Retail Supplier Link

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

Retail Supplier Link is a suite of software that includes everything needed to meet trading partner requirements. Many companies that supply to retailers and other entities requiring trading compliance, struggle with solutions that need four to five disparate systems to meet the trading specifications. Retail Supplier is designed specifically to address:

- EDI Logical Mapping Tool and Work Flow (X12 and EDIFACT)
- Packing and Pack Line Scanning
- Shipping Manifests (UPS, FedEx, Airborne, and LTL)
- UCC Label Formatting
- Radio Frequency-enabled Automated Data Capture for Warehousing
- Advanced Forecasting and Procurement

This document deals with the heart of Retail Supplier Link, the EDI granule and some of its features.

EDI transactions are usually formatted in either X12 or EDIFACT format. Typically X12 is used in North America while EDIFACT is the standard in Europe. This document will use the X12 documents numbers when discussing EDI functionality. A complete list of EDIFACT documents is also available.

Gone are the days of the trading partners that only want to send you a Purchase Order (850) and receive an invoice (810) via EDI. Today it is very common to trade 5 to 10 documents with a single trading partner. Following is an example of one of the more complex X12 transaction sets:

- (816) Organizational Relationships document creates Navision customers, ship-to addresses, and distribution centers.
- (997) Outbound Functional Acknowledgement to (816) - Acknowledges the receipt of (816).
- (850) Inbound Purchase Order - Creates a Navision Sales Order
- (997) Outbound Functional Acknowledgement to (850) - Acknowledges receipt of (850).
- (753) Outbound Shipment Request - Sends information related to orders that are ready to ship.
- (997) Inbound Functional Acknowledgement to (753) - Acknowledges that the trading partner received the (753), with or without errors. Functional Acknowledgements are reconciled with the original outbound document.
- (754) Inbound Shipment Advice - Updates the Outbound Shipment Request that was sent and changes Sales Order fields, such as Shipping Agent/Service and Ship-To Address.
- (997) Outbound Functional Acknowledgement to (754) - Acknowledges the receipt of (754).
- (856) Outbound Advanced Shipment Notice - Sends detailed information related to a shipment including package level detail and UCC128 numbers that were assigned and printed on the UCC128 label that was attached to the packages.
- (997) Inbound Functional Acknowledgement to (856) - Acknowledges that the trading partner received the (856). Functional Acknowledgements are reconciled with the original outbound document.
- (810) Outbound Invoice - Sends invoice detail from the Navision Invoice.
- (997) Inbound Functional Acknowledgement to (810) - Acknowledges that the trading partner received the (810). Functional Acknowledgements are reconciled with the original outbound document.

- (812) Outbound Credit Memo - Sends credit memo detail from the Navision Credit Memo.
- (997) Inbound Functional Acknowledgement to (812) - Acknowledges that the trading partner received the (812). Functional Acknowledgements are reconciled with the original outbound document.
- (820) Inbound Payment Advice - Information related to the application of payments from the trading partner.
- (997) Outbound Functional Acknowledgement to (820) - Acknowledges the receipt of (820).
- (864) Inbound Text Message - Text messages from the trading partner are received, acknowledged and printed.
- (997) Outbound Functional Acknowledgement to (864) - Acknowledges the receipt of (864).

Although you may not have a single trading partner that requires such a complex set of documents, it is quite possible that all the above document will be traded with one or more of your trading partners.

Integrated Logical Mapping Tool

Traditionally EDI mapping, the matching of X12 or EDIFACT data to database fields, has taken place outside the ERP system. While external mapping tools provide the software vendor with a larger market, this approach introduces limitations when it comes to access of data and a consistent user interface. Many of the external mapping tools require some type of common intermediate format between the mapping tool and the ERP system, which must be imported, usually with fixed application programs.

The Lanham EDI module is a logical mapping tool built inside the Navision ERP system, which means that a field mapped from an X12 or EDIFACT document is mapped directly into the Navision database. In addition we have added extensive tracking and work flow functionality that crosses EDI and ERP boundaries to present a single set of tools to the user.

Cross Reference Engine

In addition to mapping, an EDI system must handle significant cross-reference issues. When you receive an EDI document from your customer, it contains your customer's reference data such as item numbers, ship-to addresses, and units of measure. This data on an incoming EDI document must be cross-referenced to the equivalent data in your system. Conversely the data from your internal system must be cross-referenced into the data that your customer expects. The EDI cross-reference engine provides a cross-reference ability for both inbound and outbound documents.

