes<sup>1</sup>, thus no AVP will be added for requests leading to a new Major Release.

## 2 Attribute Value Pair (AVP) Management Rules

All the AVPs used in EDI are subject must follow the rules listed below

**[R1]** EDI Work Request (WR) specifies if the requested attribute should also be implemented as the AVP – by clicking a check box in WR form. AVP's can be requested only for maintenance WRs.

**[R2]** AVP request should be justified:

- a. Why is it needed before the next EDI Maintenance Release
- b. Negative scenario: what will happen if the attribute is not added as Fast Track (AVP WR is not approved)

**[R3]** EDI Standards Maintenance Group (SMG) decides whether the requested attribute should be implemented as AVP or should wait for the nearest release. This requires a formal vote within EDI SMG.

**[R4]** Each Fast Track attribute must be assigned the following properties:

- c. Publication date
- d. Sunset release
- e. Location in the message where it can be used (message and class; the full XPath)
- f. Replacement attribute (with full XPath) – to be included when the next maintenance release is ratified

**[R5]** All AVPs of a particular release will be incorporated into the nearest EDI Maintenance Release, thus the AVPs cannot be used in sunset release or later.

Example: AVPs added to release 3.2 cannot be used with messages that are part of 3.3 or later releases. Instead, the final replacement attributes must be used.

**[R6]** Fast Track Attributes will be published in [Global Data Dictionary](#) when approved. There will be 4 possible AVP publications per calendar year.

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<sup>1</sup> Backward compatibility means that a message sender can create a business document based on an earlier schema and send it to a recipient, who can successfully validate it against a later schema. For more information about versioning of EDI standards please refer to [Technical User Guide to GS1 XML 3.x](#)

- [R7]** No AVPs will be approved for code list extension. Code lists can be extended directly between releases, so no additional solution is needed.
- [R8]** No AVPs will be approved for earlier releases. They can be added only to the latest current release.
- [R9]** No WRs will be approved for changing AVPs.