



HOTEL TECHNOLOGY – NEXT GENERATION
Property/Distribution Solution
Business Process – Rates
Version 1.0.1

FINAL

Version 1.0.1 includes a minor update to the 'About HTNG' section.

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Following paragraph added, for v1.0.1 on 13 May 2010:
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PREFACE

Hotel Technology Next Generation (“HTNG”) is a nonprofit organization with global scope, formed in 2002 to facilitate the development of next-generation, customer-centric technologies to better meet the needs of the global hotel community. HTNG’s mission is to provide leadership that will facilitate the creation of one (or more) industry solution set(s) for the lodging industry that:

- Are modeled around the customer and allow for a rich definition and distribution of hotel products, beyond simply sleeping rooms;
- Comprise best-of-breed software components from existing vendors, and enable vendors to collaboratively produce world-class software products encompassing all major areas of technology spending: hotel operations, telecommunications, in-room entertainment, customer information systems, and electronic distribution;
- Properly exploit and leverage a base system architecture that provides integration and interoperability through messaging; and that provides security, redundancy, and high availability;
- Target the needs of hotel companies up to several hundred properties, that are too small to solve the issues themselves;
- Will reduce technology management cost and complexity while improving reliability and scalability; and
- Can be deployed globally, managed remotely, and outsourced to service providers where needed.

In June 2005, HTNG announced the first-ever “Branding and Certification Program” for hotel technology. This program will enable vendors to certify their products against open HTNG specifications, and to use the "HTNG Certified" logo in their advertising and collateral materials. It will enable hotels to determine which vendors have completed certification of their products against which specific capabilities, and the environments in which performance is certified. HTNG’s vision is to achieve a flexible technical environment that will allow multiple vendors’ systems to interoperate and that will facilitate vendor alliances and the consolidation of applications, in order to provide hotels with easily managed, continually evolving, cost-effective solutions to meet their complete technology needs on a global basis.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This document defines the Hotel Technology Next Generation (“HTNG”) Business Process for Rate Messages for Property Distribution based on the OpenTravel Alliance (“OTA”) specifications published by this organization.

1.2 Scope

This document defines minimum requirements and expected behavior of a participating system to assist in the partner certification exercise.

1.3 Overview

Partners will be responsible for creating their own Quality Assurance Test Scripts.

The intent of the HTNG usage profiles is to recommend a minimum common denominator and clarify what fields should be used to transfer the data required. The main aim is to avoid having to pass the same information in more than one field, thus avoiding confusion.

Trading partners may agree prior to implementation to use additional fields for data not covered in the usage profile, including TPA extensions as per the OTA specifications schema.

1.4 References

The following documents are referenced in this document:

1. The OTA Specifications, published twice yearly and available at <http://www.opentravel.org/>
2. HTNG Usage Profile – Rates version 1.1 available at <http://www.htng.org>

2.0 RATE PROCESSING

Rates are usually managed in one system and passed on to other systems, such as rates being controlled centrally in the CRS and delivered to the Property Management Systems and other distribution channels. However the rate notification message set, **HotelRatePlanNotifRQ/RS**, allow for rates to be managed in more than one system and updated in all systems that receive the notification.

As a rate is created, modified or deactivated in the system that controls rate management a Hotel Rate Plan Notification message is sent to a booking system, indicating whether this is: 1) the initial announcement of a new rate plan, 2) an update of an active (bookable) rate plan, or 3) a notification that a rate plan is no longer in effect and should be deactivated in the booking system. In addition by adding a Group Code, rates specific to a particular group can be passed.

New rate plans and group blocks are broadcast through authorized channels of distribution determined by negotiated business agreements. Viewership is usually set up when a new rate plan code is negotiated and it defines the distribution channel for the rate plan, and the profile of the authorized booker(s). The distribution channels are indicated by a collection of System Codes.

2.1 Behavior Expected from the Originating System upon a Rate Creation or Change

- Update and display of the rate, including amounts, seasons and restrictions
- Provision of all fields classed as mandatory in the HTNG Rate Usage Profile
- Creation and validation of the XML contained in the HotelRatePlanNotifRQ/RS
- Transmission of the XML to the appropriate URL set up by receiving system using the appropriate security
- Keep a log of the message transmitted
- Ensure proper processing of the response message

2.2 Behavior Expected upon Receipt of the Response Message

Once the XML has been processed by the receiving system, a response message will be sent back to the originating system. The originating system will need to perform the following:

- Keep a log of the response message received
- Be able to evaluate error responses coming from the receiving system
- Be able to evaluate warning messages contained in the responses from the receiving system
- React to error responses as needed, by modifying the XML and retransmitting if possible

2.3 Behavior expected from the Receiving system upon a rate creation or change

- Receive and process the rate message
- Ensure that a successful response message is generated and transmitted
- If errors were encountered but the message was still processed, verify that the response message contains the appropriate warnings
- If a rate translation is needed, ensure that the response message contains the correct RatePlanCrossRef. If no translation is needed the rate should appear in the receiving system with the same code
- Verify that the rate can be displayed in the receiving system and shows the correct amount by date range by room type that was sent with proper restrictions

3.0 MANDATORY RATE ELEMENTS

These Rate Message Element have been deemed mandatory by HTNG and support of these are mandatory for all partners.

Version

Message Content code

Hotel Code

Rate Plan Code

Rate Plan Notification Type

Start Date

End Date

Is Commissionable Indicator

Rate Plan Name

Rate Plan Description

Minimum Length of Stay restrictions

Maximum Length Stay restrictions

Currency Code

Room Type

Base Number of Guest

Rate Amount

Support of Multiple Seasons within each Rate Message

4.0 **OPTIONAL FUNCTIONALITY**

These areas are not mandatory, but partners should agree on which areas will be mutually supported. These areas if supported should be listed in the Certification Application.

Group Rate Plans

Market Codes

Yieldable Indicators and Yield values

Restricted Display Indicator (Confidential Rates)

Minimum Advance Booking offset

Maximum Advance Booking offset

Available Days of the Week

Arrival Days of the Week

Departure Days of the Week

Support of Age Qualifying Codes

Support of Day of Week indicators for rate elements

Room Type Translations

Open and close status

Rate Groups, Categories or Segments

The support of Total Pricing

Cancellation Deadline

Cancellation Amount or Percentage

Guarantee Policy and Guarantee Codes

5.0 **USE OF TPA EXTENSIONS**

Trading partners may agree prior to implementation to use additional fields for data not covered in the usage profile, including TPA extensions as per the OTA specifications schema. Use of any TPA extensions should be documented in the Certification Application.