EDI STANDARDS

EDI standards are the requirements for the format and content of EDI business documents that are to be exchanged between entities. These standards determine the location and position of the content in the document that is used for transfer. All EDI transactions such as purchase orders have their format of the document pre-defined by EDI standards.

EDI documents containing the message are interpreted by a computer rather than a human. To help the machine understand the message EDI standards were developed in the 1980s which are further being revised for specific industries. For example the HIPAA created messaging standards through HL7 which allows for secure messaging of health data between hospital systems and other entities such as insurance providers, pharmacy, labs etc.

EDI standards have several components which is comparable to a language we speak:

- Element: The smallest component in an EDI Standard. These are words in a message.
- Segments: Groups of words which form a sentence.
- Transaction sets: Also called messages, transaction sets are groups of segments which are comparable to a paragraph of a document.

The two commonly used EDI standards are:

- EDI for Administration, Commerce, and Transport (EDIFACT) - generic international.
- American National Standards Institute/Accredited Standards Committee X12 (ANSI ASC X12) - generic.

Both ANSI ASC X12 and EDIFACT also contain subgroups, including:

- Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG).
- Chemical Industry Data Exchange (CIDX).
- Electronics Industry Data Exchange (EIDX).
- Voluntary Interindustry Communications Standards (VICS).
- Textile/Apparel Manufacturing Communications (TAMCS).
- Sundries and Apparel Findings Linkage Council (SAFLINC).
- U.S. government.

References:
1. Oracle, EDI Standards. Retrieved from EDI Standards.
2. What are electronic data interchange standards? (2019, April 25). XEDI Latest EDI News. https://xedi.com/blog/what-are-edi-standards/