

# Transaction Set 855 User Guide

## Introduction

This section defines the format and content of ASC X12.9, Transaction Set 855 (Version 4, Release 3): Purchase Order Acknowledgment -- as adopted by the Rail Industry. The Purchase Order Acknowledgment is an acknowledgment that a buyer's order has been received, and indicates whether the order has been accepted as is, accepted with modifications, or rejected.

The documentation which follows was developed to facilitate the interchange of Purchase Order Acknowledgments at mutual benefit to the railroads and the suppliers. Each participant is strongly encouraged to bring to the attention of the Subcommittee on Information Standards any areas in which further agreement among the railroads can reduce implementation or operating costs.

This guideline has been derived from the documentation provided by ASC X12, and agrees with X12's four level presentation: transaction set, segments, elements, and code values. Certain segments have been struck from the transaction diagram, certain elements have been struck from the segment diagrams, and only a subset of code values is shown for certain elements. Unless specifically restricted by notations herein, a trading partner is free to send information in the stricken segments/elements and utilize code values not shown. However, the information excluded by the guideline is not considered essential by any participating railroad, and may not be interrogated. Conversely, each segment, element, and code value which make up this guideline are deemed important by at least one road; those which are noted to be mandatory is deemed essential by at least one road. A transaction encoded per the guideline will be acceptable and sufficient for the needs of all roads, although not every piece of information will be used by each road.

### Purpose

The PO Acknowledgment transaction set is used by the seller to convey to the buyer the acceptance or rejection of the PO as issued by the buyer. For those PO's which are accepted, the transaction set permits the seller to convey any changes which were made by the seller at the time of order entry. Any such changes are presumed to supersede the original order unless contradicted by the buyer. Finally, for those orders requesting shipment upon receipt of order, the transaction set permits the seller to communicate the availability of the ordered items at the time of order entry. A PO can be acknowledged only once.

### Acceptance/Rejection/Change

A PO is accepted if the seller intends to act upon one or more of the line items on the order. A PO line is rejected if the seller indicates that no action will be taken on the item. If all items are rejected, the entire order is rejected and vice versa.

A PO is changed by the PO Acknowledgment if the order as entered by the seller differs from the order as sent by the buyer. This change can be found in the Table 1 area: FOB information or cash terms; or in the Table 2 area (line level): price, quantity, line item schedule, or substitution. Within the Rail Industry, a PO Acknowledgment represents a firm commitment by the seller to the financial aspects of the order. That is, with the possible exception of shipment/delivery schedule, the buyer can expect that shipment and invoicing will occur precisely in agreement with the order as acknowledged.

A condensed transaction set diagram follows, which indicates those segments which are used within the Rail Industry:

#### Table 1 (Header)

ST  
BAK  
FOB  
ITD  
N9

Table 2 (Line Item)

PO1  
ACK  
SCH  
N9

Table 3 (Summary)

CTT  
SE

Acceptance, rejection, change, or product availability is indicated through the combined use of data element 587 (Acknowledgment Purpose) in the BAK segment, and data element 668 (Line Item Acknowledgment) in the ACK segment. For use in the Rail Industry, the PO Acknowledgment can be formatted in one of nine ways (see following). Element 127 in the BAK segment will be used to indicate the correct interpretation of the formatted data.

## **PO Acknowledgment Options**

### **1. Reject completely**

In the event that the PO is rejected in its entirety, code “RJ” is sent in data element 587, along with one or more explanatory N9 segments. No other Table 1 or Table 2 segments need be sent.

### **2. Accept completely, with no indication of product availability**

Code “AK” is sent in data element 587. No other Table 1 or Table 2 segments need be sent.

### **3. Accept completely, with indication of product availability**

Code “AD” is sent in data element 587. No other Table 1 segments need be sent. A Table 2 PO1 loop is required for each line item. A single occurrence of ACK is required for each item. One of the following two values are required in 668:

- AR Indicating that the entire quantity in PO102 was available at the time of order entry
- IB Indicating that the quantity ACK02 was backordered, implying that (PO102 - ACK02) was available

### **4. Accept all line items, header change only, no indication of product availability**

Only changes to FOB or cash terms can be communicated in this option. Code “AE” is sent in data element 587. Either segment FOB or ITD (or both) must be sent. If sent, it is assumed that the segment contains information which differs from the original order. No Table 2 segments are necessary.

### **5. Accept all line items, header change only, with indication of product availability**

Only changes to FOB or cash terms can be communicated in this option. Code “AC” is sent in data element 587. Either segment FOB or ITD (or both) must be sent. If sent, it is assumed that the segment contains information which differs from the original order.

