



BY PRIORITY POST

Bulletin #3

July 3, 2002

To: All Licensed Distributors and Retailers

Re: Electronic Business Transactions Standards

The current version of the EBT Standards Documentation (Version 2.1- Issued December 21-2001) does not provide for an electronic acknowledgment to be transmitted in response to the receipt of a Status Advice (SA) Transaction.

Therefore, the party receiving the SA transaction has no means by which to acknowledge receipt of a valid transaction, nor to acknowledge receipt of an invalid transaction, back to the sender of the SA. Conversely, the sender of the SA transaction does not receive a positive acknowledgment that the SA has been received by the intended party, or whether the transaction is acceptable or has failed for any reason.

The EBT Working Group has identified a requirement to incorporate changes to the EBT Standards to allow for a positive acknowledgment back to the sender in the cases where the SA received is valid, or a rejection back to the sender in the cases where the SA transaction is not accepted for any reason.

While the development of an approved automated SA Accept/reject response is underway the industry participants should exercise the following guideline:

The responsibility for identifying errors or exceptions with the processing of Status Advice transactions lies solely with the party who has received the transaction. Where an SA fails, either with the content of a given SA transaction, or where the SA has been sent in error, the receiver should notify the sender of the transaction. Once the sender has been notified, the receiver may continue processing as if the transaction had never been received. The sender and the receiver should resolve the discrepancy in a mutually agreeable manner.

These changes are authorized by the Ontario Energy Board and are effective immediately. They will be incorporated in the next release of the Standards.

Note that it is not expected that the related system changes can be implemented immediately but it is expected that distributors, retailers and EBT service providers will begin work immediately to conform to this standard.