

## Control Numbers in Interchange

RFI 2009-01, JUNE 2009

### REQUEST

Independent of how and when communicated, in multiple interchanges from one trading partner to another, must the sender-assigned interchange control number (ISA13 and IEA02) value always be unique for each interchange ...forever?

Reference - ISA13, Page B-5 of the X12N 4010 guides

REQUIRED ISA13 I12 Interchange Control Number M N0 9/9

A control number assigned by the interchange sender

The Interchange Control Number, ISA13, must be identical to the associated Interchange Trailer IEA02.

### REFERENCED X12 STANDARDS

A "Request for Interpretation" applies to a specific version of the X12 Standards. The author references the X12N 004010 implementation guides, which are dependent on the following standards that were reviewed in developing this interpretation:

X12.5 Interchange Control Structures (Defines syntactical architecture of data)	Version 004	Release 010
X12.22 Data Segment Directory (Defines binary segments BIN and BDS)	Version 004	Release 010
X12.3 Data Element Dictionary (Defines Data Elements:: 784 Length of Binary Data and 785 Binary Data)	Version 004	Release 010

### INTERPRETATION

X12.5, Section 5.1.2, paragraph 3 states (emphasis added):

"In order to provide sufficient discrimination for the acknowledgment process to operate reliably and to ensure that audit trails are unambiguous, the combination of interchange sender's qualifier and ID (ISA05, ISA06), interchange receiver's qualifier and ID (ISA07, ISA08) and the interchange control number value (ISA13) **shall by themselves be unique within a reasonably extended time frame whose boundaries shall be defined by trading partner agreement.** Because at some point it may be necessary to reuse a sequence of control numbers, the Interchange Date and Time may serve as an additional discriminant only to differentiate interchange identity over the longest possible time frame."

In summary, no, the sender-assigned interchange control number (ISA13 and IEA02) value are not required to be unique for each interchange forever.