A Table 2 PO1 loop is sent for each line item. A single occurrence of ACK is required for each item. One of the following two values are required in 668:

- AR Indicating that the entire quantity in PO102 was available at the time of order entry
- IB Indicating that the quantity ACK02 was backordered, implying that (PO102 - ACK02) was available

### **6. Accept the order, no header level changes, at least one line item change or rejection, no indication of availability**

Only the ST and BAK need be sent at the Table 1 level. Code “AE” is sent in element 587.

A Table 2 PO1 loop is sent for each line item changed or rejected. If the line item is rejected, a single occurrence of ACK is sent with code "IR" in element 668. One or more explanatory N9 segments are required.

If the line item has been booked with changes, the values in PO102 and PO104 represent the order quantity and unit price as booked by the seller. If sent, the value(s) in SCH07 represents the schedule date(s) promised by the seller. If a part substitution has been made, an occurrence of 235/234 is required in PO1 with element 235 equal to "VP" and element 234 equal to the part number booked by the supplier. A single occurrence of ACK is sent with code "IC" in element 668.

No Table 2 segment is to be sent if the line item was booked as sent by the buyer.

**7. Accept the order, no header level changes, at least one line item change or rejection, with indication of availability**

Only the ST and BAK segments need be sent in Table 1. Code "AC" is sent in element 587.

A Table 2 PO1 loop is required for each line item. If the line item is rejected, a single occurrence of ACK is sent with code "IR" in element 668. One or more explanatory N9 segments are required.

If the line item was booked with changes, the values in PO102 and PO104 represent the order quantity and unit price as booked by the seller. If sent, the value(s) in SCH07 represents the schedule date(s) promised by the seller. If a part substitution has been made, an occurrence of 235/234 is required in PO1 with element 235 equal to "VP" and element 234 equal to the part number booked by the supplier. An occurrence of ACK is sent with code "IC" in element 668.

If the line item was booked as sent by the buyer, the values in PO102 and PO104 agree with the quantity and price (respectively) indicated by the buyer.

Unless the line item has been rejected, an occurrence of ACK is sent to indicate the availability of the item, using one of the following codes in element 668:

- AR Indicating that the entire quantity in PO102 was available at the time of order entry
- IB Indicating that the quantity ACK02 was backordered, implying that (PO102 -ACK02) was available

**8. Accept the order, header level changes, at least one line item change or rejection, no indication of availability**

Code "AE" is sent in data element 587. Either segment FOB or ITD (or both) must be sent. If sent, it is assumed that the segment contains information which differs from the original order.

A Table 2 PO1 loop is sent for each line item changed or rejected. If the line item is rejected, a single occurrence of ACK is sent with code "IR" in element 668. One or more explanatory N9 segments are required.

If the line item has been booked with changes, the values in PO102 and PO104 represent the order quantity and unit price as booked by the seller. If sent, the value(s) in SCH07 represents the schedule date(s) promised by the seller. If a part substitution has been made, an occurrence of 235/234 is required in PO1 with element 235 equal to "VP" and element 234 equal to the part number booked by the supplier. A single occurrence of ACK is sent with code "IC" in element 668.

No Table 2 segment is to be sent if the line item was booked as sent by the buyer.

**9. Accept the order, header level changes, at least one line item change or rejection, with indication of availability**

Code "AC" is sent in data element 587. Either segment FOB or ITD (or both) must be sent. If sent, it is assumed that the segment contains information which differs from the original order.

A Table 2 PO1 loop is required for each line item. If the line item is rejected, a single occurrence of ACK is sent with code "IR" in element 668. One or more explanatory N9 segments are required.

If the line item was booked with changes, the values in PO102 and PO104 represent the order quantity and unit price as booked by the seller. If sent, the value(s) in SCH07 represents the schedule date(s) promised by the seller. If a part substitution has been made, an occurrence of 235/234 is required in PO1 with element 235 equal to "VP" and element 234 equal to the part number booked by the supplier. An occurrence of ACK is sent with code "IC" in element 668.

If the line item was booked as sent by the buyer, the values in PO102 and PO104 agree with the quantity and price (respectively) indicated by the buyer.

Unless the line item has been rejected, an occurrence of ACK is sent to indicate the availability of the item, using one of the following codes in element 668:

- AR Indicating that the entire quantity in PO102 was available at the time of order entry
- IB Indicating that the quantity ACK02 was backordered, implying that (PO102 - ACK02) was available.