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**Memo CP-D/490**

**Date:** 25 September 2007  
**To:** Distribution  
**From:** V.Zerkin, S.Dunaeva

**Subject:** Proposal to move alteration flag into column 11 of ENTRY and SUBENT records

Alteration flags were used in every corrected Entry/Subentry/Line in EXFOR transmission. It is used to inform other centers when an update (alteration) procedure has to be performed on an Entry. Column 80 is reserved for an alteration flag. It was obligatory in that time when tapes used for exchange information.

Now it is not really necessary to mark every corrected line by alteration flag and as we can see from the Transes not all compilers do it. At the same time the declaration of operation type in lines ENTRY and SUBENT remains as an important task of alteration flag, providing integrity of the database and preventing serious errors (e.g. losing data if by mistake the same accession number was used).

Proposal:

- 1) to stop using alteration flags in all lines except ENTRY and SUBENT lines
- 2) to move alteration flag from column 80 to column 11 for ENTRY and SUBENT lines
- 3) to make strict procedure of checking the flags for Transes in central storage place (IAEA-NDS)
- 4) all compilers: do not forget to use and check correctness of the alteration flags

So, now for existing Entry it would be enough to mark by alteration flags only first line of the Entry and Subent and add in HISRORY keyword additional record about the cause of updating Entry; for a new Entry alteration flags will remain empty.

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