	RECOMMENDATION TO GISB EX	KECUTIVE COMMITTEE
	Requester: Systrends	Request No.: R01019

1.	Recommended Action: _Accept as requested _X_Accept as modified below _Decline	Effect of EC Vote to Accept Recommended Action: _X Change to Existing Practice _Status Quo
2.	TYPE OF MAINTENANCE	
	Per Request:	Per Recommendation:
	_Initiation	_Initiation
	_Modification	_Modification
	Interpretation	Interpretation
	Withdrawal	Withdrawal
	_Principle (x.1.z)	_Principle (x.1.z)
	Definition (x.2.z)	Definition (x.2.z)
	Business Practice Standard (x.3.z)	_Business Practice Standard (x.3.z)
	Document (x.4.z)	Document (x.4.z)
	Data Element (x.4.z)	Data Element (x.4.z)
	Code Value (x.4.z)	Code Value (x.4.z)
	X12 Implementation Guide	X12 Implementation Guide
	X Business Process Documentation	X Business Process Documentation

3. RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY: Accept the request to add a new header element, REFNUM, to the EDI/EDM specification. This header element provides trading partners the ability to uniquely identify outbound messages, enabling greater tracking and auditing ability.

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STANDARDS LANGUAGE:

Modify the EDM Manual (pdf page 50, Version 1.5) as follows:

Business Name	Definition	Format	Usage*	Condition
Refnum	Used by the party to assign a unique message identifier for tracing purposes	Maximum 40 character integer value	in Request; MA	May be used by sender to send tracking information to a recipient. Use of this data element is by mutually agreed. This data element is conceptually similar to a Message-ID filed within RFC 822.

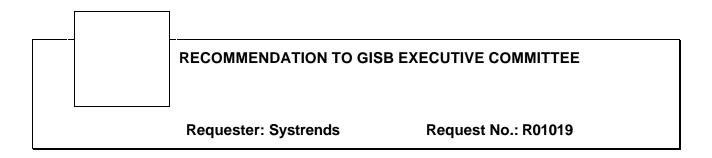
Also included are a related error code and a related warning code. Corresponding changes to the EDM Manual (pdf page 83 Version 1.5) are:

Validation Code	Description	Data Element	Required vs. Mutually Agreed
<u>EEDM119</u>	Mutually agreed element, refnum, not present	Refnum	mutually agreed
WEDM104	Element refnum received, not mutually agreed; ignored	Refnum	mutually agreed

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

a. Description of Request:

Addition of a new header element, REFNUM, to the EDI/EDM specification. This header element provides trading partners the ability to uniquely identify outbound messages, enabling greater tracking and auditing ability.



b. Description of Recommendation:

The EDM Subcommittee evaluated the addition of a new header element, REFNUM, to the EDI/EDM specification. This header element provides trading partners the ability to uniquely identify outbound messages, enabling greater tracking and auditing ability. After considerable discussion, the Request was approved unanimously.

c. Business Purpose:

The REFNUM header element is defined by the IETF EDIINT AS2 specification as a header data element used to uniquely identify messages. Trading Partners associate a unique reference number with each outbound data exchange in order to track message status. The REFNUM element would be included as an HTTP request data element, along with "To", "From", etc.

The Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is currently processing 10 million transactions per month. With this heavy workload it is imperative for ERCOT to maintain automated systems to track the status of a message from application through transport. The REFNUM element provides ERCOT the information necessary to aid logging and tracking of messages.

d. Commentary/Rationale of Subcommittee(s)/Task Force(s):

See minutes of the EDM Subcommittee for 2/28/02, 3/06/02, 3/11/02, and 3/13/02.