



North American Energy Standards Board

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via email

TO: NAESB Certification Program Committee and Managing Committee Members, and Posting for Interested Parties

FROM: Rae McQuade, NAESB President
James Cargas, NAESB Deputy Director

RE: Notes from Certification Program Committee Conference Call on April 27, 2005

DATE: May 16, 2005

Dear NAESB Certification Program Committee and Managing Committee Members,

A Certification Program Committee (CPC) conference call was held on April 27, 2005. The following notes and assignments resulted from the meeting.

Certification Program Committee:

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

- Introduction:
- Mr. Cargas gave the antitrust guidelines.
 - Mr. Spangler, CPC Chair, welcomed Committee members.
 - The draft agenda was adopted by consensus.
- Review of Model Certification Programs:
- Mr. Pfeifer was unable to attend the call. He will provide a summary of Microsoft Corporation's certification programs that are the most similar to NAESB's goals.
 - The self-certification program that NAESB undertakes with TrustE was reviewed (<http://www.truste.org/businesses/forms.php>). NAESB pays \$750 for a one-year license. The fee is based on a member company's annual gross revenue.
 - Whether the CPC recommends a self-certification format or a revision of the existing format, NAESB's program will not include enforcement.
- Check List of Issues Certification Program Must Address:
- The existing check list for the WGQ Version 1.6 certification program was found to present a good list of minimum requirements.
 - The three areas of interested to a potential WGQ customer are: (1) web site compliance, (2) electronic design and manufacture (EDM) compliance, and (3) electronic data interchange (EDI) document compliance.
 - A WEQ customer, however, would be interested in (1) OASIS compliance and (2) compliance with the information requirements. These are not in the same format as the WGQ standards. They are contained in the data dictionary, data element definitions, and standards and communication protocols (SC&P).
 - The Retail Quadrants are developing information requirements for billing and payments in EDI and extensible style language (XML) formats. The states are adopting characteristics of the WGQ standards. Accordingly, a Retail customer would be interested in (1) Internet Electronic Transport (ET), (2) web site look and feel, and (3) data dictionary compliance.
 - Retail certification may implicate reviewing local standards. Consensus
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was to keep to general compliance with NAESB retail MBPs, and not get too detailed on retail certification. In the future, NAESB may develop state specific riders to retail certification program. The market will determine which states based on requests received.

- Alternatively, under self-certification, a person could certify they are in compliance with state nuances, or certify what specific state nuance they are not in compliance with and why. This would require customer to review certification details to see the exceptions. This approach was not endorsed by the Committee.
- In Texas, certification by ERCOT is of real value, not NAESB. NAESB certification will be most attractive in new markets.
- Consensus reached that Internet ET certification would apply to 3 quadrants (WGQ, REQ, RGQ). Transactional certification would be quadrant specific to the minimum mandatory requirements.
- WEQ would have SC&P compliance certification. WEQ has not mapped to X.12 for EDI or similar constructs for XML, and does not show how to arrange the data on a web site. However, WEQ can certify the informational elements.
- Web site compliance already in WGQ Version 1.6 certification materials as is X.12 EDI.
- Specifically, there is value to vendors to have an advantage over the competition that is not certified. As such, NAESB cannot have too many certification types.
- All decisions will require NAESB General Counsel Bill Boswell to approve program.
- The WGQ program should include: (1) Internet ET compliance, (2) EDM compliance, (3) EDI document compliance and (4) web site compliance.
- The Retail program should cover both REQ and RGQ certification and include: (1) Internet ET compliance and (2) EDI compliance. Mandatory minimums should be certified, not options elected for state specific compliance. Data dictionary compliance was discussed, but not agreed to due to their state specific nature.
- The WEQ program should include: (1) OASIS compliance and (2) compliance with the information requirements contained in the data dictionary, data element definitions, and SC&P.

Consensus
Points:

Action Items:

Action Items:

- Mr. Pfeifer will provide model certification programs from Microsoft.
- Next meeting will begin drafting a high-level summary of recommendations for presentation at the June 22 Board meeting.
- CPC will begin drafting the actual program details: check lists and officer certification page.



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Next Conference Calls:

Tues., May 19, at 3:00pm CST

Wed., June 8, at 10:00am CST

Attendance:

| Name: | | Organization: |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | George Behr | ESG |
| 2 | Jim Buccigross | Group 8760 |
| 3 | Christopher Burden | Williams Gas Pipeline |
| 4 | Cade Burks | EC Power |
| 5 | James Cargas | NAESB |
| 6 | Robert Connell | ERCOT |
| 7 | Dave Darnell | Systrends |
| 8 | Rae McQuade | NAESB |
| 9 | Leigh Spangler | Latitude Technologies |