8.4 UN/EDIFACT Message Directories

It is essential that messages should be capable of being identified in relation to the current version of the directory from which they are derived, i.e. the code lists, data elements, composite data elements and segments.

Whenever a new Standard directory set is published, it contains the message specifications for all registered UNSMs and their supporting segments, composites, data elements and codes.

Draft directory sets contain all Status 1 (Draft Recommendation) messages and all Status 2 (UNSM) messages in their latest

form and the supporting segments, composites, data elements and codes.

A directory is identified by an issue number, allocated and controlled under UN/EDIFACT procedures. The issue number is a single character indicating whether the directory contains Draft or Standard material (S or D) followed by a period separator, followed by the last two digits of the year in which the directory is agreed upon, followed by a sequential alpha character assigned by the UN/ECE. This sequential alpha character begins with A at the start of each year and is incremented if more than one directory of the same type (S or D) is published during the same year. For example, D.96A, D.96B and so on.

When a document related to a UNSM under development reaches a Status of 2 (i.e. the status of 'Recommendation'), and the UNSM is agreed upon and published in a new issue of UN Trade Interchange Directory (UNTDID), i.e. in the Standard Directory, the values in the following fields of the UNH/UNG segments used for the message (or a sub-set of the message) will be:

- *Controlling Agency (data element 0051)*—always the two characters 'UN';
- *Message Version Number (data element 0052)*—always 'S' when published in a Standard Directory;
- *Message Release Number (data element 0054)*—The last two digits in the year of agreement followed by a single, sequential alpha character assigned by the UN that starts with A at the beginning of each year and is incremented if more than one directory of the same type (S or D) is published in the same year.

When a document related to a UNSM under development reaches a status of 1 (i.e. the status of 'Draft Recommendation'), and is agreed upon and published in a new issue of the Draft directory, the values in the following fields of the UNH/UNG