

## Superannuation Transaction Network Binding Implementation Practice (BIP) Note

**BIP Note**  
**[14]**

<b>Title:</b>	Omitting pmode attribute on AgreementRef element	<b>Date:</b>	11 February 2015
		<b>Version:</b>	1.0
<b>Scope:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transport layer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> message header <input type="checkbox"/> message payload <input type="checkbox"/> security	<b>Status:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ratified
		<b>Live Date:</b>	1 July 2015 <i>On this date this BIP note will be binding on all participants</i>

### 1. Change

For removal of doubt, this document prohibits the inclusion of the pmode attribute on the AgreementRef element within the ebMS3 header for messages using an agreement value as per BIP2 of "<http://sbr.gov.au/agreement/Gateway/1.0/Push/PKI-No-UsernameToken>".

As this change is at the message header level, it impacts all message types including Contributions, Registrations and Rollovers.

### 2. Reason for Change

Fundamental to the operation of ebMS3 is the process by which an incoming message is associated with the set of configuration settings (called a P-Mode) that should be used to process it.

The specification provides general guidance on the process to be used to perform the association, usually dependent on header data, but is not completely prescriptive. It does, however, provide the "pmode" attribute as a way to explicitly associate a message with a P-Mode (Section 5.2.2.7 of the ebMS3 Core Features specification). The description of the attribute says "This OPTIONAL attribute allows for explicit association of a message with a P-Mode. When used, its value contains the PMode.ID parameter". Further in section D.3.1 (Appendix D, Processing Modes), the specification says "If the ID is specified, the AgreementRef/@pmode attribute value is also expected to be set in the associated messages".

Thus it can be expected that some implementations, on seeing a pmode attribute in a message, will look for a P-Mode whose ID parameter matches the value in the attribute and reject the message if they can't find a match.

At the same time, the P-Modes associated with the gateway profile do NOT include an ID parameter, instead relying on the use of an agreement value as the mechanism to match messages to the profile P-Modes.

Thus, for the removal of doubt, and to avoid the triggering of unexpected behaviours in implementations caused by the presence of optional elements not required by the

SuperStream specifications, the pmode attribute MUST NOT be provided on any message exchanged between gateways, where the agreement value provided conforms to BIP2.

### 3. Standards Affected

*OASIS ebXML Messaging Services Version 3.0: Part 1, Core Features, OASIS Standard*  
([http://docs.oasis-open.org/ebxml-msg/ebms/v3.0/core/os/ebms\\_core-3.0-spec-os.pdf](http://docs.oasis-open.org/ebxml-msg/ebms/v3.0/core/os/ebms_core-3.0-spec-os.pdf))

### 4. Description of Change

It has been agreed as a general principle that optional facilities MUST NOT be used unless there is specific discussion and agreement with all parties that are members of the STN.

Thus, the pmode attribute of the AgreementRef header element MUST NOT be provided on any message exchanged between gateways, where the agreement value provided conforms to BIP2.

Gateways MUST NOT expect to receive the pmode attribute and MUST NOT require other gateways to include them in generated messages. In addition, gateways cannot enter into bilateral agreements on the use of the pmode attribute.

### 5. Technical Impact of Change

None. Implementation of the change will still be in compliance with the MIG.

### 6. Operational Impact of Change

Gateways will also need to assess any messages that they are “passing through” from customers into the gateway network to ensure these messages also comply with the BIP by the end of the transition period.

### 7. Version History

Version	Date	Changes	Date Ratified	Live Date
0.1	11/02/15	Initial Version		
1.0	14/04/15	Ratified by the GOG.	09/04/15	01/07/15