



ECTA WORKGROUP

2019

ECTA Transport Data and Message Definition Framework to improve “end to end Supply Chain Visibility and Collaboration across the Chemical Logistics Bulk Liquid actors.

1. Project summary

The goal of this initiative is to create common ETA, ETL, ETD,....transport message definitions to improve supply chain visibility and real-time information exchange across the chemical supply chain. The initiative aims to provide a framework of common definitions for all involved business partners in the logistics chain to allow digital information sharing, as well as working on an interoperable underlying technology format. Next to better communications and a smarter operational interoperability, this ECTA Transport Message definitions framework will lead to optimization of inbound and outbound logistics flows and will therefore be beneficial to all actors in the chemical supply chain. As the Logistic Service Providers (LSP) are at the center of this ‘end to end’ chain, the ECTA board has taken the decision to start a new ECTA workgroup for this purpose. The participants of this workgroup will not only further develop the framework of common ETX definitions, they will also explicitly take the responsibility to keep this definitions framework up to date through a new ECTA best practice guideline.

Project overview

1.1 Problem statement

All actors in the supply chain in the area of bulk liquid transportation are confronted with the lack of standardization in the area of data connectivity, which leads to inefficiency and poor interoperability in the logistics processes across company borders. The opportunity lays in setting up definitions framework that can better connect and operationally align the physical and digital logistics flows across actors. Furthermore, standardization of common field and transport message definitions creates the opportunity for further optimize the “end to end” collaborative established processes.

1.2 Deliverable

While the overall objective is clear, it is important to start with a concise and limited scope. That said the aim is to publish by April 1, 2020 a descriptive transport message framework of “ETX” transport message definitions as ECTA best practice guideline for chemical bulk liquid flows. The scope is further explained below.



1.3 Project Scope, approach and timeline

Phase I : timeline From October 2019 – and March 2020

The initial focus is put on the area of supply chain visibility (track & trace) to define information standards:

1. Between LSP and its customers, e.g. producers, buyers, loading and delivery addresses of bulk chemicals;
2. Between LSP and its suppliers, such as rail, shipping and truck companies as well as depot, workshop and cleaning facilities.

Primarily, the following information shall be covered:

- Transport Milestone Messages
- Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) Updates
- Estimated Time of Departure (ETD) Updates
- Estimated Time of Pickup (ETP) Updates
- Equipment Status Updates

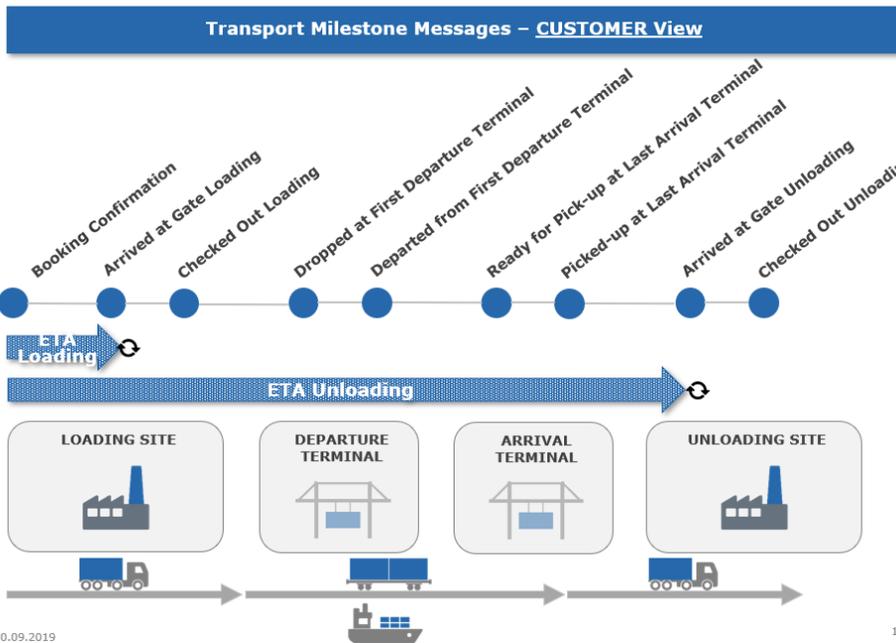
Secondly, definitions and business rules for the above-mentioned information items shall be defined to create a joint industry understanding.

Thirdly, this standard proposes to provide reliable and continuous updated ETA's and transport milestone messages, thereby avoiding exchange of huge amounts of raw data and ETA interpretation differences. Additionally, it provides a common standard for on-time performance evaluation in the transport chain.

Last, this data exchange standard is supposed to be closely connected to existing standardization initiatives and guidelines within the various modes of transports to avoid redundancy of initiatives.

To make the deliverable of phase 1 more specific, find below how the Transport Milestone Messages could look like to improve the “end to end” Supply Chain Visibility.

End-to-End Supply Chain Visibility



Definitions

Transport Milestone Messages – CUSTOMER View

Term	Definition
Booking Confirmation	Timestamp of booking confirmation
Arrived at Gate Loading	Arrival timestamp on loading CMR
Checked Out Loading	Departure timestamp on loading CMR
Dropped at First Departure Terminal	Timestamp of the handover of the container
Departed from First Departure Terminal	Timestamp of the departure of the container via train/vessel
Ready for Pick-up at Last Arrival Terminal	Timestamp of the container being ready for pick-up
Picked-up at Last Arrival Terminal	Timestamp of the pick-up of the container
Arrived at Gate Unloading	Arrival timestamp on delivery CMR
Checked Out Unloading	Departure timestamp on delivery CMR
ETA Loading	Estimated time of arrival at loading site
ETA Unloading	Estimated time of arrival at unloading site



Phase II – no timeline yet

The overall scope of this initiative should not be limited to standardization in transport messages, as it also aims to further look into other areas in the logistics process where standardization would lead to higher efficiency.

The following non-exhaustive list contains topics for future standardization initiatives to be prioritized by the ECTA board and ECTA members after successful implementation of Phase I:

- Standardization of trucking partner milestone messages;
- Transparency on throughput times and real-time waiting times for handling addresses, i.e. plants, terminals, depots, to optimize truck turn-around time and enable load balancing for the handling addresses;
- Alignment with existing or new E-Documents (eECD, e-CMR, e-Interchange, e-Estimates);
- Standardization of operational performance measurements (KPI);
- Industry standards on measurement of sustainability and safety and quality performance;
- Development of a site information database;
 - o Loading & Unloading site instructions
 - o General practical and safety information
 - o Geocoordinates/Geofence
- Blacklist/Previous Product restrictions (link with eECD project phase2)
- Harmonized digital identities of equipment (link with eECD project phase2)
- Recommendations for data quality improvements.