**Types of EDI standards:**

• **Proprietary standard** - EDI standard developed for a specific company or industry. This is also called a non-public or private standard.

• **Public standard** - EDI standard developed for use across one or more industries.

**EDIFACT**

• Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce, and Transport is the international set of EDI standards

• Became a UN standard in 1987

• Maintenance and further development is the responsibility of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

• Includes syntax rules and implementation guidelines, message design guidelines, data elements, code sets, and other definitions

• Used for business-to-business (B2B) communication rather than business-to-consumer (B2C)

Allows multi-country and multi-industry exchange

The four pillars of EDIFACT

• **Syntax**

- Rules for the definition of a message structure.

• **Data elements**

- Smallest data unit

- Include codes & the values for items such as date & address code.

• **Segments**

Groups of related data elements

• **Messages**

- Ordered sequence of segments

- Defines a business transaction

**EDIFACT Structure Chart**

• For EDIFACT each document type is referred to as a message. For trade purposes the documents include order, dispatch advice, invoice, payment order & remittance advice. Other sectors include their own documentation requirements, sectors using EDIFACT include:

• Transport

• Customs

• Finance

• Construction

• Statistics

• Insurance

• Tourism

• Healthcare

• Social Administration

• Public Administration