



U.S. Department of
Transportation



Intelligent Transportation Systems Standards Fact Sheet

SAE J2539

February 2002

Comparison of GATS Messages to SAE ATIS Standards Information Report

Overview

In Europe, the Global Automotive Telematics Standard (GATS) is used for a wide-bandwidth traveler information system offering trip planning, en-route traffic information and "mayday" services and for conveying vehicle probe data. GATS is sponsored by the European telecommunications industry and incorporates a number of global system for mobile communication (GSM) cellular telephone protocols for transmission efficiency. GATS is intended to be a "fee for use" cellular telephone system having limited free services.

In the United States, however, standards for advanced traveler information systems (ATIS) are purposely independent of communications technologies and media in order to provide a minimum set of common and interoperable multi-media traveler information services.

What is this standard for?

This standard, **SAE J2539, Comparison of GATS Messages to SAE ATIS Standards Information Report**, provides an overview and summary of similarities and differences between the messages found in GATS messages (used in Europe) and the messages found in the in SAE ATIS standard (used in the United States). It was written to allow members of the SAE ATIS Committee to review the contents of the GATS standard and to compare its features to the ATIS message standard. The comparison between ATIS and GATS could contribute to changes or additions to SAE J2354, Message Sets for ATIS. The development of this information report is the first step in the process of preparing a U.S. position on world harmonization of data concepts for traveler information systems, based on ISO rules that require ISO standards to be cognizant of, and harmonized with, existing national standards such as SAE J2344.

Who uses it?

This information report is intended for use by members of SAE ATIS committees and other participants in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) process. It is also valuable for those who may be interested in comparing U.S. and European traveler information systems and their technical approaches.

How is it used?

This information report is intended to be used as an overview document to understand the similarities and differences between U.S. ATIS and European GATS traveler information system standards. It offers recommendations in areas where the GATS standard provides features that may be considered useful, but are not found in the U.S. ATIS efforts. Since GATS is being proposed as an international standard as part of the ISO TC204 process, the two traveler information system standards (GATS and ATIS) would have to be merged to achieve international harmonization.

Scope

European traveler information terminology differs from that used in the U.S. in many important ways. For example, the GATS standard includes protocols for mayday services, while in the U.S., mayday is described in another family of standards. It should be noted that the GATS standard is by no means an exhaustive reference for other types of international traveler information systems-related work; such efforts include the vehicle information and communications system (VICS) in Japan

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and an emerging European Broadcast Union system being developed by the Transport Protocols Expert Group (TPEG), which is sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Related documents

[SAE J2313 – On-Board Land Vehicle Mayday Reporting Interface](#)

[SAE J2354 – Message Sets for Advanced Traveler Information Systems \(ATIS\) Standard](#)

[SAE J2369 – Standards for ATIS Message Sets Delivered Over Reduced Bandwidth Media](#)

[SAE J2369.1 – Draft of Host Adaptation Annexes to SAE J2369](#)

[SAE J2374 – Location Reference Message Specification Information Report](#)