EDI Overview

EDI (Electronic Document Interchange) is a method allowing companies to communicate information electronically. It is one of the earliest standards for electronic communication, developed even before the internet was made public. While it is an older technology, many companies in certain industries still use it. EDI is actually a broad, general term. There are several EDI standards in use worldwide, however the only one we deal with is ANSI X12. This document is intended to provide a brief overview of some terms you may hear in order to help understand what is being communicated.

# Message types

There are several different message types which can be sent via EDI. Each are referenced by a number. Here are those we deal with:

* 204 – Load Tender – This is the message a company sends to offer us a load.
* 990 – Tender Response – We send this message to accept or decline a tendered load.
* 214 – Status Update – Once a load has been accepted, we can send updates regarding times and locations. There are codes corresponding to each update type, some of which I list below.
  + AA/AB – These communicate pickup and delivery appointments.
  + X3/X1 – When a truck is at the pickup/delivery location.
  + D1/CD – When a load has been delivered.
  + AG – Delivery ETA.
  + X6 – En Route location update.
* 210 – Billing Invoice – Each line item also has a corresponding EDI code.
* 997 – Acknowledgement – This is a system level message which may be sent to automatically confirm receipt of a previous EDI message and may communicate if there were errors.

# New Connection Information

The following is the information needed to set up a new EDI connection.

* TSH customer id(s)
* A contact and process for implementing EDI. The contact should be able to provide the following information, so a contact is the minimum information we need.
* Documentation – most if not all partners should have some documentation on their EDI setups. The documentation may provide some of the following information as well.
* FTP/SFTP connection information: host, port (if not default), username, password, folder (if applicable), and file naming requirements (if applicable).
* Interchange receiver qualifier and id, group receiver’s code (often the same as interchange receiver)
* Bill to code (210 billing only)
* Status codes requested (214 only)
* Any other specific instructions regarding the partner’s EDI requirements and setup.