Virtual Fields

Often inbound EDI documents contain data that is not required in your internal system but must be returned to your customer on outbound documents. Rather than storing this data in a sales order, for example, the map identifies the inbound element as a virtual input field. This data can then be referenced in an outbound map in order to include it on an outbound document.

Supported Documents

We receive many questions regarding which X12 documents are supported by our EDI product. Since the Lanham EDI module is a logical mapping tool, the dependencies are largely based on the business documents in Navision. For example, an incoming purchase order (850) maps to the Navision sales order. On the other hand, the outbound shipping request (753) is a document that sends information to the trading partner regarding sales orders that are ready to ship. There was no Shipping Request document in native Navision so an

Outbound Request document was created to map the (753) from and to receive the (754) response.

Because the Lanham EDI product is a logical mapping tool, it will receive and print virtually any EDI document so it is accurate to say that all inbound documents are supported. It is also accurate to say that not all inbound documents are used to update standard Navision documents. An inbound Text Message (864) for example is received, acknowledged and printed out, but does not update any specific Navision document.

In many cases we have created business documents in Navision such as Bill of Lading, Packages, and Outbound Shipment Request, to support both outbound and inbound EDI documents.

The following list of X12 documents are fully supported and create or are mapped from business process documents in Navision.

Sales

- (753) - Outbound Routing Request mapped from Outbound Routing Request.
- (754) - Inbound Shipment Advice updates original Outbound Routing Request and processes changes to Sales Orders.
- (810) - Outbound Sales Invoice mapped from the Navision Sales Invoice.
- (812) - Outbound Sales Credit Memo mapped from Navision Credit Memo.
- (816) - Inbound Organizational Relationships document creates Navision Customers, Ship-To Addresses and Distribution Centers.
- (830) - Inbound Planning Schedule - Creates a Navision Sales Order, Blanket Order, or Quote.
- (850) - Inbound Purchase Order creates Sales Order.
- (855) - Outbound Purchase Order Acknowledgement mapped from Navision Sales Order.
- (856) - Outbound Advanced Shipment Notice mapped from the Bill of Lading and package detail.
- (862) - Inbound Shipment Schedule - Creates a Navision Sales Order for items that are to be shipped.
- (870) – Outbound Order Status – mapped from the Order Status Header and Lines associated with a sales order. Changes made to a Sales Order that was received by EDI from a trading partner, create the Order Status document entries.
- (875) - Inbound Purchase Order document creates Sales Order.
- (880) - Outbound Sales Invoice mapped from the Navision Sales Invoice.
- (940) - Outbound Warehouse Shipping Order is mapped from a Navision Sales Order to tell a 3rd party warehouse to ship goods to a customer.
- (945) - Inbound Warehouse Shipment Advice is mapped to a Navision Sales Order to update the quantity shipped by the 3rd party warehouse.

Purchasing

- (810) - Inbound Purchase Invoice mapped to the Purchase order to update Invoice information.
- (850) - Outbound Purchase Order mapped from the Navision posted Purchase Order.
- (943) - Outbound Warehouse Stock Transfer Advice is mapped from a Navision Purchase Order to notify a 3rd party warehouse to expect a shipment.
- (944) - Inbound Warehouse Receipt Advice is mapped to the Navision Purchase Order signifying the quantity received by the warehouse.

Generic

Generic Documents that are imported into Navision and printed, but do not automatically update Navision documents or transactions.

- (820) – Inbound Remittance Advice
- (824) – Application Advice
- (861) – Inbound Receiving Advice
- (864) - Inbound Text Message

Functional Acknowledgements

- (997) - Outbound Functional Acknowledgement is created and sent to the originating trading partner when an inbound EDI document is received.
- (997) - Inbound Functional Acknowledgement is received and reconciled to the previously sent EDI document. Inbound Functional Acknowledgements are reconciled with outbound documents to alert you if the intended party did not receive a document.

As we continue to extend the functionality of Retail Supplier Link, we will support more documents and supporting processes. We are committed to providing you the best set of tools possible with which to manage your retail compliance requirements.