

**Technical's Recommendations to
EBB Internet Implementation Task Force
for Flat File Standards
January 20, 1999**

	Definitions, Principles, Standards Proposed by EIITF	Technical Recommendation	Relevant Technical Meeting Minutes
d4	"GISB FF/EDM" is the term used to describe a standardized flat file electronic data interchange of information in files as mapped from the x.4.z GISB Standards. GISB FF/EDM is communicated between trading partners over the Internet using the GISB Electronic Delivery Mechanism.	Agree - No additional recommendation	10/06/98
p6	There should generally be a one-to-one relationship between data elements used for EDI and/or flat files and the data displayed on Customer Activities Web pages.	Agree - No additional recommendation	10/06/98
p12	When standardized, all elements used in standard BB/EDM, EDI/EDM and FF/EDM should be defined in the related GISB x.4.z standard.	Agree - No additional recommendation	10/06/98
p13	For GISB FF/EDM, the content and usage of flat files should reasonably correspond to the GISB data sets used for GISB EDI/EDM.	Agree - No additional recommendation	10/06/98
p14	If GISB FF/EDM is implemented, flat files should be exchanged via the GISB EDI/EDM site or the Customer Activities Web site.	Agree - No additional recommendation	10/06/98
s16	Where they exist for the same business function, flat files and EDI should use the same nomenclature for data set names, data element names, code values and/or code value descriptions, abbreviations and message text. Corresponding Web pages should use data set names, data element names, code value descriptions, abbreviations and message text that correspond to those used in flat files and EDI, where they exist.	Agree - No additional recommendation	10/06/98

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s21	A Transportation Service Provider (TSP) which determines to provide new features utilizing existing transaction sets via GISB EBB/EDM, for each transaction upon inception of support for such service, should: If GISB EDI/EDM or FF/EDM standards exist for the transaction set, provide the service via EDI/EDM, or FF/EDM or both, utilizing modifications defined by the TSP to the existing file structures; and, Submit a request for modification or enhancement of the transaction set to GISB including details of the interim EBB/EDM, EDI/EDM, and/or FF/EDM implementation.	Agree - No additional recommendation	10/06/98
s25	GISB FF/EDM flat files should be ASCII comma separated value (.csv) format.	<p>GISB FF/EDM flat files should be formatted as ASCII comma separated value (CSV) files. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rows are separated by a carriage return/line feed (CRLF). * Fields are separated by commas. * When a field contains a comma, the field should be enclosed by double-quotes. * Double-quotes should not be used within any data field. * When numeric data is negative, the minus sign should precede the number. * When numeric data contains decimal precision, the decimal point should be included within the field. * When numeric data contains one or more significant leading zeros, these zeros should be preserved in the flat file. * Date fields should be formatted as YYYYMMDD. * Time fields should be specified in a 24 hour format, formatted as HH:MM or HH:MM:SS, as applicable. * Date/Time fields should be formatted as YYYYMMDD HH:MM or YYYYMMDD HH:MM:SS when date and time are expressed in one GISB data element. Note that there should be exactly one space between the day (DD) and the hour (HH). * The maximum amount of data to be placed in a field should be limited to 256 characters. 	<p>10/06/98 11/10/98 11/24/98 12/07/98</p>

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s26	Provisions to provide 'comment' rows within GISB FF/EDM flat file should be made. These rows should be ignored for processing purposes.	Technical recommends the deletion of standard s26 for the following reasons: 1) File size 2) Troubleshooting difficulties 3) Problem with data being interpreted as a comment and ignored 4) Difficulty for customers to receive comment rows	10/06/98 10/29/98 11/10/98
s27	The order of elements within GISB FF/EDM flat files should be that identified within the standards.	The phrase "within the standards" needs to be clarified. How does this standard work in conjunction with the new and revised standards proposed by Technical?	10/06/98 10/29/98 11/10/98
s28	Each transaction (e.g. nomination) within a GISB FF/EDM flat file should be represented by a single row layout.	For GISB FF/EDM flat files, each transaction (e.g. nomination) should be contained in a single row.	10/06/98 10/29/98 11/10/98
s30	The industry should use common codes for location points and legal entities when communicating via EDI/EDM, EBB/EDM, and/or FF/EDM. The corresponding common code name should also be used in EBB/EDM.	Agree - No additional recommendation	10/06/98
new	--	For a GISB FF/EDM flat file, the first row of the file should be comprised of the standard abbreviations for GISB data elements (including any additional data elements added per proposed standard [s21]) in the order in which the corresponding data is to appear in all subsequent rows. The data element order is at the option of the sender. If a data element abbreviation is not recognized, the entire flat file should be rejected.	10/06/98 10/29/98 11/10/98 11/24/98 12/10/98

Additional Technical Recommendations/Issues	Relevant Technical Meeting Minutes
<p>The Technical Subcommittee recommends that data element field lengths for GISB FF/EDM should not exceed the corresponding EDI/EDM field length. However, since the EDI/EDM field lengths are defaulted to the maximum field length for the ANSI ASC X12 data element to which the GISB data element is mapped, we also recommend that GISB define standard data element data types and corresponding field lengths in order to meet business requirements.</p>	<p>11/10/98 11/24/98 12/07/98</p>
<p>All data elements in the EDI files that are not associated with a GISB data element need to be examined to determine if they need to be added to the Flat File data dictionary. Two examples are Acknowledgment Type (BAK02) in the Confirmation Response and Measurement Basis in the Nomination Related data sets (indicating Dekatherms, Gigajoules, Gigacalories).</p>	<p>11/24/98</p>