



A single e-Language

for the supply chain of the

European Textile & Clothing & Footwear Industries

About eBIZ

eBIZ-TCF is a European initiative aiming at:
Harmonising business processes, data exchange architectures & standards at European and international level in the European Textile Clothing and Footwear industries

In today's complex and fast-changing trade/economic environment the Fashion industry requires fast time-to-market reaction. Standards and agreed reference architectures allow suppliers, manufacturers and retailers to connect their businesses electronically within the value chain, the **e-Business**.

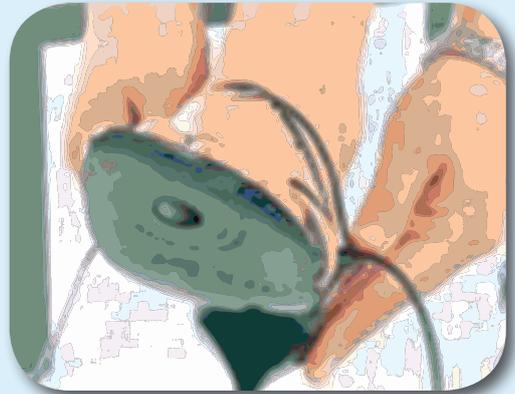
eBIZ is the first initiative of its kind attempting to create a single e-language for the fashion industry.

Working together with over 150 European companies & organisations in 20 countries, eBIZ has produced:

- an analysis of level of e-business adoption in the sectors across the EU,
- a technical **Reference Architecture**; the major eBIZ result for e-business interoperability and which covers the sectors whole supply chains,
- **tests** to validate and improve the Reference Architecture within **17 Pilots**; i.e. groups of companies testing e-Business in real business environments and exploiting systems inter-operability for data exchange,
- an information campaign to raise **awareness** on the benefits of harmonised e-Business for the fashion industry
- the **eBIZ Interest Group**, to support dissemination and results upgrade.

Launched in January 2008 by the European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, eBIZ is run by a consortium of three key partners (EURATEX, CEC, ENEA) and coordinated by the European Apparel and Textile Confederation.

Updates and more information on activities and key partners involved on:
www.eBIZ-tcf.eu.





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About the eBIZ-TCF Reference Architecture

Key points of the Reference Architecture

The full eBIZ-TCF Reference Architecture can be downloaded from www.eBIZ-tcf.eu

- The key objective is to achieve interoperability between systems including existing legacy systems and to facilitate interoperation between large enterprises and SMEs in the Textile/Clothing and Footwear sectors
- The Architecture contains business process models, data models, product identification, transport protocols. It is scalable with a low entry threshold allowing even small companies to participate.
- Wherever possible, it uses existing public standards (e.g. UBL, ebXML) and is based on previous experiences in the textile/clothing and footwear sectors (e.g. Moda-ML and Shoenet projects)
- The Architecture is applicable to both producer-retailer (downstream) and producer-supplier (upstream) business processes of the supply chain in the sectors.
- While it is not essential to implement the full sequence of messages contained in the Architecture, it is mandatory to adopt the specified data models.
- For downstream e-Business only, it specifies the mandatory use of GTIN (Global Trade Item Numbers) for product identification and GLN (Global Location Numbers) for party identification.
- Data exchange must be supported with SOAP over HTTP or SMTP and must satisfy the minimum security levels
- The Architecture will be maintained and enhanced in the future by the eBIZ Interest Group

