

## SMDG Recommendation # 8:

# Empty tank container with residues

### *About this document*

This document describes the best practice for EDI transmission of “empty tank containers with residues”.

### **Recommendation:**

- Mark the transport equipment as **Empty** and
- Use equipment attribute code **ETR** to specify as “Empty Tank with Residue”
- Indicate hazardous properties in a Dangerous Goods declaration

### **Definition**

An “Empty tank container with residue” is defined as a tank container without cargo inside. It is considered as empty from an operational perspective by the carrier, terminals, and customer. It will not be shown on a cargo manifest.

However, the container in some cases still contains residues from its previous cargo transport. This cargo remainder might have a Dangerous Goods property. Therefore, the container must be declared and reported as DG-container. Carrier, terminals, and authorities must apply the same IMDG rules as for a DG-container with cargo.

### **Issue**

For many actors in the supply chain there is no clear assignment of such container as “Full” or “Empty”. Depending on a particular use case, it could be considered as Empty because there is no cargo inside, or it could be considered as “Full” because it has a DG property. Some IT systems automatically classify a container as “Full” when it has a DG property.

As a result, the electronic communication of an “MT tank container with residue” is often misunderstood by the receiver, resulting in disarrangement and uneconomic extra email exchange.

## Solution

The SMDG has introduced a **Status Attribute Code “ETR” for “Empty Tank with Residue”**. Carrier, terminals, and customers may use it for declaration in all related EDIFACT messages.

Where “empty” and “full” are denoted, like in the EQD segment, **the container shall be marked as “empty”**.

The code ETR clearly identifies an “MT tank with residue” as such. Sender and receiver of a message can be sure about the special property of the container, avoiding ambiguities and additional effort for clarification.

The code ETR is published in the **SMDG Attribute code list**, which is available on <https://smdg.org/documents/smdg-code-lists/smdg-handling-and-stoloc-code-lists/>

Reason for this solution is that showing such container as “empty” comes closer to the operational reality. This container is not deployed in a cargo transport. The small amount of residue does not justify a declaration as “full”. Hence, marking empty tanks with residues as “Full” is deprecated and considered as bad practice.

## Usage in Edifact

The EQD segment:

EQD+CN+ABCU1234567+22T3+++4' (4 means empty)

The attribute code ETR:

FTX+ACF++ETR:ATTRIBUTES:306' (D.00B and later)

FTX+ACF++ETR:ATT:306' (before D.00B)

In future, it is intended to use the ATT segment for this purpose. The SMDG guidelines are work in progress. Future syntax example:

ATT+27+PROPERTY:EQDATT:306+ETR:ATTRIBUTES:306' (D.21A and later)

DGS declaration:

DGS+IMD+8+2735'

FTX+AAD+++2 METHYLPENTAMETHYLENEDIAMINE'

## Example in COPRAR 2.1.3 (D.00B)

Segment Group 6:

EQD+CN+ABCU1234567+22T3+++4'	(empty transport equipment)
...	(segments like RFF, LOC, MEA, ...)
FTX+ACF <sup>1)</sup> ++ETR:ATTRIBUTES:306'	(FTX describing attribute ETR)

Segment Group 8:

DGS+IMD+8+2735'	(DG-class)
FTX+AAD+++2 METHYLPENTAMETHYLENEDIAMINE'	(DG-substance)
...	(segments/groups like HAN, SG10, NAD, ...)

**Example in COPRAR 1.6.2 (D.95B)**

Segment Group 3:

EQD+CN+ABCU1234567+22T3+++4'	(empty transport equipment)
...	(segments like RFF, LOC, MEA, ...)
FTX+ACF <sup>i</sup> ++ETR:ATTRIBUTES:306'	(FTX describing attribute ETR)
DGS+IMD+8+2735'	(DGS describing DG-class, no FTX describing DG substance allowed)
...	(segments/groups like EQD, SG4, ...)

**Example in COPARN 2.1.3 (D.00B)**

Segment Group 13:

EQD+CN+ABCU1234567+22T3+++4'	(empty transport equipment)
...	(segments like RFF, LOC, MEA, ...)
FTX+ACF <sup>i</sup> ++ETR:ATTRIBUTES:306'	(FTX describing attribute ETR)
Segment Group 15:	
DGS+IMD+8+2735'	(DG-class)
FTX+AAD+++2 METHYLPENTAMMETHYLENEDIAMINE'	(DG-substance)
...	(segments/groups like HAN, SG10, NAD, ...)

**Example in COPARN 1.6.2 (D.95B)**

Segment Group 7:

EQD+CN+ABCU1234567+22T3+++4'	(empty transport equipment)
...	(segments like RFF, LOC, MEA, ...)
FTX+ACF <sup>i</sup> ++ETR:ATTRIBUTES:306'	(FTX describing attribute ETR)
DGS+IMD+8+2735'	(DGS describing DG-class, no FTX describing DG substance allowed)
...	(segments/groups like EQD, SG4, ...)

<sup>i</sup> In case qualifier ACF is used for specification of a coded “construction material” in DE 4441, the qualifier ABS may be used for distinction.

### Example in BAPLIE 3.2 (D.21B)

Segment Group 7:

EQD+CN+ABCU1234567+22T3+++4'	(empty transport equipment)
...	(more segments like RFF, LOC, MEA, ...)
ATT+27+PROPERTY:EQDATT:306+ETR:ATTRIBUTES:306'	(ATT describing attribute ETR)
...	

Segment Group 11:

DGS+IMD+8+2735'	(DG-class)
ATT+26+PSN:DGATT:306+:PSN::AMINES,LIQUID,CORROSIVE,N.O.S.'	(DG-PSN)
ATT+26+TNM:DGATT:306+:TNM::2 METHYLPENTAMMETHYLENEDIAMINE'	(DG-tech. name)
...	(more segments/groups like MEA, FTX, SG12)

### Example in BAPLIE 2.2 (D.95B)

Segment Group 2:

LOC+147+0020072'	(stowage location)
FTX+ACF <sup>i</sup> ++ETR:ATTRIBUTES:306'	(FTX describing attribute ETR)
...	(more segments like MEA, DIM, TMP, LOC, RFF)

Segment Group 3:

EQD+CN+ABCU1234567+22T3+++4'	(empty transport equipment)
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Segment Group 4:

DGS+IMD+8+2735'	(DGS describing DG-class)
FTX+AAD+++2 METHYLPENTAMMETHYLENEDIAMINE'	(DG substance)

<sup>i</sup> In case qualifier ACF is used for specification of a coded "construction material" in DE 4441, the qualifier ABS may be used for distinction.