

1. ESCOM standard phrase catalogue

1.1 The Network

The catalogue is developed and maintained by the ESCOM standard phrases Working Group. This working group is working closely together with the European phrase catalogue group (EuPhraC provided by a BusinessEurope working group) to develop and maintain a shared library of unique Exposure Scenario phrases.

EuPhraC focuses on standard phrases for the **main body of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS)** and **ESCom** focuses on standard phrases for the **exposure scenario**, annexed to the SDS. Working together will assure consistency between the phrases.

EuPhraC and ESCOM are two initiatives to support actors in the chemical supply chain with standard phrases for safety data sheets and exposure scenarios. Unlike proprietary phrase catalogues of software vendors, both projects aim to share a workflow and technical bases for the publication of phrases which are publicly available for free.

Updated versions of the EuPhraC and ESCOM phrase catalogues will be published twice a year (2nd and 4th quarter). The version number of the catalogues for the corresponding releases of ESCOM and EuPhraC is identical.

1.2 Continuous enhancement at users' fingertips

ESCOM is based on expert workgroups but encourages users to enhance the phrase catalogue with proposals for additional standard phrases for ES (to be dropped at <http://draft.euphrac.eu/>). Any proposal, both from workgroup members and from users, undergoes the same approval procedure to ensure phrase catalogue quality.

The main philosophy behind the phrase proposal process is the „4-eye-principle“, in which, after formal and linguistic checks, the proposed phrase is reviewed by two experts before being discussed in the plenary Phrase review workgroup for final decision and inclusion in the phrase catalogue on euphrac.eu

To support companies and organisations in how to build standard phrases and submit proposals for phrases, a guidance on creation, submission and use of EuPhraC and ESCOM phrases has been developed. This guidance is available for download on both Cefic and EuPhraC website.

1.3 Submission of phrases

The submission of phrases is supported by two IT tools:

- The “**Proposal Tool**” available on EuPhrac site which allows browsing the phrases along the EuPhraC structure tree and sending proposals for additions, modifications and deletions.
- The “**Discussion Tool**” which receives all proposals from the "Proposal Tool" and documents the decision process with status entries as well as optional free text entries with justifications, visible to the workgroup and the interested public.

Read the Guidance “[Phrase Submission Webtool](#)”:

- for creating and downloading new ESCom standard phrases
- on how to access and use the phrase submission webtool

2. The ESCom XML standard

The ESCom XML standard consists of the IT communication standard developed by IT providers in consultation with industry to harmonize ES data exchange between computer systems in the supply chain.

In fact, to achieve standardization and aiming at automation benefits, harmonization in the format and in the wording of phrases have to be linked to analogous developments of the container used to transport them. This coordination is essential to allow IT systems to exchange and process data along the supply chain.

2.1 ESCom XML delivery package

The ESCom XML delivery package contains both technical and functional related documents relevant for the implementation of the exposure scenario communication within an IT system. The package contains:

- The ESCom XML definition in XML schema files.
- The technical HTML-based documentation for the ESCom XML Schema.
- A technical guidance document.
- High-resolution diagrams used within the technical guidance document.
- A functional guidance document.
- A sample XML document for exposure scenario communication via XML. This XML document is based on the current ESCom XML definition.

2.2 ESCom XML User Licence

Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding set forth between the participants in the ESCom project, any user wishing to download the ESCom XML standard will be asked to execute a free of charge User-Licence prior to getting access to the XML Format materials. (NB, the Phrase Catalogue *per se* is free of any such licence).



The ECom standard phrase catalogue

If you wish to download the ECom XML delivery package, please print the User-Licence, have it signed by an authorised representative of your company/organisation and send it back either by post to Cefic aisbl, for the attention of Ms. Stephanie Jacques, Rue Belliard 40 b.15 – 1040 Brussels – Belgium or by mail to sja@cefic.be

You will then receive the link to the ECom XML delivery package relevant for the implementation of the exposure scenario communication within an IT system. Please provide us (to sja@cefic.be) with the e-mail address where you wish to receive said documents.