
The EDI

Wave

Riding the Wave



Issue 14

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Trading Partner Stats

Our Trading Partners account for approximately 52 percent of our hazardous waste business when based on the number of Task Orders (TO) issued from October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001. For these months, we issued over 5,000 TOs (CONUS) to our hazardous waste contractors. Of this amount, over 2,600 went EDI. A breakout is as follows: Safety-

Kleen - 952; Perma-Fix (GS) - 930; AES - 259; Philip - 193; ATI - 163; GNI - 70; and MKM - 43; and EETCO - 8.

Reminder

Just a reminder that our DRMS EDI Users Guide and the Implementation Conventions for our 4010 transactions are now located at the following address on the Web: http://www.drms.dla.mil/newproc/html/electronic_data_interchange.html.

Please go to this site for information on the mappings for our various transactions.

EDI Modifications

(By Cathy Bednar)

Two of our trading partners are now receiving their modifications via EDI. The first to come on board was Applied Technology in October 2001. A special thanks goes out to Tony Oatess of Applied Technology and his VAN. They were very cooperative in helping us test and move the 860 transaction set into production. Our other trading partner receiving the 860 transaction set is Perma-Fix Government Services. They came on board in January 2002. Both partners have received over 100 modifications via EDI.

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Contractors Using BOSS for Input

(By Cathy Bednar)

Since DRMS has recently moved BOSS to the public server on the WEB, contractors will have the ability to access the application. With this, Hazardous Waste contractors who wish to participate will be able to input tracking data into BOSS. This will require the contractors receiving the necessary security clearances and a BOSS password. This issue was discussed in the last Hazardous Waste Symposium but testing could not be accomplished due to a firewall keeping outside sources from accessing BOSS. We plan on providing additional information and hands on training during the 2002 Hazardous Waste Symposium that is tentatively planned for late fall.

For additional information on this issue, please contact myself at 616-961-7309 or via email at cbednar@mail.drms.dla.mil.

An Alternate Pay Procedure

(By Cathy Bednar)

DRMS is looking into an alternate avenue for paying our hazardous waste contractors. In January 2002, DRMS met with DLA and a representative from US Bank to discuss a system known as PowerTrack. This system is currently used to pay Government Transportation costs.

With PowerTrack, DRMS would send an invoice (similar to the current 591) to PowerTrack via EDI. This information would be posted on the PowerTrack Website. Contractors who participate will access PowerTrack and review the invoice. If there are no errors, the contractor would accept the invoice, and within 72 hours the payment would be sent via EFT to the contractor's banking institution. If an error were found, the contractor would then contact DRMS for resolution.

The major advantage to using PowerTrack is quicker payments. The only disadvantage is contractors who participate will be required to pay a small fee for this service (approximately 1-2 percent of the invoice total). The higher the invoice, the lower the fee charged.

The use of this system is still in the review stages so stayed tuned for more information on this subject.

Use of EDI

(By Cathy Bednar)

A few months ago we conducted a DRMS EDI vendor survey. The majority of our trading partners are satisfied in receiving their data via EDI. By using EDI, they are able to receive and process the data electronically and there is no need for duplicate data entry; which is the goal of EDI.

One area of concern is the Noun Description. Currently this area is received as one long narrative. Contractors would like to see this broken into specific data elements. We are looking into how we can best set this function up in BOSS. In order to do this better, we would like our contractors to let us know which areas they would like to see set up as specific data elements.

In addition to the above, we have had one trading opt to no longer receive their data via EDI. Since they were not directly downloading the data into a database, the use of EDI was not cost effective. They receive the same benefit from their task orders being sent via email. On the other hand, we have had one partner start receiving their transactions directly from DAASC (our HUB) instead of using a VAN. As with so many things, the benefits of EDI are varied and depend on how it is used.

Communication

Communication is vitally important to the success of EDI. Please let one of the POCs listed below know if you are experiencing any problems with your EDI transmissions. We are here to help you in any way we can. We are always interested in receiving your opinion and input. Please submit your questions, concerns or ideas to one of the POCs listed below. We are here to work with the Trading Partners so that all can “Ride the Wave”. Hope to hear from you. Let’s keep the lines of communication open.

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